Summer is in full swing and many college campuses are now a little quieter with students away on break. While some are traveling and seeing the world, others are taking summer courses and internships. But here at the University of La Verne, many events and activities have been taking place on campus.

Closing out the spring semester, we hosted highly-esteemed political strategist Joe Trippi and Dodgers Baseball legend Tommy Lasorda as our 121st Commencement speakers. More than 1,200 graduates were inspired by the speakers to go out into the world and reach their full potential.

The day after Commencement, I was joined by Dean of the College of Business & Public Management, Abe Helou, and traveled to China and Taiwan to sign mutually beneficial sister university partnership agreements with some of Asia’s finest universities. It was a rewarding and remarkable experience and will help make it possible for prospective Asian students to attend La Verne with ease. The trip was also a great opportunity to connect with a community of nearly 2,000 alumni during two beautiful receptions. I was deeply inspired by their generosity and hospitality.

This June, we continued one of my favorite summer programs hosted on the main campus, the REACH Summer Business Camp. This issue of the President’s Update gives more details about the program, which provides local high school students with not just the college experience but real-life exposure to the world of business. You will also learn about a faculty member who was recently approached by CNN for her expertise on LGBT immigration rights, and an administrative staff member who published her first children’s book with her son.

As I approach my two-year anniversary with the University of La Verne this July, I am filled with pride over the phenomenal achievements of our students, faculty and staff. We are continuing our upward trajectory, and I am excited and enthusiastic about what new accomplishments the coming months will bring.

Sincerely,
Devorah Lieberman, Ph.D.
Establishing Partnerships, Forming Relationships in Asia

For the second time in less than a year, President Devorah Lieberman traveled to Asia June 4 – 10 to build relationships and sign partnerships with several prestigious universities, with the goal of expanding educational opportunities for Asian students.

Accompanied by Dean of the College of Business & Public Management Dr. Abe Helou, Lieberman visited Taipei, Taiwan, as well as Wuhan and Beijing, China, to sign sister university memorandums of understanding (MOU) as well as articulation agreements. New partner institutions include I-Shou University, Shih Hsin University, Wuhan Institute of Technology, Jianghan University, Tianjin Agricultural University and Tianjin University of Economics and Finance.

The trip was also an opportunity to reconnect with a community of nearly 2,000 La Verne alumni. Two receptions were hosted in Beijing and Taipei.

Read More. View Photos.

Dr. Kevin Marshall Honored by Students, Peers

Students enter the classroom in search of knowledge and inspiration. As a faculty member who teaches in both the College of Law and the College of Business & Public Management, University of La Verne professor Kevin Marshall presents all of his students with the same level of experience, confidence and passion, no matter what the subject.

Marshall was one of two professors recently selected as La Verne Law Professor of the Year for 2012-13 by the Student Bar Association, the second time he has earned that recognition. He was also named to the prestigious Academy at La Verne, which recognizes the university’s top scholars and researchers.

Only 15 of the university’s 232 faculty members have been chosen to join the Academy since it was founded in 2006.

Read More.

La Verne Mother and Son Team Up to Write and Illustrate Children’s Book

Many have dreamt about putting their ideas down on paper and publishing a book, but few have followed through and made their dream a reality. Marcia Collum, an administrative assistant at La Verne, made her dream of writing and publishing a children’s book a reality with Max & Leo.

“It’s not something I did to get rich,” Collum said. “I hope that it sparks children’s imaginations the way books did when I was a kid, while also showing them the value of friendship. I also hope they like the Max and Leo characters.”

Before she began writing, she knew instantly who would illustrate her new book. Matthew Del Castillo, Collum’s 27-year-old son, starting drawing when he was a toddler and was willing to illustrate the Max & Leo characters. Collum credits faculty and staff in the College of Education & Organizational Leadership for encouraging and supporting her ambition. Read More.
This month in the online edition of

Spring Commencement Ceremonies
Celebrate Graduates’ Accomplishments

A $25,000 scholarship in Tommy Lasorda’s name has been created to benefit future La Verne students.

It’s your passion and commitment that will get you where you want to be,” Trippi said.

During the afternoon ceremony, candidates from the College of Business & Public Management heard from their commencement speaker Tommy Lasorda, former manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers. Stressing the importance of hard work and perseverance, Lasorda said it is important to also learn to balance family life.

“You’ve got to believe you can do it,” Lasorda told his audience. “Dreams can become a reality.”

Both Lasorda and Trippi were presented with honorary doctorates. View Photos. Watch Videos.

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Asst. Professor of Psychology Addresses LGBT Immigration Issues for CNN

Assistant Professor of Psychology Dr. Nadine Nakamura teamed up with Dr. Mark Pope from the University of Missouri, St. Louis to guest edit a special issue on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender immigration for the “Journal of LGBT Issues in Counseling.”

With the spotlight currently on the Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, and immigration reform, Nakamura was recently approached by CNN as an expert commentator for an article about LGBT immigration issues. While living in Canada, Nakamura met many same-sex couples who had emigrated from the United States so that they could remain together.

“I hope that people will read the special issue and discover an important aspect of intersectionality that has been long overlooked by both the LGBT and the immigration literature,” Nakamura said. Read More.

Local High School Students Learn to ‘REACH’ Their Full Potential at Camp

La Verne’s College of Business & Public Management hosted the eighth annual REACH Summer Business Camp June 10 - 28. Directed by Dr. Issam Ghazzawi, professor of management, more than 60 students from neighboring high schools lived and learned on La Verne’s main campus for what many would call a “three-week business trip.” All of the participants, who are identified as being at risk of not pursuing higher education, would be the first in their families to attend college. Classes, workshops and activities were taught by College of Business & Public Management professors who volunteer their time.

“The camp is a wonderful opportunity for high school students to gain exposure to college life while being introduced to several topics in the field of business,” Assistant Professor of Education and La Verne City Council member Dr. Donna Redman said. “It teaches the students how to work collaboratively and teaches them academic discipline, rigor and fun – all things they will experience if they attend college. They also get the experience of living on a college campus for three weeks.”

Students participating in the program were exposed to the basics of management and organization, marketing, economics, accounting and finance, business ethics and website development. In addition, students developed their own business plan that they presented in front of judges for a chance to win $1,000.

Students participating in the REACH program receive a unique understanding of the role of business in the economy and the importance of obtaining an education in business.

Dr. Nadine Nakamura is a member of the American Psychological Association’s (APA) Task Force on Immigration.