Commencement season is one of my favorite times of the academic year. In colleges and universities across the country, students are receiving the degrees for which they have sacrificed and worked tirelessly. Like you, I find this time exhilarating and representative of why we, as educators, do what we do.

As I look toward the exciting commencement ceremonies taking place at the University of La Verne this weekend, featuring highly accomplished and recognized political strategist Joe Trippi and baseball legend Tommy Lasorda, I welcome you to take a glimpse with me at some of the impressive achievements that have taken place on campus during the month of May.

I am proud of two accomplished students who secured extraordinary internships this summer. Criminology major Kyle Porter made his dream come true through an internship with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) while anthropology major Sabrina Consiglio was selected as one of 30 students world-wide for the Off the Beaten Track program. She will travel to the island of Gozo, near the Mediterranean Sea, to conduct architectural research.

Connecting ‘theory to practice,’ the College of Education & Organizational Leadership hosted “Building Community Ties from the Inside Out,” an event which provided 140 middle school students with workshops on how to be successful upon entering college. I am also delighted that our faculty and staff helped fight the battle against cancer, with team “Cure-iffic!” raising more than $5,000 for Relay for Life. Additionally, La Verne’s Fasnacht Lecture featured world-renowned human rights activist Marina Schuster, who challenged students to take a stand for human rights and speak out against social injustice.

There is nothing more satisfying and rewarding than to be a part of an institution that seeks to continually improve, address student and alumni needs, while taking into account what will be needed in society in the future. As we approach the summer months, I encourage us all to reflect on the successes we shared during the 2012-13 academic year and let those thoughts energize us for even greater accomplishments in 2013-14.

Sincerely,

Devorah Lieberman, Ph.D.
‘Summer School for Anthropologists’ Welcomes Student to Island of Gozo

Sabrina Consiglio wants to experience the world. She now has that opportunity thanks to the Off the Beaten Track program in the Republic of Malta on the island of Gozo, near the Mediterranean Sea.

“Most of the students who attend the Off the Beaten Track program are graduate students, so I did not have expectations of acceptance, but I am so tremendously excited and grateful,” Consiglio said.

Touted as a summer school for anthropologists, Off the Beaten Track is an anthropology field school held annually on the island of Gozo. Only 30 Students from around the world are selected to participate in the program to acquire “in the field” experience, which includes anthropological research about architectural sites and religious sites, tourism, ethnic relations and food.

Consiglio, a junior anthropology student at the University of La Verne has received full support from her family, as well as tremendous support from Professor of Anthropology Dr. Kim Martin and Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences Dr. Felicia Beardsley. She attributes her success to that support.

“The program was brought to my attention by Dr. Martin, who has been an unwavering supporter of me throughout my time in the Anthropology Department,” Consiglio said. “She and Felicia Beardsley encouraged me, and helped me to perfect my research proposals.”

Many social norms in the United States, such as divorce and women in industry, are relatively new constructs to the Maltese people. During her time in Malta in the summer 2013 program, Consiglio will conduct ethnographic research on the evolving role of women. She will write a paper about her findings at the conclusion of the trip and she hopes to be published in the Omerta Journal of Applied Anthropology.

Read More.

Criminology Major Scores Dream Internship with NCIS

A lifetime of fascination with law enforcement has led one University of La Verne student to the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

Criminology major Kyle Porter will begin his NCIS internship in June, and will be the first student from La Verne to intern with the agency.

While watching an episode of the popular television show “NCIS,” Porter thought he would look up the real agency and find out if an internship opportunity was available. After discovering there was such an opportunity, he applied and was later accepted into the program, which will allow him to experience the life of a member of law enforcement at the federal level.

Read More.

Annual ‘Community Ties’ Event Welcomes 140 Middle Schoolers to Campus

Graduate students from the Education Department’s counseling program hosted the annual “Building Community Ties from the Inside Out” event on Saturday, May 11. Students from Torch Middle School in Bassett Unified School District were provided an opportunity to experience college life and participate in educational workshops. Students participated in lessons about how to work smarter and not harder, social media responsibly, how to have healthy relationships and the reality of the cost of living in California.

“These types of events provide students and parents with a viable frame of reference, one that provides students and parents with a tangible experience of testing college from an inside perspective,” Assistant Professor of Education Adonay Montes said. Read More.
Human Rights Activist Marina Schuster Inspires Students to Protest Social Injustice

Some might have called her soft-spoken, but German Parliament member Marina Schuster’s message was stern and clear:

“Never get tired of challenging assumptions of what you hear, see and read,” she said to the packed audience in the University of La Verne Campus Center Ballroom on Wednesday, May 1.

Schuster’s presentation titled “Human Rights and International Justice: A Common U.S. European Agenda?” was the feature presentation for the sixth annual Benazir Bhutto and Ahmed Ispahani International Lectureship, which addressed the state of several international issues of social injustice. From the state of the Euro to Russia’s perceived passivity regarding problems in the Middle East, Schuster’s expertise in foreign policy and human rights provided an influential perspective on international social issues and the importance of maintaining a bond between the U.S. and Europe.

“The goal of attaining lasting peace in Europe is tied to the principles of international justice,” Schuster said. “I think we share a common agenda that attaches human rights to every issue to foreign affairs.”

She quoted President Barack Obama on how “political leaders will not take risks if the people do not demand that they do,” a poignant message in her presentation that prompted three calls to action for students:

• Become an ambassador for human rights
• Write letters to congressmen and foreign ambassadors
• Trust your common sense when challenging injustices

Passion for Publishing

More than 20 new faculty publications were recently presented at University of La Verne’s Celebration of Books Published event. Presentation topics included archeology, law, sports science, psychology and current events in the Middle East. Read More.

Going With the Flow

Associate VP for Academic Affairs, Al Clark began a lifelong study of water as a college student and now prepares to publish a book that covers 500 years of water history in the San Gabriel Valley and its watershed. Read More.

Making A Name For Herself

Dianne G. Van Hook ’75, chancellor of Santa Clarita Community College District and president of College of the Canyons, receives a life-time honor. Read More.
Men’s Golf, Women’s Track & Field Earn SCIAC Team Championships

Leopard student-athletes turned in a number of outstanding performances on the way to clinching a pair of Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) championships.

The men’s golf team captured the 2013 SCIAC title and a series of inspired performances lifted the women’s track & field team to first place in both the conference dual meet standings and at the SCIAC Championship meet. The conference track & field title is the fourth in the women’s team program history under head coach Pat Widolff and the first since the 2005 season.

The men’s track & field team, paced by five individual conference titles, finished second at the SCIAC Championships. Read more.

La Verne’s ‘Cure-iffic!’ Relay for Life Team Raises Funds for Fight Against Cancer

In what proved to be a successful rookie season for the University of La Verne Relay for Life team, Cure-iffic!, participants helped raise more than $5,000 toward the fight against cancer last month and are continuing their campaign through August. Team captain of Cure-iffic!, La Verne administrative aid John Gilmore, said that thanks to the support of the entire campus, the team was able to surpass its goal of raising $1,000.

“We set a modest goal of $1,000 and crushed that. It is amazing to think of the impact we were able to make, the people that got involved, and the time and effort our team gave toward this worthy cause,” Gilmore said.

In addition to Cure-iffic!, other teams that represented La Verne were the Stu-Han Clan, headed by Sasha Jones and the ULV Art Collective, headed up by Danielle Zamora, which also sold ceramics, jewelry and paintings to help raise money.

The annual Claremont-La Verne event, held at Claremont High School, raised more than $60,000 all together. For more information on how to donate, contact John Gilmore at jgilmore@laverne.edu.

Faculty Honored for Dedication to Students & Alpha Chi Honor Society

Four members of the University of La Verne faculty and administrative professional staff have received high honors for their selfless dedication to students in the Alpha Chi Honor Society.

Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Al Clark, Professor of English Dr. Jeffrey Kahan, Professor of Journalism Dr. George Keeler and Professor of Education & Director of Teacher Education Dr. Peggy Redman have served a combined 70 years as volunteer sponsors of the national college honor society.

Clark, Keeler and Redman were honored with 20 year service pins and Kahan with a 10 year service pin.

Additional La Verne sponsors include Assistant Dean, RCA Pam Bergovoy, Executive Director, CAPA Patti Noreen and Associate Dean of College of Business & Public Management Dr. Rita Thakur. Read More.