Setting a Course for Excellence

As New Provost, Dr. Alden Reimoneng is Ready To Lead ULV Academics To the Highest Level
We're improving on what we do best

A sound, quality education is what the University of La Verne has always provided its students. Maintaining that hallmark of excellence requires a dedication to outstanding teaching as well as a commitment to progress and innovation.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome Alden Reimonenq as the university’s new provost and vice president of academic affairs. He comes to the ULV community with an impressive background of strong academic and administrative leadership grounded in teaching and scholarship. His belief in service — to students, the university and higher education — reflects the very same values La Verne has embraced throughout its history.

The appointment of Dr. Reimonenq, in combination with ULV’s exceptional faculty, adds strength to the university’s premier teaching reputation. The potential for achievement resulting from such an engaged effort, in conjunction with the institution’s established curriculum, is certain to reinforce La Verne’s solid learning foundation.

In addition, the university is undergoing a renewed commitment to academic enhancement. A special raffle of a new Toyota Prius was held during the 2007 President’s Dinner Gala. The raffle and voice auction that same evening were made possible by donations from Board of Trustees member Michael Abraham. The two efforts raised more than $100,000 to augment funding for faculty research and development.

Change is taking place throughout higher education, and the University of La Verne is no exception. But by relying on a clear vision and commitment to academic values, this university will remain competitive in recruiting and retaining quality students as it continues to meet its mission of providing challenging and rewarding academic opportunities.

By Steve Morgan

By relying on a clear vision and commitment to academic values, this university will remain competitive in recruiting and retaining quality students as it continues to meet its mission of providing challenging and rewarding academic opportunities.
Building blocks of ULV success can have your name on them

A reporter from our largest local newspaper, working on a story about all of the local colleges and universities, called one day in early spring to find out what attracted students to the University of La Verne.

I wish all of the questions directed to the Public Relations Office at La Verne were so easy. I told her about my conversations with many students who told me that they loved the small class sizes at La Verne, that they didn’t feel like they’d get lost in the shuffle, that a few had even blurted out, “I even have my professor’s cell phone number, just in case I get stuck!”

Being a member of the La Verne community — whether student, faculty, alumnus or family member — is all about making a connection with others in that community. Our students often find it easier to get plugged into what’s going on at ULV than they did in their high schools. In that regard, La Verne is second to no institution of higher learning, even the ones with covered walls.

This kept going through my mind as I worked through the story about the Building On Excellence Campaign for this issue of the Voice. So far, more than $33 million in private funds have been raised by individuals of the ULV Community, who have made this the most prolific capital campaign in the school’s 115-year history. This generosity has already manifested itself in the construction of The Frank And Nadine Johnson Family Plaza in the middle of campus and in the transformation of the Super Tennis into the Sports Science & Athletics Pavilion. Soon, construction will begin on the sparkling new Sara & Michael Abraham Campus Center building, which will provide a great new venue for students and faculty alike to connect.

Well before then, members of the ULV Community have an opportunity to connect with the university in a way that’s fun and also important to the success of the campaign and the future of ULV. Paving stones etched with a personalized message will be placed around the mighty oak in the center of the Plaza, a lasting tribute to graduates, families, groups, teams and others who wish to create their own memorial. These paving stones are available in different sizes in the $250-$5,000 range. It’ll be interesting to watch the paving stones set in place. The names. The teams. The La Verne Community with their connection to the university set in stone. You can find out more about this rate opportunity by visiting www.ulv.edu/art/campuscenter.

As always, we’d love to hear from you. Drop us a line, an e-mail or send in your Leo Lines (there’s a form on the back cover of this magazine).

Rusty Evans
Editor

Correction
A photo caption in the Summer/Fall 2006 issue of the Voice misidentified a member of the class of 1946 at a reunion. The correct information for this photo is: Back row, left to right, Wanda Miller and Winona Harvey. Front row, left to right, Millie Streit Davis and Marguerite Reeves Shamberger.
CITY GIVES APPROVAL TO CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

Years of study, discussion and review came to fruition in January when the city council gave approval to the University of La Verne’s Campus Master Plan. By unanimous vote, the city council passed the extensive proposal, which serves as an overview of ULV’s projected growth, anticipated development and necessary facility enhancement.

“This is a good outcome for the city and the university,” La Verne mayor Jon Blenkenstock said after the vote. “The level of quality of the college are linked by a shared history. Whatever helps the university will also benefit La Verne.”

The Campus Master Plan is designed to enrich and revitalize ULV facilities and strengthen its infrastructure, allowing the university to evolve as it adapts to meet its educational mission. The Campus Center Project, one of the plan’s key components, features construction of the Sata and Michael Huang Center. Overall, the Campus Master Plan outlines a vision for ULV that will allow it to remain, competitive institution that can supply the academic and collegiate experience sought by prospective students. It will also help the university continue to be an involved partner with the city, providing benefits and resources that enhance the community’s exceptional quality of life. A copy of the Campus Master Plan can be found on the university’s Web site at www.ulv.edu/masterplan.

FUND-RAISING SUCCESS MAKES NATIONAL NEWS

Besides establishing a new university single-year standard for fund-raising, ULV attained national recognition for its advancement efforts in 2006 when it was mentioned in an Associated Press news article. The article, released in late February, focused on figures released following a nationwide survey of colleges and universities by the Council for Aid to Education (CAE). According to the survey, an all-time high of $28 billion was raised in 2006 to support institutions of higher education in the United States, an increase of 9.4 percent from the previous year.

Written by Justin Pope, the article reviewed the reasons, sources and leaders involved in the record-setting effort. Alumni were identified as a leading source of the fund-raising increases.

Pope wrote: “The CAE survey contains good news for a number of schools with small endowments that saw large percentage jumps, such as Wagner College in New York and the University of La Verne in California – both of which raised about $10 million and more than doubled 2005’s collections.” The article appeared in newspapers across the country and throughout the world. It was also picked up by broadcast radio and television stations as well as media outlets on the Internet, including CNN.

“For the University of La Verne to attain this kind of recognition alongside other nationally prominent institutions like Stanford is a tremendous honor,” said Jean Bjork, vice president of university relations at ULV. “It is through the generosity and dedication of our many donors and supporters, as well as vital corporate and foundation support, that such an achievement was realized. Our goal is to build upon this accomplishment and maintain La Verne’s rich educational legacy.”

UPCOMING UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE EVENTS

Wednesday, May 16 — An evening to honor Dwight Harawalt and the Old Gym, 5 p.m. In the Old Gym. 

Monday, June 11 — The 15th Annual ULV Golf Tournament at Glendora Country Club, Contact Theresa Cimino at (909) 593-3511, ext. 4665. 

Saturday, July 7 — Roland “Dr.” Otmary’s 80th Birthday Party. Otmary Stadium. Contact Theresa Cimino at (909) 593-3511, ext. 6665. 

Saturday, August 18 — Concert Under the Stars – ULV Night. Location: The Herb & Kay Hall Estate, La Verne. For more information, contact Denise Manila, (909) 593-3511 ext. 4680. 

Sunday, August 19 — Members of the Black and Latino Alumni Associations invite you to join them at the Hollywood Bowl Jazz Festival. For more information, please contact Daniel Loera, (909) 593-3511 ext. 4253. 


ALUMNUS JEM SPECTAR A UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Jem Spectar, University of La Verne gradnate and former administrator and faculty member, has been named the next President of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

Most recently the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Western Oregon University, Spectar will take over at Pitt-Johnstown on July 1. A member of the Board of Directors of the American Conference of Academic Deans, he has previously served as an administrator and taught political science at the University of Scranton (Pa.) and Princeton University.

Spectar (also known while at La Verne as Jonno Miano and J.M. Spectar) earned a bachelor’s at Western International Studies from ULV in 1989, and later returned to become the university’s assistant dean of students and a faculty member. He was named a professor of political science in 1995 and was given the 1998 Professor of Distinction Award by the ULV College of Law.

ULV LAW PROFESSOR TO AID SCHOOLS IN JORDAN

After 26 years of influencing the growth and development of the University of La Verne College of Law, professor and Dean Emeritus Charles Donkowski will offer his knowledge and experience to help develop and enhance law school curricula and teaching methods in Jordan.

In association with the American Bar Association’s Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (CEELI), Donkowski is spending three months this spring as a legal education consultant to Jordanian law schools. CEELI volunteers promote the rule of law in Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia and the Middle East through public service in a variety of legal, educational and consultative capacities.

Donkowski will also visit Germany to teach a one-week course in torts in the common law at the University of Minster.

Along with teaching constitutonal law, insurance law and professional responsibility at the ULV College of Law, Donkowski is a frequent lecturer, writes columns for the Los Angeles Daily Journal and San Francisco Daily Journal, and serves as a legal commentator for public radio.

NATIONAL TITLE SAYS IT ALL FOR DEBATE TEAM

Josh Martin and Rob Ruiz became the first students in ULV history to hold the title of national debate champions when they earned top honors at the 2007 United States Universities Debating Championships held March 31-April 1 at the Claremont Colleges.

Martin and Ruiz defeated teams from Loyola Marymount, the University of Alberta/University of Calgary and Portland State University in the final round to capture the national title. In 2006, Martin and Ruiz finished ranked 10th at the World University Debating Championships in Ireland.

“Last year we advanced two teams to the semifinals, falling to Yale and eventual national champion Harvard,” said professor and debate team advisor Ian Lising. “This is a tremendous accomplishment.”

LAW STUDENTS EXCEL IN COURT COMPETITION

ULV College of Law students Tina Barsotti and Brendan Gibson earned top team honors during the 2006-07 Frederick Douglass-Thomas Court Regional competition in San Francisco. The event was held in conjunction with the National Association of Women Western Region Convention Feb. 15-17.

Barsotti and Gibson won the first place team and best petitioner’s brief awards, with Barsotti also selected best orator. They and their faculty coach, professor Juanita Daniel, advanced to the national competition in Atlanta.

In addition, ULV student Candace Cromes was elected to serve as Attorney General on the 2007-08 Western Region Black Law Students Association Board.

DAUGHTER OF DESMOND TUTU SPEAKS AT ULV

Drawing on her life experiences of growing up black and female in apartheid South Africa, Naumi Tutu offered audiences her views on gender, race and the human condition during her two-day visit to ULV in March.

An internationally recognized speaker, author and consultant, Tutu is the daughter of Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The associate director of the Office of International Relations & Programs at Tennessee State University, she is collaborating on a new book, “I Don’t Think of You as Black: Honest Conversations on Race and Relations.”

As the 2007 Fasnacht Lecturer, Tutu spoke to a gathering of campus and community members on faith, human rights and worldwide challenges during her March 21 talk, “By Our Fruits We Are Known: Religion and Activism.” The following day, she provided the keynote address “Women’s Stories, Women’s Voices” during the third annual Engendering Diversity & Community Conference at ULV.

ULV SIFE TEAM EARNS A TRIP TO NATIONAL FINALS

A group of 10 ULV students were honored with Regional Champions and Rookie of the Year honors during the City of Los Angeles Regional Student Free Enterprises, Inc. (SIFE) USA Competition on March 21.

The team presented a report on their community outreach projects to a panel of business leaders. During the current academic year, the La Verne students developed a business plan for a local Rae Miller High School in Pomona. That competition had 28 Gaity students break into teams and develop business plans for future businesses, providing an opportunity for them to test their knowledge while researching and developing ideas with the goal of devising practical and profitable plans.

Members of the award-winning ULV SIFE team are: Akeemi Croom, Mariela Martinez, Erin Larriente, Jennifer McDonald, Stephen Roybal, Phanny Lam, Amanda Hernandez, Lilian Ullio, Daisy Aguiar and David Duang. It was a big surprise for all of us to win against very well-established SIFE teams,” said team advisor Issam Ghazzawi, assistant professor of management and a Sam Walton Fellow. “I am extremely happy that we have made a big impact on the lives of others in our community through the SIFE outreach program.”

The ULV team advanced to take part in national competition during the SIFE USA National Exposition May 6-8 in Dallas.
Setting a Course for Excellence

New Provost Alden Reimonenq Takes the Reins of ULV’s Academic Affairs

By Rusty Evans

Alden Reimonenq, who as the University of La Verne’s new provost is the institution’s highest-ranking academic administrator, is doing his best to look relaxed at his desk for a photographer, but before him is a constant reminder of the work ahead.

“If you want me to look happy, it’s not going to happen while I’m looking at all of this paperwork dealing with budgets,” Reimonenq says with a chuckle. “It seems I’m in meetings more than on the phone or in e-mail communication. And most of those meetings are about budget.”

Working within the private university arena is not new for Reimonenq (pronounced REH-ma-nack), who spent 17 years teaching at St. Mary’s College, also a private, tuition-driven institution of higher learning in California. But despite a distinguished career in administration at California State University, Northridge, and California State University, East Bay, after leaving St. Mary’s in 1999, it’s Reimonenq’s first ascent to provost level, a position for which he says he’s prepared his whole life.

“The University of La Verne provost position is a logical next step for me and a part of a plan that I have carved out for myself,” said Reimonenq, who since 2003 served as Dean of the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences at CSU East Bay. “I set a personal goal that, in my fifth year as a dean I would start looking for advancement to the Provost level. I am delighted that I found success in meeting that goal at University of La Verne.”

Continued on 8
stressed education, it had to be public education, which means free education,” Reimonenq said. “I was not one of those guys who played a lot of sports, but I did a lot of reading. I always had my head in a book. My sister and I were the ones mostly, who focused on education. My brothers followed the path of my father, who was a carpenter. Once I got into education, into high school and did very well in that, then went to college, I thought, ‘This is fantastic, if one were to get a career in this... to enjoy reading books and they’d actually pay you for it.’

“So it really came out of a joy of reading, initially. Then I went into a master’s program and Ph.D. program in English Literature and made a career out of it. A passion is what it is.”

Reimonenq studied at the University of New Orleans, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in English (1974), and at Purdue University, where he earned his master’s (1975) and doctorate (1980) degrees in English. He was a doctoral fellow at Purdue University for three years (1976-79) and received a Purdue University dissertation grant to do research at the British Museum in London (1978). He received a National Endowment for the Arts summer fellowship at the Homer Institute at the University of Arizona (1987).

A widely published poet, Reimonenq has enjoyed teaching a range of literature, especially Shakespeare, English Renaissance drama and poetry, and African-American literature. His book of poetry, Hoodoo Headrag, was published in 2001. He has also published literary history and criticism, fiction, and essays. Now, it’s time for Reimonenq to lead. He has the reins of the university’s Academic Affairs and recognizes the task ahead, and he has the full faith of the administration behind him.

“Reimonenq is uniquely qualified to serve as our Provost,” Morgan said. “He has an impressive background as a teacher, published scholar and academic administrator. His service in both the independent and public sector, in large and small institutions gives him a depth of experience that will fit well with our needs as a growing comprehensive university. His strong support of our mission will add to the strength of his leadership and insight.”

Reimonenq says he’s been impressed with the University of La Verne’s doctoral/research intensive environment, with the newly accredited College of Law, with the fund-raising success of the university’s $42 million capital campaign. Mostly, he says, he feels like he fits in.

“University of La Verne is attractive to me because of the kind of student you teach here: first generation, 50% from minority groups, working-class, adult students,” Reimonenq said. “I would like to continue my life’s work as an educator at an institution that is committed to the same values I hold dear. I want to continue to be an educator in service to the kind of student I was.”

Among the first orders of business for Reimonenq once he came on campus March 1 was to meet with the deans of ULV’s colleges.

Continued from 7

Not surprisingly, there is considerable interest in the course Reimonenq will set for academic affairs. He has promised to ask a lot of questions and do a lot of listening since his arrival on campus March 1. A ULV Town Meeting in March, at which Reimonenq addressed the ULV Community for the first time, was very well-attended by faculty.

“With regard to the university’s strategic planning, I happened to come along at a very good time,” Reimonenq told faculty and staff at the Town Hall Meeting. “It sets the stage as provost for me to set an academic master plan. That being said, strategic planning is a building process. It would be presumptuous of me to say what my vision for academic affairs is. It is a process that we must all work toward together.”

Nevertheless, with ULV president Steve Morgan sending a clear signal in his Strategic Plan that the university must stay focused on what it does well and not try to be all things to all people, it figures that Reimonenq will take a hard look at programs across the board. Reimonenq comes to ULV with extensive leadership experience. Prior to his work as Dean at CSU East Bay, Reimonenq spent three years at Cal State Northridge, serving as Interim Dean of the College of Humanities, Chief of Staff to the President, and as Executive Assistant to the Provost.

“We were looking for someone who started as faculty, who rose to the level of a widely renowned scholar, yet who has taken on academic leadership and has demonstrated achievement as an academic leader,” said John Linarelli of the ULV College of Law, who was Search Committee Chair. “We could not have found a better match than Dr. Reimonenq.

“The University of La Verne is poised for significant growth in the 21st Century, and we wanted someone who understood the challenges and who would lead us academically as we grow. We were also looking for someone with vision, someone with deeply held convictions about excellence in academic standards and practices, someone who could articulate a strong vision of academic excellence to the constituencies within the university and to the wider community.”

Despite his recent shift to administration, Reimonenq is a teacher and scholar. With a master’s degree and Ph.D. in English literature, Reimonenq taught what he loved for 17 years.

“I come from a family of five boys and my sister came along much, much later, so I came from a family that, while they

Continued on 9

It would be presumptuous of me to say what my vision for academic affairs is. It is a process that we must all work toward together.”

— Alden Reimonenq

A published poet and Shakespeare scholar, Reimonenq says he is impressed with the level of research of the faculty at the University of La Verne.
Kirsten Ogden’s English students have gotten the attention of the governor, U.S. senators and other politicians by writing essays with ideas for helping California’s working-poor class.

By Rusty Bell

B roads papers slowly make their way out of folders and book bags, instruments of progress and potential world change. Students chat anxiously about pending presentations, mostly on the topic of preparation. They await the start of their last day of class in the University of La Verne’s Levi Den, Room 101A.

It is the end of January Interim 2007, and their class, English 111, has flown by in four short weeks. Each student has produced a 25-35 page research paper detailing his or her solutions to issues surrounding the working-poor class in California.

Fortunately, associate professor Kirsten Ogden’s entrance—grand on account of the tray of cupcakes balanced above her hand—soothed apprehensions with calm and contagious enthusiasm. “Despite what people are saying, I won’t be shredding your papers, but I will be taking them—now,” Ogden says, as she gives a small box labeled “shred” in red marker to a student in the first row, to be passed around. “Place your project title pages on top of your cover letters and papers to put in the box and I have a fabulous cover letter from me. We’re going to mail these.”

It was not the first time students in English 111 had written to change the world. Ogden’s spring 2006 class had also written for causes close to their hearts, receiving recognition from United States Senator Dianne Feinstein, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and then-Los Angeles mayor James Hahn for efforts well done. One of several praised programs was an inspired idea from the mind of a biology major involving an integrated desire to fight both childhood hunger and obesity through a school and community garden.

“Children would go work in this garden-greenhouse immediately after school and would learn how to grow their own food at home. They would also learn how to

“This generation is labeled the active generation for one reason or another.

Kirsten Ogden, seated center, is surrounded by English 111 students brimming with great ideas to effect social change and bring relief to California’s working-poor class.

Rusty Evans photo

California’s working-poor class.

I honestly believe the students want to make a difference in the world.”

— ULV English professor Kirsten Ogden

Continued on 12
Academics

Continued from 11

cook wholesome food,” Ogden said, adding that only weeks later, she discovered a free garden for kids that was opening in the Bay Area.

“I am not saying that program got its idea from my student’s paper being mailed to Sacramento, but what I am saying is that I know the governor doesn’t read those papers,” Ogden said. “Most likely, his interns and staffers scan them and are responsible for sending back those lovely, generic letters that some of the students received. Think about that intern or staffer going home and telling the story of these students and the social program papers they mailed to the governor and so on. (It’s like a chain reaction, someone reads it and says, ‘Hey, what a great idea.’) The papers were warmly acknowledged, with Feinstein suggesting students seek funding through the State Grants program. Schwarzenegger forwarded his congratulations and contacted two students whose programs were admirable. Hahn promised the proposals would be assessed for viability and possible inclusion in pending community agendas.

“I thought that was exciting,” Ogden said, “showing students how they could move their programs forward on their own.” Now a second round of classes devoted to issues surrounding the condition of the working poor — defined not only as homeless individuals but as those living day-to-day, hand-to-mouth — had resulted in detailed examinations of the main problems. They looked at a lack of affordable housing, purchasing power and available jobs, as well as matters of limited educational achievement and nonexistent support systems. Ogden told her class that “money was no object.” They didn’t need to talk about how the programs would be funded, they simply had to propose a program and then argue for that program’s existence,” Ogden said.

Students began by researching existing social programs, basing their ideas for possible platforms on their personal interests or majors. Determining their own functional definitions of the working poor, students set about addressing main problems associated with poverty-level or near-poverty-level experiences. Solutions, whether targeting the entire working poor class or specific segments of the population, involved a mix of radical changes, simple fund reallocations and a better use of available resources. As presentations began, students seemed to understand the futility of the search for answers to the poverty plague, but they determinedly chose to speak on behalf of those who could not in hopes of spurring change.

Natalie Velasco, a freshman theater major, proposed using CallWorks, a program founded in the 1960s, to lessen the plight of migrant farmers. She summed up overwhelming feelings of power and hope in the room with a single John Lennon quote: “You may say I’m a dreamer, but I’m not the only one.”

“What I would add to the program would be a center where migrants would be able to learn English to help them in becoming citizens,” Velasco said. “My grandfather was a working-poor migrant and I feel that, had this program been fully developed in the 1960s when he came to America, he would have been able to keep his family here over sooner and with more money.”

The idea for Ogden’s class stemmed from

Continued from 12

a longing for students to discern the value of general education classes. It was the result of a conversation Ogden had with Jane Dibble, a former associate professor of theater.

“Students come into these (General Education) classes and many don’t see them as valuable or worthwhile because they want to finish up and get to their core major classes,” Ogden said. “This depressed us, since both Jane and I came to discover theater, writing and performance through this exploration when we were younger.”

Although Ogden admits her initial visualizations of instilling hope into students and sending them out into the streets to fight for the under-represented were a bit idealistic, she says many students delved into the project, using words as tools to carefully sculpt solutions and become personally involved.

“I’ve seen a lot of my students change their lives and their way of thinking as a result of the ideas we discussed in class and the programs they investigated and wrote about,” Ogden said. “They care, and this generation is labeled the active generation for one reason or another. The talking heads say it’s because they want good resumes. I honestly believe the students want to make a difference in the world.”

Midway through presentations, emotional attachments to the plight of the working poor become more poignant. “Do you feel the power in the room?” Ogden asked with a smile of pride.

Elisea Wittman, a freshman art history and physics major, decided to focus on second-generation poverty, an obstacle that often prevents single mothers and members of the youth group from achieving their educational goals.

“My main object is to change the way of thinking,” she said in describing an educational program first instituted as a free daycare center that would become a high school course to teach basic skills needed in the job force. “It could really exist, but you would take a lot of political people getting out of their own way and seeing the heart of the program.”

Some students’ suggestions were more radical. Briana Pride, a freshman double major in philosophy and political science, proposed a student government overthrow.

“I decided to take it from an economical stance,” Pride said in her assessment of the woes of capitalism. “The economy creates poverty and I decided the only solution was to rely on a system of barter — to trade goods and services. For example, you would clean someone’s house and they would sew you a sweater.”

Citing the philosophies of Adam Smith, Pride compared her solution to Marxism, referring to it as “socialism at its best.”

“I feel like a lot of people see it as a joke. Bartering isn’t the way it works now, but it was the original form of economy,” she said. “It depends on whether you believe it can work.”

The plan to send a box full of innovative research papers to local and state governments, as well as copies burned on CD to President George W. Bush, was incorporated into the original class objective to emphasize the prospect of impacting society.

“First, I think it’s important for students to see their writing has a place in the real world,” Ogden said. “But this was also a great way to teach students about audience. If a Republican governor is your audience, you write differently, versus if you were writing to me, the teacher.”

Certain visualized programs, all blossoming with hope on presentation day, reflected more immediate potential. One such proposal called for creation of full-service centers geared to the working mother, offering housing, food and child care, allowing struggling single women to work and/or attend school.

But all presentations reflected compassion. Sara Keagy, a freshman considering a major in political science, acts as a promotions director for Meeting Individuals Need Together (MINT), a program with a “fresh” outlook. Keagy took the idea of free stores, first seen in Morgan Spurlock’s “30 Days” TV episode of “Minimum Wage” that aired in 2005, and specified stock to meet the needs of struggling Californians, conveniently placing locations next to welfare offices.

“Sending my project proposal to the governor is planting a seed of future hope for the working-poor class of California,” Keagy said. “I believe that my proposal can make a difference in the lives of underprivileged Californians. My hope is that social program will be implemented and that it will inspire other states to offer similar programs. I want to change the world for the better, and I believe, with a social program like MINT, I can give government officials a fresh perspective on how to improve it.”

“She thought it was important to have that here with a few modifications,” Ogden says. “She’s right, too. If she had a $10,000 donation for start-up, she could open that store in a week and service a portion of the working-poor population. Each student’s creativity inspired me, mostly because their ideas for their proposals came from personal experience — either their own, or from someone they love. They saw need in their own lives and theorized how to address that need with their proposals.”
Continued from 14
Carolynn Archdeacon ’79 graduated from the Athens, Greece, location in 1979. Her maiden name was Carol Winter and would love to hear from fellow classmates. She can be contacted via email at Archdeacon@msn.com.

Debra (Cadena) DeGrone ’84 was presented with the Mendocino Coast Spirit Award in October 2006, for her leadership and positive contributions to the Mendocino Coast’s local economy. The City of Fort Bragg, Calif.; Congressman Mike Thompson, Calif.; Assembly member Patty Berg, Calif.; and California Senator Wesley Chesbro also recognized her for her service to the Mendocino Coast. Debra is the CEO of the Mendocino Coast Chamber of Commerce and is about to be inducted to the Mendocino County. She is a recent graduate of Western Association of Chamber Executives Academy program, the Leadership Mendocino Program, and serves on the board of directors for the Arts Council of Mendocino County.

Nared Nizami ’85 is working as a CIO for Oxford Institute of Technology in Woodland Hills, Calif.

Abbas Hassan ’86 has moved himself and his family along with his company to the Big Island in Hawaii. He loves living and working in paradise! His company, Tiki Shark Hawaii, has obtained an official license from Body Glove International to manufacture their Beach Towels worldwide. Check out his website: www.tikishark.com.

Dr. Laverne Parker Diggs ’88 graduated in 2002 from Pepperdine University from the School of Education & Psychology. She received a Doctorate of Education and Organizational Leadership. She is now principal partner at consulting firm, Becker-Diggs & Associates.

Inge Hoho-Scheinfarb ’89 & ’93 in August 2005 left her career as a Vice President of IT for a Fortune 500 company to expand the business she started in 2002. Her dream was always to work for herself and to pursue her passion, real estate. She is currently a real estate agent, licensed in California.

She specializes in commercial & residential property management, and residential real estate sales in the Sonoma & Marin County areas. Her business is geared toward both commercial and residential units. She is also an active member of her local Board of Realtors. She is serving as a third term as president of the Los Angeles Chapter of Disabled Sports, USA. In June 2003, she married David Scheinfarb after he returned from serving our country in Iraq. David was with the U.S. Navy specialized helicopter combat rescue and support squadron. They are in the process of adopting a little boy, Jacob Genit Keel Min Scheinfarb, from Korea.

Leo Sayles ’89 was recently honored as the Appalachian Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in volleyball for 2006. The Bryan College Lions were 11-24 in 2005 and went 27-13 in 2006. The team was honored with the AAC Champions of Character Award, finished second in the conference, and achieved their first 25-win season in volleyball since 1986.

Richard E. O’Conner ’89 traveled to Nice, France, in April 2007. He will be accompanying art guru Charles Gragg. This will be his fourth oil painting experience in the Mediterranean area.

Jon Tyler ’90 is currently the Vice President for Human Resources at Mt. San Jacinto Community College District and has been for the last 7 years. He was recently made the Interim Superintendent/President for the college. Mt. San Jacinto Community College serves more than 15,000 students, has more than 1,100 employees, and an annual budget in excess of $97 million on two campuses. Jon is a graduate of the DPA program — Dr. Ray Garubbo was his cluster leader — at the time his class was known as the Vanderberg AFB Cluster. He intends to retire in June 2008 and relocate to the state of Georgia where his wife owns several small businesses (Georgia and Florida) and will be starting up more.

Ron Wood, ’90 MBA, was named president and CEO of the Board of Directors of the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership (SGVEP), the region’s leading economic development coalition. Wood is a long-time member of the SGVEP, where he represented the San Gabriel Valley Tribune, Pasadena Star News, Whittier Daily News, and Highlander newspapers. Active on many SGVEP committees and task forces, he served on the organization’s executive board for the past eight years. Wood joined the San Gabriel Valley Newspaper Group as publisher in 1998. Previously, he held executive positions with the Los Angeles Newspaper Group, MediaNews Group and the Bakersfield Californian. The SGVEP is a regional coalition of business, local government, and educational institutions committed to the successful economic development of the San Gabriel Valley.

Albert Kawela ’91 and his wife, Lari-Ann, have four children: Kawanu (10), Albert III (6), Kaiana (4) and Kai Koa just turned 1 (1) in January. Albert is in his 12th year as varsity basketball coach at Hilo High School in Hilo, Hawaii.

Andrew Meyer ’92 was appointed Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Leadership, College of Education at Idaho State University in August 2006.

Dr. Kay Lumas ’93 graduated from Capella University in July 2006 receiving her Doctor of Philosophy in Human Services and Professional Counseling.

Mary Louise Applebaum ’93 has recently joined with World Financial Group helping families with financial independence. In

Continued on 15
John Paul Connors ’98 moved to St. Augustine to accept a position as Director of the Orthodoxy Christian Mission Center, dedicated to spreading the gospel to those in physical and spiritual need overseas.

Keni Tests ’00 is a proud Leopard graduate with an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership. His UVL dissertation regarding joint-use school facility development contributed greatly to his current assignment as Chief Facilities Officer for the Merced City School District in Merced, Calif. He and his wife Diane are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary and are proud of their two daughters Jennifer and Ashley. Special thanks to Dr. Harvey for the motto "Trust the Process!"

Brian Loomis ’94 moved to Australia in 2005. He lives in New South Wales near Sydney. He says it is a very nice country but he misses the USA in many ways. Everyone misses Steve Irwin there! All the best to UVL!

Jamey L. Windt ’03 moved to Idaho following graduation to embark on a career with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He is currently working for the southern half of Idaho, a position that is held by only 90 people in the entire United States.

Continued from 16
Frankie Alvardo ’05 and Nicollote Cas- tro ’95 were married June 25, 2005. They met while living in the doms at UVL. They recently added a little Leo to the fam- ily, Addison Alvardo on August 1, 2006.

Alexis Rampil ’05 spent a year in Maui after graduating from UVL. She then came back to study at USC Roski School of Ed- ucation to obtain a M.Ed. in Postsecondary Administration and Student Affairs.

Matlinda Alford ’05 will take the first of four parts for the Certified Internal Audi- tor exam. She would like to thank all of her professors at UVL for making her dreams come true. She was also instrumental in her husband, Ugo Peter Alford’s, run for Sheriff-Coroner in June 2006.

Judy Rodgers ’05 began teaching Special Education at Belville Elementary School in Belville, North Carolina, in February 2006. She attends classes at UNCW for her dual-certification in early childhood education/special education birth-kindergar- ten license. She and her husband moved to North Carolina in late August of Au- gust 2005 and have enjoyed the East Coast and living close to the beach. They miss UVL and all of their friends and family in California.

Walt Foults ’05 has been appointed as the Chief Information Officer for the Office of the Texas Attorney General in Austin, Texas. Previously, he held the posi- tion of Senior Vice President of Enterprise Information Security for Countryside Fi- nancial Services, CSO for Cerner Corpora- tion and Director of Information Security for the Farmers Insurance Group of Texas Financial Services.

ULV LEGACY

Austin Redman of Torrance has been accepted for enrollment at the University of La Verne for the fall of 2007. Austin has the distinction of being a fourth generation to attend UVL. His great-grandparents, Jerry Deal (class of ’32) and Edna Deal (class of ’31) began a tradition of attending UVL that has now spanned 80 years.

Austin’s great-great-grandfather, Redman, has earned 3 degrees from UVL — bach- elor’s in ’60, master’s in ’87, and doctor- ate in ’91. Austin’s aunt, Donna Redman

Nasmyth graduated in ’88, earned a mas- ther in ’98 and will receive her doctorate in 2007, having received his bachelor’s degree from the Univer- sity of La Verne. Rev. Jennings continued his education at Bethany Theological Semi- nary in Richmond, Indiana. He served for the Church of the Brethren for more than 65 years holding pastoredates in Santa Ana, McFarland, and Medford, Oregon. Rev. Jennings was a founding member of Heif- er Project, Inc. and also worked with the Carter Center and Habitat for Humanity. He traveled his community proficiently, and even walked with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the farm workers move- ment in Fresno. Rev. Jennings dedicated his life to the betterment of the world through kindness and forgiveness, two attributes about him that will never be forgotten. His wife, Eliza Nasmyth preceded him in death in 1977, but sons Gary and Alan, daughters Jolene, Marilee, and Cheryl, survive him. Also surviving are his nine grandchildren and four great-grandchil- dren.

Leland Ray Swanson ’52 passed away Jan- uary 6, 2007.

Paul Travis Monk ’85 passed away on December 6, 2006 at the age of 73. After graduating from the University of La Verne, Paul went on to receive his master’s degree at Claremont Graduate School. In 1976, he opened his own antique shop named 1867 Parish House of Antiques, which he operated in Yucaipa until his sudden death. Surviving Paul are his wife, Bobbie, and children, Melissa Turner and Grant Monk.

Norman Veoman ’59 passed away at age 69 at Santa Rosa’s Sutter Medical Center. Nor- man was surrounded by his wife and three children at the time of his passing. He lived his later years in Mendocino County’s dis- trict attorney after spending three years in private practice. Friends, family, and his community will miss his simple ways and loving character.

Herbert Heffner ’60 passed away in his home in Claremont, California, sur- rounded by family. He spent 37 years in banking and retired as Vice President and Manager of First Interstate Bank in 1982. Two years later he came out of retirement to manage the Central Cash Services and

Continued on 18

addition, Mary Louise is still busy with her health-consulting firm and plans to live in New Zealand for six months.

Peter Hopping ’96 received his Doctorate in Education and is currently working at Santiago High School in Corona, Calif.

Joseph Martinez ’97 is proud to announce his marriage to Staci Buchwald. They were married November 19, 2006.

Maria L. Olin Munoz ’01 earned her master’s degree in art in Utah at the University of Utah. She then earned her doctorate at Montana, Michoacan in Mexico on a Fulbright-Hays Research Abroad Dissertation Fellowship from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and entered the Ph.D. program to study Latin American History at the University of Arizona in Tucson. She is currently working on her dissertation titled, “Mughal Islam’s Impact on the History of the Mughal Empire” (1658-1689).

Catherine Brewer ’01 graduated with a degree in Business Administration from the University of Utah. She is currently a Northwest Bank Account Manager in Salt Lake City.

William Amann ’91 was named the new President of the New Mexico Society of Certified Public Accountants, a position he had held for the past three years.

Anna Boy ’02 has been working as an organizer with UNITE HERE International Union, and is currently trying to secure real labor rights for tribal casino workers in California. They won an incredible victory last August in the State Legislature, but the fight for justice continues. Please encourage your state legislators to support Tribal Compacts that include Nondisclosure Card-Check agreement for their workers! This has been exciting and fulfilling work for Anna. Her involvement in SFU and ASU, as well as climate change, biological science, Peace Studies, International Studies, Communications and Spanish programs at UVL helped her along the way, in addition to the amazing professors and staff!

Timothy J. DePodal ’91 has returned to South Pacific Island Nation after living more than two years in the U.S. Peace Corps. He is serving as a consultant to the Vanuatu Government and establishes operations for the Vanuatu Agriculture College (VAC). The VAC is a multimillion-dollar facility donated by the People’s Republic of China.

Mark B. Thompson ’03 moved to Australia in 2005. He lives in New South Wales near Sydney. He says it is a very nice country but he misses the USA in many ways. Everyone misses Steve Irwin there! All the best to UVL!

Marsha Lee Schuh ’01 earned her master of arts in Composition in June 2006 and is now doing Teaching Associateship at California State University, San Bernardino—337. She still receives royalties from Prentice Hall for a Computer Networking text she co-authored.

Continued from 15

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Security Services for First Interstate Bank during the 1994 Olympics. Survived by wife, Betty, son Earl, daughter Chris, four grandchildren, and three and a half great-grandchildren Herbert will be deeply missed.

Edna A. (Hollingsworth) Neumann ’70 passed away in Chattanooga, Tenn., on November 7, 2006. She spent 46 years teaching grade school and was acknowledged as “Teacher of the Year” before her retirement. Edna is survived by her two daughters, Kathleen and Claudia, three sisters, one brother, four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Daniel Murphy ’71 lost his battle with melanoma August 15, 2006. He taught se- nior English and work experience in Venu- tia County from 1974-2006. He is sur- vived by his wife, Debi, daughter, Cyndy; sons Ian and Tim.

JoAnna Stuart ’74 passed away April 28, 2004. She always had fond and proud memories of her times studying at ULV.

Ellen C. Williams ’75 sadly passed away on September 24, 2006 among friends and family at Rose House Hospice in Whittier. Ellen passed the bar exam in 1976 follow- ing graduation from the University of La Verne and was a dedicated legal advo- cate in the legal community through the East West Law Asso- ciation. Her husband, son Andrew, daughter Casey, and two step-daughters Elizabeth and Kathleen survive her.

James Rudolph ’76 & ’81 passed away at the tender age of 54 on December 5, 2006. James lived his life as a teacher follow- ing graduation from the University of La Verne. He taught at Alta Loma High School, Irwindale High School, Ramona High School, and San Diego High School of International Studies. Wife Carol, daughters Kelly, Nicole, Dominique, Amy, and son Reid along with extensive extended family survive James.

Mildred Virginia White ’76 & ’82 passed away on August 16, 2006 at the age of 59 after a life of accomplishment and selfless acts of service. Mildred was a devoted wife, mother, sister, daughter, and grandmother. Mildred was a devoted teacher and leader in education. She spent 30 years teaching grade school and was named “Teacher of the Year.” She is survived by her husband, John, her three daughters, Cheryl Gilchrist, Martha White, brother Charles White, and best friend Bessie Thompson.

Winston Risner ’78 passed away July 26, 2006.

Edward Tait ’90 passed away in 2000.

Cherie (Leonard) Rudolf ’94, an ener- getic, committed, and devoted mother, passed away January 8, 2007, after a long battle with cancer. She served as vice pres- ident of nursing and patient care services at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center from 2000 to 2006. Between work, Cherie was able to volunteer at Pomona’s Pilgrim Congregational Church and helped start the church’s Parish Nurse Program. Many fellow colleagues mourn her death and she is remembered fondly. She is survived by her husband, Dennis, her mother, and her two brothers.

Jared Landaker ’03, a first lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, was killed in a helicopter crash in Iraq in service of his country. A physics major who was an officer on the 2001 ULV baseball team, Landaker had been promoted to Aircraft Commander (H-46) one week prior to the birth of his child, Joelle. Jared and Joelle had been engaged. Jared’s fiancé described Jared as “a smart kid who worked hard and cared.”

Nicholas C. Polos, former University of La Verne history professor, passed away on April 8, 2006. Nicholas studied at re-nowned schools such as Pomona College (B.A.) and Harvard University (Ph.D.). His last book titled “San Dimas: Preserving the Western Spirit” won four prestigious book awards. Nicholas is missed by family and students who remember his vibrant spirit.

Ray Spencer Anderson, MD, a Univer- sity of La Verne volunteer and member of the President’s Advisory Council passed away on October 7, 2006, post-polio syndrome. He was surrounded by family and friends peacefully at home. He graduat- ed from Occidental College in 1952 and Northwestern Medical School in 1956. He practiced as an anesthesiologist for over 30 years. For the last 16 years that she worked, she was employed at Methodist Hospital in Arcadia. Ray retired in 1989 and traveled extensively to North and South poles, Russia, Alaska, and Australia, never letting her illness dis- courage her. She is survived by four daugh- ters: Karen, Susan, Mary Elizabeth (ULV alumna), and Julianne.

Candice Green ’03 passed away April 2, 2007. She was 26 years old. Candice was involved in a hit and run accident and suffered a fatal injury. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Candice’s name to the Phi Sigma Sigma Foundation.

LITTLE LEOS

Patrick Murray ’96 & Wendy Higgins-Murray ’97 are enthused to announce the birth of their first child on May 28, 2005. They had a beautiful baby boy named Kyle Patrick and he has been the love of their lives ever since.

Dr. Robert J. Cardenas ’93, ’95, & ’03 and his wife, Olga, are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Josue David Cardenas. Josuex was born July 3, 2006, in Newport Beach. Robert is currently the Contracts Administrator for the City of Fontana. Olga enjoys her time as a stay-at-home mom.

Rebecca (Rosens) Bosna ’96 and her hus- band, Daniel Bosna, are proud to announce the birth of their second daughter, Jordyn Anne Bosna. She was born May 26, 2005. Rebecca is in her 9th year of teaching el-ementary school in Murrieta, Calif.

Mindy (Chapman) Dahl ’00 and her hus- band, Byron, are proud to announce the birth of their first baby, daughter, Kiersten Alexis, born February 9, 2007.

Michael A. Frye ’94 is proud to announce the arrival of a new baby girl! Asia Symone Frye weighed 4 lbs.

As president, he met the radical ideas of the time with his own controversial—and successful—programs. Dr. Leeland Newcomer was ready to take over as president of La Verne College in 1968, but he wasn't sure La Verne was ready for him.

One of Newcomer's greatest contributions to ULV was the creation of adult off-campus programs, which offered working adults classes at night and on weekends, so students could get their degree while working a traditional job during the day.

Today, the University of La Verne's Regional Campus Administration has nine campuses across Southern California from San Luis Obispo to Orange County, and the College Accelerated Program for Adults (CAPA) encompasses the largest segment of ULV students. These programs flowed from Newcomer's vision.

"Le said, “There are a lot of adults out there who want educational opportunities, and we can provide them, but we’ll have to take our opportunities to them. They won’t come to our campus.”” Morgan said. “His concept was that we could make a profit from those programs and that would subsidize the traditional undergraduate program. He said, ‘I'm not a great fund-raiser and La Verne doesn't have a large endowment, so we'd like to create a living endowment by creating this off-campus structure that could actually generate a profit.’ And he did that.”

Newcomer's administration also initiated a weekend series of classes for teachers; a child care center to serve student-parents, university staff and the community; and, in 1974, the new student center, nicknamed the “Super Tents” was opened and is still one of the region's most distinctive landmarks.

Perhaps Newcomer's greatest contribution to the future of the school was his tutelage of Morgan, who is the longest-tenured president in the history of the institution.

"He's really the man who convinced me that I should be on the track of college administration rather than something else,” said Morgan, who upon graduating from La Verne College in 1968 enrolled at USC to pursue a master's degree in public administration. “He allowed me at a very young age to work closely with him as president, and that was just a life-changing experience to let me see first-hand what it was like to be a college president. That convinced me that I was on the right track.”

1921-2007

Dr. Leeland Newcomer, with his wife, Mae, attended the dedication event for the renovation of the Super Tents, which was built during his presidency and which opened in 1974.

In Memoriam

Security ... dedication event for the renovation of the Super Tents, which was built during his presidency and which opened in 1974.
Tops in their field

ULV alumni Anthony Rice and Eric Martinez inspired a winning attitude and a championship season as local high school football coaches.

By Jessica Bell

Inside Colony High School’s film room, brightly painted red and white walls signify Titan spirit. The enthusiastic pride shining in the eyes of Head Football Coach Anthony Rice and Defensive Coordinator Eric Martinez allude to an exceptional year.

Under the direction of University of La Verne alumni Rice and Martinez, Colony’s football team no longer tackles the game “one play at a time.” The Titans’ new motto is “Play smart. Play hard. Play physical. No excuses.”

Make that their championship motto. Rice, with Martinez directing his defense, led his team to a CIF Southern Section title last fall. There were few expectations for Rice’s team, as early poll predictions placed Colony second to last in Mt. Baldy league. But Rice, who earned the distinction of Inland Valley Daily Bulletin Coach of the Year said all the team required was a little “coaching up.” With the help of Martinez, a former college friend and teammate, the team was headed somewhere. Fast.

“So much for polls,” Martinez said.

Sitting side by side in understated student desks, the duo’s friendly alliance on and off the field is credited in college memories and shared enthusiasm for their life’s work, illustrating the power of a ULV diploma in action.

During their La Verne years, they learned responsibility and the values of teamwork on Ornsmeyer Field. Ten years later, their mutual love of the game and coaching united them once again, sparking an undeniable bond.

In true La Verne spirit, Rice aided Martinez in his job quest following the termination of his position at El Rancho High School, inviting him to lend a helping hand on the football field at Colony. Once Rice witnessed Martinez’s strategizing skills, he offered him the position of defensive coordinator, and the coaching twosome was born.

Since their reunion, the two men have set their sights on success, resulting in the development of a true team and a winning reputation. The bond and values they developed as students and teammates at ULV quickly sealed the gaps of misinformation from coaches past, fueling a shared passion for continued success at Colony. The Titans were “coached up,” or restructured, provided with new direction, and ultimately guided toward victory.

“These kids wanted to win; they just needed coaching,” Martinez said. “They knew how good they could be, but no one had put them in the right direction. It took one coach to basically come down and organize them. They weren’t a team before. (But) they understand now, what team means.”
Continued from 21

Although Rice and Martinez were not the first competitors in La Verne’s athletic history to reconect as coaches on the playing field, their relationship serves as a tribute to the University’s mission of excellence in sportsmanship and education.

“The university should be proud that these two alums have dedicated themselves to such a difficult but very worthwhile field,” former ULV head football coach Don Morel said. “It says a lot about Rice and Martinez that they’ve chosen to go into that field and that ULV encourages its graduates to teach and to help others.”

A sheer love of football has ensured Rice a place on the field, either scoring touchdowns as a team leader, cheering from the sidelines as a coach, or teaching the rules of the game as a physical education instructor for the sum of his educational and professional careers.

“As you get older, you become a student of the game,” Rice said. “Football is something that has helped me on the field, but it has also helped me become an individual. It’s helped me understand responsibility and teamwork. Football teaches you a lot of things that people don’t realize. That’s why I’ve enjoyed it so much.”

Rice began his voyage into the football world at the young age of 8, later going on to compete at the high school, college and professional levels. His groundbreaking career began as a high school athlete at Garey High School in his hometown of Pomona, where he played the position of defensive back/wide receiver, earning a scholarship to Washington State University. He later returned to the Inland Empire, enrolling at ULV and leading the football team to unprecedented ranks and the NCAA playoffs for the first and only time in school history. A model student-athlete, Rice set seven of La Verne’s nine rushing records, including a career total of 2,661 rushing yards and 35 touchdowns, which helped earn him a spot in the ULV Athletic Hall of Fame. He holds both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in movement and sports science. Before digging his cleats into the coaching and teaching world, Rice played with the National Football League’s Philadelphia Eagles and the Los Angeles Avengers of the Arena Football League.

And now, with the addition of Rice and Martinez to its athletic program in March 2006, six-year-old Colony High is already setting records, with nine league championships under its belt.

“There is a big difference from last year,” Colony senior Maurice Shaw said. “Last year we had more talent but our coaches didn’t know how to use it and this year the coaches were able to pull it all together. We’re more disciplined and we wanted [the win] more. We didn’t give up as easily and we’ve become better players as a whole.”

“They are both good coaches. They taught me a lot of things, discipline, teamwork, how to take constructive criticism and to do everything to the best of my ability.”

Rice and Martinez pointed to unity on and off the field and the team’s already strong athleticism as key factors in their achievements. They also share a love of and commitment to coaching, for its many rewards. It’s why Martinez says he “lives for Friday nights.” The duo drilled the importance of teamwork into their athletes’ helmet-covered heads, then watched the transformation from losers to winners. The Titans won 12 games in 2006 after a prior three-season combined total of 11 victories.

“There are a lot of teams out there that aren’t on the same page; the coaches aren’t on the same page and that can wreck a team,” Rice said.

Some credit the team’s accomplishments to the miracle worker in the sky, but in reality credit can be attributed to hours of hard work, practice and dedicated coaching.

“Some say we got lucky, but there’s luck in everything,” Rice said. “We were very fortunate and we did everything we had to do. It wasn’t a miracle.”

“If it happens again next year I’ll be grateful,” Rice added jokingly.

Martinez says Rice’s lofty expectations fueled the team for triumph, and Rice imparted a winning attitude from the beginning. He set the bar of achievement high, and his team was able to “buy in” to his methods.

“Anthony made me better because he expected a lot from me and believed in what I was doing. He made me buy in, and then the [team] bought in,” Martinez said.

Anthony expected perfection, and that’s what made us better,” Rice said.

Rice: “In order for a business to work, everyone has to be on the same page. Everyone knew what we expected from the players and they knew what they expected from each other.

Fully committed to his duties, Martinez spends hours on end studying, memorizing, and breaking down game film into straightforward strategies for success. In fact, Martinez has got defensive conquest down to a science, employing loads of hard work, determination and simple trust in his team.

“I kept things as simple as I could,” Martinez said. “I used the playbook as a base, but the scheme changed every week. I tried to figure out what kids could do and then put them in the best places possible they could be playing.”

Zúñez didn’t have to do much coaching, he just wanted kids to have fun. He felt the team bought in, their values matched, and their work ethic was a model for their teammates.

Martinez became the first member of his family to graduate college upon the completion of his bachelor’s degree in movement and sports science in 2000. In addition to coaching duties, Martinez teaches special education at Lorbeer Middle School in Diamond Bar while working toward his credential at National University.

“Eric is the best in the league,” Rice said.

“Eric is the best in the league,” Rice said.

“He likes his job and he takes it seriously. You have to know what you’re doing, [because] if the kids know you don’t know what you’re talking about, they won’t buy in.”

Besides a field full of memories, both Rice and Martinez said their undergraduate experience at La Verne instilled the importance of education and structure in their football-loving hearts, ultimately shaping them into responsible, dedicated coaches, teachers and role models.

“Don Morel was a really good coach,” Rice said. “He was a motivator. He understood kids and was able to build relationships with them.”

 Plenty of touchdowns and CIF rings later, the Titans can reflect on a job well done, though not for too long. Now that they are CIF champions, the work begins anew. Everyone will be gunning for them, and defending a title can be a bigger task than winning it in the first place. But if any program can attest to the value of hard work, it’s Rice’s Colony High School football program.
One thing members of the extended University of La Verne family are learning about themselves in the midst of this historic fund-raising effort for the Building On Excellence campaign is that they know how to respond to a challenge.

Empassioned giving is exactly what The Kresge Foundation rewards, encourages and inspires. It proved to be a major factor in the Michigan-based foundation awarding ULV a prestigious $600,000 Challenge Grant. The grant is intended to help the university leverage even greater giving and succeed in reaching the $26.1 million goal for the Campus Center Project.

The Kresge Foundation was impressed by donors’ response to the Abraham Challenge. Back in February 2004, when ULV trustee Michael Abraham promised a $4 million check to the university if it could raise another $12 million, La Verne supporters stepped up. One at a time, La Verne alumni, friends, faculty and staff came forward and committed to building a better university. The result was a level of giving unprecedented in the school’s 115-year history.

“The Abraham Challenge’s impact was profound,” said Jean Bjerke, ULV’s Vice President for University Relations, who has directed the fund-raising campaign. “The three-part Campus Center Project launched the new Campus Master Plan and is the centerpiece of a five-year comprehensive campaign. The Abraham Challenge jump-started the five-year campaign.

As a June 30 deadline and a December 31 deadline loom, University of La Verne must raise an additional $3.8 million toward the Campus Center Project to qualify for a second Abraham Challenge and a prestigious Kresge Foundation challenge grant.
Continued from 25

much faster than anyone had imagined. It proved to the entire university constituency that La Verne could successfully attract much larger gifts than nearly anyone had thought possible.

A second challenge by Abraham — he and his wife, Sara, have committed to contributing another $2.5 million if the university can raise that amount by June 30, 2007 — has been embraced by friends of the university. More than $1.6 million toward that goal has been raised.

The Krieger Foundation is a $3 billion national foundation that builds stronger nonprofit organizations — catalyzing their growth, helping them connect with their stakeholders, and challenging them with grants that leverage greater support. The foundation concentrates its programming on capital campaigns as a key opportunity for nonprofit growth. In 2005, it awarded 216 grants totaling $131,770,027 to organizations in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, South Africa and Mexico.

A grant from The Krieger Foundation is highly competitive and only awarded to exceptional institutions demonstrating financial health, service to the community and the capacity to increase donor support during the course of a campaign,” ULV president Steve Morgan said. “Essentially, The Krieger Foundation believes in the future of ULV enough to lend its name and resources to help the university expand its reach and provide access to education to those who need it most. The foundation specifically awarded this grant to La Verne in recognition of service to our first generation and diverse student populations.”

There is still much work ahead. The university needs to raise $3.8 million by December 31, 2007, to receive the Krieger

Continued on 27

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**The Campus Center Project: Timeline to Success**

- **February 2004**: Michael Abraham issues a conditional challenge: he’ll donate $4 million toward original $16 million goal if another $12 million can be raised
- **2004-2005**: The Campus Center Project Campaign attracts ULV’s first million dollar and multi-million dollar cash commitments
- **November 2005**: The Abraham Challenge is met
- **2006**: The Campus Center Project expands and the fund-raising goal increases to $26.1 million
- **June 2006**: ULV wins CASE Gold Medal Award in campaign fundraising — top award in U.S. for campaign fundraising
- **July 2006**: Abraham issues a second challenge: All new commitments made in the next 12 months, will be matched, up to $2.5 million
- **December 2006**: ULV is awarded prestigious national challenge grant from The Krieger Foundation to raise final $5 million for $26.1 million goal
- **April 2007**: At press time — $3.8 million remaining to meet $26.1 million goal and collect Krieger Foundation Challenge Grant

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Personalized paving stones are available in various sizes at different giving levels. Detailed information and downloadable forms are available at www.ulv.edu/ulvcampuscenter.

La Verne students of the future. Completion of the Campus Center building is still a couple of years away and there are sure to be additional challenges. Based on the record-setting fund-raising of the university since the start of the campaign, there is little doubt that the extended La Verne family will again step up to meet all such challenges one by one.
A Night To Celebrate

Abrahams receive President’s Award, then help raise $108,000 for faculty research

More than $370,000 was raised by the University of La Verne in one evening as Sara and Michael Abraham were honored at the 12th Annual President’s Dinner Gala February 24th at the Ontario Convention Center.

The Abrahams, who have championed fund-raising efforts for construction of the University of La Verne’s new Campus Center building, helped bring in $108,000 to support faculty research at La Verne on top of the $250,000 raised for scholarships by dinner ticket sales.

Michael Abraham, a member of the Board of Trustees at ULV, announced in the weeks prior to the dinner that he would purchase a Toyota Prius hybrid vehicle and donate it to the university for a fund-raising raffle in which more than $60,000 worth of tickets were sold.

The Abrahams also auctioned off a pair of five-hour dinner cruises around Newport Harbor for $20,000 each at the dinner, which has come to be recognized as one of the premier social gatherings in the Inland Empire. With additional contributions, the total raised for faculty research was $108,000.

The Abrahams, who reside in Newport Beach, launched the “Abraham Challenge” in February 2004 to inspire gifts to the university’s Campus Center Project. It was then that Michael Abraham announced a conditional pledge of $4 million, a sum which had to be matched by gifts and pledges from the remaining Board members. In addition, it required an additional $8 million be raised by the university, combining for a goal of $16 million.

The Abraham Challenge was met in November 2005. Then, in light of adjusted project cost estimates, the Abrahams stepped forward again with an offer to match all new contributions up to an additional $2.5 million. To date, confirmed gifts and commitments for the Campus Center Project have exceed $22 million.

While not an alumnus of the University of La Verne, Michael Abraham said he was taken with the small-town atmosphere of La Verne from his first visit, adding that the university reminds him of his college days in Santa Barbara.

“From the day I joined the board I sensed that this university lacked a student union/ campus center, something I thought was going to be essential,” Abraham said. “The whole purpose of the challenge was to get this done sooner rather than later. I didn’t want this to go on for 10 or 15 years. I wanted to see it built while I’m alive.”

In recognition of the Abrahams’ leadership and generosity – their pledge being the largest single cash commitment in university history, the new building will be named the Sara & Michael Abraham Campus Center.

Completion of the entire Campus Center Project will enhance the college experience for students and present a focal point for the campus community. Studies show that campus environment and a campus center are two significant reasons students choose a university, issues that are both addressed by the Campus Center Project.

Once completed, the three-part Campus Center Project will serve as the university’s crossroads and be the nexus of main campus activities for years to come. That is why the Abraham Challenge will always be regarded as a landmark event that helped ULV expand to meet the needs of students for generations to come.

Morel Steps Down

ULV graduate was one of only three head football coaches the program has had in the past 59 years

By Will Darby
ULV Sports Information Director

After serving 12 seasons as the University of La Verne’s head football coach, part of a 20-year involvement with the Leopards program, Don Morel has decided to seek new challenges away from the gridiron.

“I’ve always believed that the only guys who should coach football are the ones who cannot live without it,” Morel said. “This past year was my 20th season of college football. I’m now at a point where I can live without football.”

Morel said he’s already looking ahead to his next career in finance and commercial real estate. He’s also planning a move to the Indianapolis area.

“I never thought I was meant to coach for 50 years,” Morel said. “Twenty years is plenty. To coach at my alma mater was an honor and I understand the culture and tradition here. Now it’s time for me to do something else.”

A ULV graduate and one of just three men to coach the Leopards during the past 59 years, Morel leaves a strong imprint on La Verne’s storied program. His initial team won the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship, and over the years he coached two All-Americans and numerous all-conference players.

“I’m humbled to have been part of the University of La Verne for the past 16 years,” Morel said. “To be a head football coach is special, and to get to be the head coach at your alma mater is an honor. It’s been my privilege to work for a president who has provided this institution with a clear and consistent message about football and made my job easy.”

Morel played for the Leopards from 1983-86. He later returned as an assistant coach and was on the staff in 1994 during the program’s only NCAA Division III playoff appearance. He became head coach the following year and his team finished 9-0 while capturing a third consecutive SCIAC title.

“If you look at the program, we’ve won three conference championships, outright, in 80 years,” Morel said. “We have a long tradition, but we don’t hang our hats on championships. I would hope the next coach would understand our very unique culture. Football here is an adjunct activity to academics. Even the guys who were on those championship teams don’t really talk about them much when you see them. They talk about their families and their careers, things like that.”

Morel played for NAIA Hall of Fame coach Roland Ortmyrer, who directed the Leopards program from 1948-90. He later assisted Rex Huijgens, another La Verne graduate who became the Leopards head coach. Both opportunities provided Morel a keen understanding of ULV’s football tradition.

“My two predecessors set the foundation for a unique and special football program,” he said. “The legacies of Roland Ortmyrer and Rex Huijgens are felt on our field every day.”
Women’s basketball team overcomes injury, illness, other adversity to win SCIAC Championship

By Will Darity
ULV Sports Information Director

Good teams overcome adversity. The truly great teams do both.

The 2006-07 women’s basketball team proved to be one of the finest ever at the University of La Verne, regrouping from several hardships — including the loss of starting guard Erica Williams to a season-ending knee injury — to win the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship. Led by sophomore Tremencia Jones, the Leopards posted a 19-7 record, including a 12-2 SCIAC mark, while capturing the third conference crown in the program’s history.

“We had a very talented team, which from the beginning of the year knew what it wanted to do and made it happen,” said head coach Julie Kline, who also guided La Verne to its previous conference title in 2003. “This team’s ability to rebound and move on when faced with an injury, illness or other adversity, is a credit to the overall character and determination of this team.”

Jones poured in a career-high 37 points in the title-clinching, 78-68 victory at Occidental. It was her signature moment in a season of outstanding performances as she led the SCIAC in scoring, rebounding and field goal percentage. Jones, named the conference’s Player of the Year, was also selected All-SCIAC and honorable mention by the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association and West Region Player of the Year by d1Hoops.com.

“She is an all-around player on both ends of the floor,” Kline said of Jones. “She works extremely hard for her team and the program.”

It took more than a single individual for ULV to earn an automatic berth in the NCAA Division III playoffs. Juniors Marissa Raya and Lindsey Shiomizu earned first- and second-team SCIAC honors, respectively, with Raya also selected third team All-West Region by d1Hoops.com. Both players assumed key leadership roles.

Rod Wright joins his father, Owen, and his sister, Tricia, among elite enshrined at 10th annual event.

By Will Darity
ULV Sports Information Director

On March 24, the University of La Verne held its 10th Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony to pay tribute to five former student-athletes who made a lasting impact on ULV athletics.


Stacey Mays Houlihan earned distinction as an outstanding softball player at ULV. She was named the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) National Player of the Year in 1993 making her La Verne’s first female to win a national player of the year award. Houlihan was also the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Player of the Year, leading the Leopards to the SCIAC and West Region titles en route to an NCAA fifth-place finish. She also earned First Team All-SCIAC honors on the Leopard basketball team in 1993.

Ryan Campuzano was a standout quarterback for the Leopard football team in the mid-1990’s. He was undeclared in conference play (18-0) for three seasons as the ULV starting quarterback. Campuzano was a First Team All-SCIAC selection in 1994 and 1995 and was a member of three SCIAC Championship teams. He led La Verne to consecutive undeclared regular-season finishes in 1994 and 1995. He was a two-time recipient of ULV’s Anthony Scalfani Sportman of the Year award in 1995 and 1996. Campuzano’s induction establishes the first husband-wife duo in the ULV Athletic Hall of Fame. Campuzano is the husband of former soccer standout Jacquie (Zwissler) Campuzano, who was inducted in 2005.

Wendy Gibb excelled on the basketball court while at La Verne and was the SCIAC Player of the Year in 1993 and a First Team All-SCIAC selection each of her four seasons at La Verne. In fact, she is one of only five players in SCIAC history to be named First Team All-SCIAC in women’s basketball four times. Named the Jesse Iles Sportswoman of the Year at La Verne in 1993, she also led ULV to a SCIAC Conference championship in 1990 with a perfect 10-0 league record.

Rod Wright was a two-sport star at La Verne in the late 1980s, earning Second Team All-America honors in soccer in 1987 while helping guide the Leopards to a SCIAC championship that season. The Anthony Scalfani Sportman of the Year in 1987, he also holds the ULV school record for assists with 39. As a baseball player, he was First Team All-SCIAC in 1987 and batted .340 during his career. He becomes the third member of his family to be inducted into the ULV Hall of Fame, joining sister Tricia Wright (Class of 1998) and father Owen Wright (Class of 2005).

Ryan (Winn) Bettencourt was named the 2001 National Player of the Year by Volleyball Magazine after leading La Verne to its third national title in school history that season. She was selected as the 2001 SCIAC Player of the Year in addition to earning All-West Region honors in 2000 and 2001. In her two seasons as starting setter, Ryan helped La Verne post an overall record of 52-3, a winning percentage of .945. She earned ULV’s Jesse Iles Scalfani Sportswoman of the Year honors in 2002.

Five Inducted into ULV Athletic Hall of Fame

Rod Wright joins his father, Owen, and his sister, Tricia, among elite enshrined at 10th annual event.

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A 108-97 opening-round playoff loss at Chapman University did not detract from La Verne’s season, nor did it diminish the team’s accomplishments. And with virtually the entire unit returning, the future holds great promise.

“I thoroughly enjoyed working with each and every one of these players,” Kline said. “Each has grown as a person and as a basketball player. I am honored to have had the opportunity to be their coach.”

Continued from 30

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Continued on 31
Morgan receives CASE CEO award

ULV president recognized for exceptional leadership in creating model institution

District VII of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) honored University of La Verne President Stephen C. Morgan with its Chief Executive Officer Leadership Award in December. The presentation took place during the District VII Conference Awards Luncheon at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles.

A third-generation La Verne graduate, Morgan was named to the presidency in 1985 and is now the longest-tenured president in the university’s 115-year history. Under Morgan’s leadership, ULV has developed into a model institution of higher education. The total student population (including the main and regional campuses) has grown to more than 8,200 and the university’s total assets now exceed $100 million. In February 2006 the ULV College of Law was granted provisional accreditation by the American Bar Association, joining Public Administration, Legal Studies, Athletic Training and Doctor of Psychology as nationally accredited programs. And the five-year, $42 million “Building On Excellence” Campaign has already raised more than $33 million with more than a year remaining.

In addition to his responsibilities as ULV President, Morgan is actively involved in the community. He is chairman of the board for the LeRoy Haynes Center for Children and Family Services, chair of the Los Angeles County Fair Association, and serves as a director for the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center and for PPF Bank & Trust.

CASE is an international organization created to advance and support education worldwide. Its membership includes more than 3,200 colleges, universities and independent elementary and secondary schools in 55 countries. CASE District VII represents the individuals and institutions in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah.

Established in 1999, the CEO Leadership Award honors institutional leaders for outstanding contributions to their campus communities, for efforts to promote public understanding of education, and for support of advancement at their campuses. Previous honorees include Cal State Fullerton President Milton A. Gordon (2005); Cal Poly San Luis Obispo President Warren J. Baker (2004); Chapman University President James L. Doti and Sage Hill School (Newport, CA) Head of School Clinton P. Wilkins (2003); Cal State Stanislaus President Marvaelene Hughes (2002); University of Redlands President James R. Appleton (2001); Cal State Long Beach President Robert C. Maxson (2000); and Cal State Fresno President John D. Welty (1999).

— Charles Bentley

Unclear about the next move for your organization?

The ULV Center For Strategic Thinking Can Help!

Created in 2004, the Center For Strategic Thinking is dedicated to providing business and community leaders throughout the San Gabriel Valley and Inland Empire a place to learn, connect, research and resolve strategic issues. The Center’s mission is to advance the use of strategic remedies to issues facing essentially every organization, large or small, profit or non-profit.

Our executive education programs can help you stretch yourself to achieve success. Our intensive, interactive workshops and special events give you essential information that you can put to use immediately. Regardless of your field, we can update you on the latest trends and teach you new ways of thinking strategically to help guide your firm to new heights.

For current workshops and executive education programs, visit the center at www.ulv.edu/cbpm/cst. phnil or contact Steven Mednick at (949) 836-3803 or strategicthinking@ulv.edu.
Hey Alumni, Send us a Leo Line!

We know you're busy raising kids, seeing the world, living the dream! So leave it to us to help you keep tabs on your fellow alumni. Send your information (and a photo if you wish) to: The Voice, University Relations, University of La Verne, 1950 Third Street, La Verne, CA 91750. Then, look for it in the Summer/Fall ’07 issue of The Voice. Thanks!

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