Once economic advisor to the Shah of Iran, Dr. Ahmed Ispahani now trains University of La Verne students in the science of economics.
In a Volatile World, Education is the Answer to Life’s Tough Tests

Volatility is a word frequently used to describe activity on Wall Street, yet lately it can depict everything from local politics to foreign policy and often accurately portrays daily life.

There has never been a more important time for higher education to respond to the challenges that face the global community. At the University of La Verne, providing access to a quality education for all those who seek it is fundamental to our mission.

La Verne delivers knowledge that is comprehensive, indispensable and life changing. Highly personalized instruction with a strong moral and ethical foundation has been the hallmark of this institution for 117 years. But extending such educational opportunities requires the assistance of committed individuals. Tuition alone does not cover the real cost of a quality education.

There is a paramount need for grant and scholarship support, funding that will furnish financial resources for those who otherwise could not afford to pursue a college education. Each academic year La Verne offers $14 million in tuition assistance, a significant portion of that total made possible by the generosity of our alumni, parents and friends.

Your gift can also ensure La Verne’s ability to compete for the best students. Whether enhancing facilities, recruiting and retaining highly qualified faculty members, or creating and maintaining outstanding programs, your help will serve as a valuable investment in the future.

To discover how you can make a difference, please contact University Advancement at (909) 392-2740 or visit http://giving.ulv.edu. Either way, you can learn the advantages of becoming a member of La Verne’s prestigious President’s Associates giving society.

Time, effort and engaged leadership will return stability to daily life. And with your generous help, La Verne will continue to be a place where individuals can achieve their goal of attaining a college degree and become productive, contributing members of our society.

Steve Morgan, ’68
President, University of La Verne
Skipping class? You'll answer to Dr. Ispahani

When I was a young business administration student at the University of La Verne, I had a professor who took roll call very seriously. Most of us students were just getting used to the idea that in college, unlike high school, if you wanted to skip a class, nobody was going to really care.

Except for this one economics professor. If you decided to skip his class one morning and then crossed his path later in the day, he’d come right out and sternly ask: Where were you this morning? Why weren’t you in my class?

This not only points up the benefits of small classes, but also the caliber of people at the University of La Verne who educate tomorrow’s leaders. Since 1964, Dr. Ahmed Ispahani has taught at the university (La Verne College then) and in the estimation of one former student (and certainly thousands of others), there is no greater authority on economics and no finer person to teach it.

As you can read in our cover story, Dr. Ispahani is just as at ease in the company of world leaders and financial giants as he is standing before a classroom full of first-year econ students. It’s a story we’ve been eager to present for quite some time.

At the College of Law, students benefit from the instruction of two other professors who are passionate about their work, Heather McGunigle and Diane Uchimiya. You can read about how their direction of two legal clinics — the Disability Rights Legal Center Clinic and the Justice and Immigration Clinic, respectively — is teaching La Verne law students to serve the community and protect the rights of those who may not have the resources to navigate the legal system on their own.

Please feel free to drop us a line with your questions and comments.

Rusty Evans
Editor
UNIVERSITY AND CITRUS COLLEGE WILL SHARE TITLE V FEDERAL GRANT

The University of La Verne's Office of Sponsored Research recently announced the university has received a Title V STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. La Verne shares the two-year, $3.58 million co-op grant with Citrus College in Glendora, the first year already approved as $2.16 million. As designated Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI), both are committed to educational diversity, a key factor in attaining this federal funding intended to help underrepresented science students achieve success at the collegiate level. The grant’s objectives are to prepare and attract more science students to La Verne from Citrus and area high schools, create a clear pathway for biology students from Citrus to La Verne, establish new science-related programs and enhance available facilities.

“This grant will allow us to build a new biological science lab, bring more students into life science majors and increase our endowment,” said Alfred Clark, associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. “It will strengthen one of our most important programs at a time when the nation desperately needs qualified scientists, doctors and other health care professionals.”

La Verne professor Jay Jones will serve as project director, with biology faculty members Jerome Garcia, Stacey Darling-Novak and Kathleen Weaver also closely involved.

As part of its effort to promote literacy nationwide, the Verizon Foundation selected the University of La Verne Literacy Center to receive a $24,500 grant. During a September 30 ceremony featuring students, parents, university and city officials, Verizon’s Director of Governmental & External Affairs Gary George presented Literacy Center Director Janice Pilgreen with a ceremonial check representing his company’s continued sponsorship of the highly successful community outreach program.

“The Verizon Foundation is always looking for unique locations for its grants,” George said. “The Literacy Center here at the University of La Verne is both unique and wonderful. This center has proven it has what it takes.”

Established in 2001, the Literacy Center has served more than 450 students (grades K-12) and 150 parents. Part of the university’s College of Education & Organizational Leadership, the Center utilizes graduate students to provide one-on-one tutoring for K-12 students from surrounding school districts, all under the supervision of the university’s faculty. In addition, classes are offered to parents to provide information and methods they can use at home to help build their child’s interest, enthusiasm and confidence. And all services are offered at no charge to tutees or their families.
ALUMNA HUTCHENS NAMED TO LEAD O.C. SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT

Sandra Hutchens ’97 became the first woman to command the Orange County Sheriff’s Department and just the third female in state history to hold the position when the O.C. Board of Supervisors appointed her to the sheriff’s role on June 10, 2008.

The Dana Point resident, who had retired from the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department following a 29-year career in which she rose from deputy to Division Chief for the Office of Homeland Security, was formally sworn in on June 24. Hutchens’ appointment came following an intensive search process to replace Michael Carona, who resigned in January to fight federal corruption charges.

As leader of the second-largest sheriff’s department in the state, Hutchens oversees more than 4,200 employees and a total budget exceeding $700 million. She has publicly stated that her ambition is to rebuild community confidence in the office and revitalize the department and its local jail system.

“It is an honor and privilege to serve” said Hutchens, who earned a bachelor’s degree in Public Administration from the University of La Verne’s Orange County Campus in 1997. “I am resolute in my commitment to bring about transformation, restoring integrity and the public’s trust in our law enforcement agency.”

LA VERNE PROFESSOR SELECTED TO BE CITY’S FIRST POET LAUREATE

On May 5, the City of La Verne joined rhyme and reason as it selected resident and longtime University of La Verne professor Catherine Henley-Erickson to be its first poet laureate. With the appointment, she becomes the first officially recognized poet laureate for any city within San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

During her 22 years on the faculty, Henley-Erickson — now professor emerita — taught composition and creative writing. She was chosen from a short list compiled by Kirsten Ogden, director of the university’s Writing Program and area coordinator for the California Poets in Schools program. It was Ogden who suggested the idea of a poet laureate position to the mayor and city council.

Along with serving in the one-year city position, Henley-Erickson wants to take advantage of the opportunity to mentor students interested in poetry and make poetry more accessible to the public.

University of La Verne Communications student Diana Castillo, center, was honored at former Los Angeles mayor Richard Riordan’s residence with local newswomen (from left) Christine Devine, Wendy Burch, Pat Harvey and Ana Garcia.

COMMUNICATIONS STUDENT RECEIVES THE $5,000 RUTH ASHTON TAYLOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Diana Castillo refers to journalism as her “passion.” The senior communications major from Upland plans to turn that passion into a profession when she graduates with a bachelor’s degree from University of La Verne in May.

In October, Castillo had a chance to meet some of the biggest names in local television news when she was presented with the $5,000 Ruth Ashton Taylor Scholarship by the Good News Foundation. A nonprofit group founded by the women of Los Angeles television news, the Good News Foundation is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of people in need and at-risk in greater L.A.

Beyond the financial award, the Ruth Ashton Taylor Scholarship — named for the woman who in 1951 served as the first female television newscaster on the West Coast — also provides the recipient with a mentor. KCBS News Anchor Suzanne Rico is filling that role, with other foundation members also offering Castillo any assistance she needs.

“These are the people I’ve looked up to for so long in an industry I want to be part of. It’s an incredible chance for me to learn and experience so much that will help me in my career,” Castillo said.
IN MEMORIAM

ROLAND ORTMAYER 1917-2008

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF A SPECIAL MAN

BY CHARLES BENTLEY

n the early morning hours of October 9, Roland Ortmayer passed away. In declining health since a bout of pneumonia in August, he had been under hospice care in Woods Health Services at Hillcrest Homes in La Verne for several weeks.

For 60 years the University of La Verne had the good fortune to be associated with this most unique man. Ortmayer, appointed head football and baseball coach in 1948 at what was then La Verne College, was an iconic figure at the school by the time he retired in 1991.

While he coached other sports and served as athletic director, Ortmayer is most recognized for coaching football. Yet for generations of La Verne students, Ortmayer’s winning personality, gentle ways and compassionate ideals are what made him so engaging. Many still refer to him as the most influential person in their lives.

“We are all better people having known Ort. His impact was beyond football, basketball, baseball and track,” said Rex Huigens ’70, who played for, coached with and, ultimately, succeeded Ortmayer as La Verne’s head football coach. “Athletics merely gave us the mode to

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IN MEMORIAM

ROLAND ORTMAYER 1917-2008

experience Ort. His greatest impact was on the lives of all of us.”

Ortmayer’s influence stretched beyond athletics. A popular faculty member, his summer hybrid course “When Lewis and Clark Met the Mountains” is remembered by a group of alumni, families and friends that gather each summer for an “alumni float.”

“To refer to Ort only as ‘coach’ falls short of describing this unique individual. An educator, mentor and philosopher, he was one of those rare few whose every deed reflected his values,” University President Steve Morgan ’68 said. “Ort always did what he thought was important; fortunately for us, his values emphasized the very same things La Verne believes are important.”

The foremost qualities conveyed by Ortmayer were kindness, friendliness, thoughtfulness, selflessness and patience. By exuding these, he instilled them in others.

“People saw something in him that made them want to be like him,” said Jim Milhon ’57, who played for Ortmayer and later coached against him while head coach at Azusa Pacific University. “Ort never tried to change you. He made you look at you, and often that was enough to change you.”

Ultimately, Ort never sought fame, fortune, records or trophies. There was just one thing he wanted above all else.

“This is what I’d like,” Ortmayer once said, writing a single sentence on a blank sheet of paper. “If anyone feels that way, that’s my legacy. I suppose then it’s all been worthwhile.”

Yet in that hand-written line is found true insight into the man.

I’m glad I knew him.
Two University of La Verne legal clinics provide advice and representation to clients in need and give students real-world training

BY STEVEN K. WAGNER

In recent years, the nation’s immigrant and disabled populations have made significant strides. Still, there is work to be done and the University of La Verne is doing its part.

The Clinical Education Program at the university’s College of Law comprises the Disability Rights Legal Center Clinic and the Justice and Immigration Clinic, which reflect the school’s commitment to both excellence and diversity. These clinics, which provide free legal services to both immigrants and the disabled, are staffed by law students who not only provide a service to the community but also receive valuable, real-world training.

Established in the spring of 2007, the Disability Rights Legal Center Clinic is a free-standing non-profit center that operates in partnership with the university. While it exists to help low-income and minority families in Riverside and San Bernardino counties who are facing special education issues, that’s only part of its goal.

“Our mission is to protect the rights of people with disabilities and to educate the public regarding those rights,” said Heather McGunigle, a La Verne College of Law adjunct professor who is director of the program and a clinic staff attorney. “Our focus is special education advocacy — direct representation of low-income parents of children in the public education system who have disabilities and who are not receiving the services they are entitled to.”

In special education cases, law students participate in most aspects of the clinic’s effort to provide services, including case planning, client interviews and meetings, Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings, mediations, and due process hearings. All work is supervised by

Heather McGunigle is director of the Disability Rights Legal Center Clinic at the University of La Verne College of Law, which is dedicated to protecting the rights of the disabled.
McGunigle.

The clinic also handles civil rights litigation cases. Students assist with client interviews, factual research (including site visits), legal research, written discovery, depositions, memoranda writing, complaints, briefs, negotiations, mediation advocacy, hearings, trials, appeals and amicus submissions. Referrals come largely from advocacy organizations and personal recommendations, and clients are never charged.

Student participation lasts a semester, and the three students selected to participate each term work on several cases. The experience they gain is invaluable, McGunigle said.

“They’re learning things that will be useful in any legal specialty,” she said. “With our client population it can be a little more difficult to have a harmonious relationship and be a zealous advocate at the same time. Such challenges and experience will serve these students well in any area of law that they enter.”

Why this clinic at this university at this point in time? Simple — both the demand and the resources existed, McGunigle said.

“We saw a need in the Inland Empire,” she said. “We felt that the best way to leverage our resources was to establish a symbiotic relationship with a great law school. This setting provides tremendous assistance from students in an environment that gives them valuable experience as well.”

At the same time, the university’s focus on diversity also is bolstered.

“Advocacy for disability rights is certainly going to further that,” McGunigle said. “That’s one of the pieces of diversity that people don’t necessarily think about, and it’s nice to have that be a little higher profile.”

Kimberly Prendergast, of Riverside, participated in the clinic as a third-year law student. She said it benefited her both experientially and on a more personal level.

“My work at the clinic provided me with valuable real-life and practical experience,” she said. “The clinic gave me an opportunity to apply what I’d learned in the classroom to real people with real issues. It brought law to life for me and showed me how real and powerful it can be.”

She added, “One of the things that really drew me to the program was the fact that these are people who are trying to navigate a system that is really difficult to navigate. We were able to provide assistance that they otherwise couldn’t afford.”

The Justice and Immigration Clinic also is a one-semester program. Participating law students represent applicants for asylum who cannot return to their home country or country of last residence due to past persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution based upon race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.

The Immigration Clinic also was established in 2007, and the practical experience that third-year law students receive is similar to that of students involved with the Disability Rights Legal Center Clinic.
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“Our goal is to educate students, and to educate them through practical experience,” said Diane K. Uchimiya, professor of law and director of the clinic. “My goal for them is that they become able to handle a case from start to finish.”

Students — between six and eight participate each semester — learn a variety of skills as they work on real cases. They interview clients, complete asylum applications, draft client affidavits, interview witnesses, utilize translators, advise regarding legal requirements, conduct fact investigations, write and deliver opening statements, interview witnesses and much more.

“These are real clients and real-life cases appearing in the Los Angeles Immigration Court,” Uchimiya said, adding that cases are referred by immigration advocates, courts and others. No legal fees are charged.

“In addition to giving students a chance to learn in this environment while working on real cases, we also want to be able to serve the community — even if it’s in a limited capacity. The model for this clinic is to have a low caseload so that students can work on one case during the semester and really develop their skills.

“Hopefully, after they pass the bar and enter a practice, they’ll be interested in continuing to accept pro bono cases on occasion.”

According to Uchimiya, the clinic is important for several reasons. It bolsters the university’s commitment to excellence, strengthens the only American Bar Association-accredited law school in the Inland Southern California Region, and, as the Disability Rights Legal Center Clinic also does, enhances both the university’s and the college’s growing dedication to fostering diversity.

Candace Cromes, a recent graduate, said she hopes to use her clinic experience in a practical way.

“I chose this clinic because I want to practice immigration law,” she said. “This gave me an opportunity to not only gain some experience in an area where I want to practice, but also to help people who really need it. It allowed me to take what I learned in the classroom and put it into practice.”

She did so successfully. “Our case was actually granted, so we have a client who really deserved to stay here who is now able to.”

Such experiences symbolize the school’s charge: to provide the finest legal education possible.

“I believe that’s one reason why the university was open to establishing an immigration clinic and bringing on board an immigration law professor rather than an adjunct professor,” Uchimiya said. “As the University of La Verne grows, continues through the accreditation process, and expands its appeal, the fact that it has these clinics will become more and more important. The longer our clinic exists, the more successes we have, and as our good reputation develops, those can only help to expand the reach not only of the clinic, but of the university and the college.”

New dean focused on slow growth, academics

As a boy and later a young man, there was little to indicate that Allen K. Easley would someday become either an attorney or an educator.

On July 1, Easley brought his well-honed skills in both areas to the University of La Verne when he was named dean of the College of Law. Easley, who most recently served as president and dean of the William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, MN, succeeds Donald J. Dunn, who died in January.

Born in Hawaii and reared both there and in Illinois, Easley completed his undergraduate education at the College of Wooster, in Wooster, Ohio. He received his J.D. degree and L.L.M. degrees from the Temple University School of Law in Philadelphia.

Prior to joining the William Mitchell College of Law in 2004 Easley, who is highly respected in the legal and academic communities, served 13 years as associate dean at the Washburn University School of Law in Topeka, Kan.

Easley’s interest in law began after he graduated from college and during the Vietnam War, when he provided draft counseling for young men. The effort brought him together with lawyers, who encouraged him.

“Some of them said, ‘You’re pretty good at this — you’ve figured this out better than many of us,’” Easley said. Compliments in hand, he enrolled in law school.

Easley enjoyed the academic environment so much that he decided to become a career educator. The road twisted and turned until he ended up in La Verne, where, he said, he couldn’t be happier.

“This is a school that’s in enormous transition, from being a State Bar of California school to an American Bar Association (ABA) school,” he said. “There are huge opportunities to build the new University of La Verne College of Law. There are challenges, too.”

Those challenges include achieving full ABA approval (provisional approval was achieved in January), attaining membership in the Association of American Law Schools, admitting an increasing number of highly visionary students, enhancing their opportunity to taste a wide range of opportunities, growing the school’s clinic program, improving the school’s already-impressive California Bar Examination pass rate, and strengthening the school’s reputation as one that graduates great attorneys.

“I believe we’ll grow slowly,” Easley said. “Our faculty will continue to grow for at least two or three more years, and that growth will be important as to how we build our reputation. One of the reasons that the faculty has to grow is that we need to continue building an even stronger academic program.”

Based upon his past successes, Easley is just the man to achieve those goals. “With that rich experience,” Easley said, “I bring an understanding of what the College of Law is going through and what it needs to accomplish to stay on track in order to meet our goals and become a great institution.”

— Steven K. Wagner
Construction of the Abraham Campus Center, named after lead donors Sara and Michael Abraham, has progressed rapidly in one year.

A Campus Center is emerging

New hub of activity takes shape and is scheduled to open summer 2009

One year after the first shovelful of soil was turned over on the site of the University of La Verne’s new campus center building, the framework gives a clear view of what is in store.

The Abraham Campus Center, which will be a grand gathering place for students, faculty, alumni and guests, has taken shape right on schedule. With an expected opening sometime next summer, the Abraham Campus Center, named after lead donors Sara and Michael Abraham, will be the hub of campus activity. The curvy walls of the building’s west end will encase a cafe to be known as “Barbara’s Place,” named after the wife of Board Chair Benjamin Harris.

There will also be student recreation areas and student government offices, as well as classrooms, meeting rooms and other gathering spaces on the first two floors.

On the third and top floor, the Ludwick Conference Center will provide divisible space for larger groups.

Vast window-walls pull in natural light and provide stunning views of the mountains to the north.

The building is the centerpiece and final component of the three-part Campus Center Project, for which more than $26 million in private funds were raised.

— Rusty Evans
In his four decades teaching at the University of La Verne, one encounter with a student has so profoundly affected Ahmed Ispahani that talking about it brings him to tears.

For Ispahani, the exchange illustrates the differences between the haves and the have-nots, and serves as a reminder of what we take for granted.

A few years ago, Ispahani, a respected economist who has advised the Shah of Iran and former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, assigned homework to his students that required them to go to the campus library.

A young man came into Ispahani’s office, crying. The student, who was 18 or 19, explained to Ispahani that he was poor. Devastated, he said he would be unable to complete the assignment.

“He thought he had to pay to use the university library,” Ispahani said, pausing and choking back tears. “I took him to the library and I explained to him that it was free.”

“Ever since then, I’ve made it a point to help people.”

“My parents always taught me to help people as much as we can. We have so much. I think we need to give, give, give.”

Since 1964, when he first began teaching at La Verne, Ispahani, Professor of Business Administration and Economics, has done just that.

“America has given me so much,” said Ispahani, who was born in Iran and became a U.S. citizen. “I want to give back something to America, and here you’re touching the lives of thousands of young people. I have very good relationships with students. I’m now teaching the third generation. I’ve had the fathers, the children, and now the children’s children -- three generations. They all tell their children, ‘You must take a class from Ispahani,’ even if their major is not economics.”

A gracious and unassuming man despite his upbringing, credentials, and connections, Ispahani has earned the reputation as one of La Verne’s most beloved and respected professors. Students remember him for his passion and his teaching methods, which include pulling a $100 bill out of his pocket when he’s explaining money and banking. A dollar bill just wouldn’t leave the same impression, he explains.

He’s a world traveler who loves La Verne so much he calls it home. He’s run in the same circles as famous politicians and world leaders, but always has time for his students. He’s a sage scholar with a lot to talk about, but is an adept listener.

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Born into a privileged family, Ispahani has lived a life that could easily be the basis for a book or a screenplay. He has drunk the first milk from a camel, cherishes a sword given to him by the king of Saudi Arabia, and has hobnobbed with world leaders and politicians.

Ispahani grew up in Pakistan because his father had business in that country. He went to high school in Cambridge, England. He obtained his bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Karachi in Pakistan, but wanted to further his studies in the United States. He applied to the master's program in economics at the University of Southern California and was immediately accepted.

His reason for wanting to come to the U.S. was simple, he said.

"I had seen all these Hollywood movies and I thought the movies reflected America. I thought the cowboys were all running around with cattle, that sort of thing. I thought that was America," he said. "I had no idea that was the past."

Ispahani was shocked when he realized his perception was far from reality. He spent his first night in Los Angeles at a hotel near the Coliseum. He will always remember the next morning.

"My window was facing the freeway and I drew the curtains and I saw these cars, cars, cars," he said. "I had never seen so many cars in my life. I was on the third floor. I ran immediately downstairs, in my pajamas. I said 'What is going on? Has the Soviet Union invaded America? All of those cars! Where are they going? Are they running away?'

"I had never seen a freeway. I'd never seen so many cars in my life," he said. "They gave me such a look as though (they were thinking) you're from a third-world country."

After earning his master's degree, Ispahani intended to return home. But his professors encouraged him to stay and earn his Ph.D. A "nasty" professor who demanded Ispahani's dissertation and even his draft copies be perfectly typed was the reason Ispahani landed at La Verne in 1964.

"I took this job at La Verne for one year to pay for my typing," Ispahani says with a smile. "My parents were paying all of my expenses. I didn't want to ask for additional money. I loved the job. I had never thought about teaching. I had always thought of going into banking or family business. Before the year was over, they offered me another contract."

During that first year, Ispahani made a lasting impression on numerous students, one of whom would go on to become his boss.

University president Steve Morgan would go on to take several courses from Ispahani and was impressed by Ispahani's teaching style. Ispahani, who travels the world, gets his information first hand, Morgan said.

"I learned a great deal from him. I do still apply a lot of the economic theory, a lot of what he taught me, to what I do today," Morgan said.

Ispahani is an excellent teacher who loves to teach and takes a personal interest in his students, Morgan said.

"He's been a great friend to me and he's been a good advisor," Morgan said. "He's been a mentor and I think many students would say the same thing."

La Verne City Manager Martin R. Lomeli said Ispahani was one of the reasons he decided to study at La Verne.

Ispahani has a wide following, Lomeli said.

"I would always look forward to going into his classroom," said Lomeli, adding that he was fascinated by Ispahani. "He always made learning interesting. I love the man. He's just an incredible man with a great personality."

In 1968, Ispahani took his first leave from La Verne to become economic advisor to the government of Iran, Central Bank of Iran. He later became senior economist for Battelle Laboratories in Columbus, Ohio, where he was in charge of the financial and economic sectors of the Fifth Five Year Plan of Iran. That would lead to an incredible and prestigious opportunity.

"You can't ask for a more prestigious status type of job than working for the Shah of Iran, and I was coming back. Nothing can get me out of here until I decide to retire."

— Ahmed Ispahani

Ahmed Ispahani has a warm, personable manner that helps put students at ease so they can focus on the complexities of economics.
A University of La Verne graduate and trustee is honoring Professor Ahmed Ispahani and former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by donating $100,000 for a lectureship series that will bring high profile international speakers to campus.

Paul Moseley calls Ispahani his mentor and an extraordinary man who helped shape his career path. Moseley, who graduated in 1988 with a degree in business management, owns and operates Ruby Springs Lodge in southwestern Montana, a fly fishing lodge that attracts people from all over the world.

“I remember sitting in his class and not knowing what to do or where I wanted to go,” Moseley said. “He certainly pushed me in a direction that has enriched my life.”

Moseley said Ispahani was taken aback when he told him about the “Benazir Bhutto and Ahmed Ispahani International Lectureship.” Bhutto, Ispahani’s cousin, was assassinated after returning to Pakistan in December after an 8-year self-imposed exile.

“He was very, very surprised to the point of tears and I think it obviously hit home,” Moseley said. “It was a hard memory for him but he was flattered to have her memory live on through this lectureship series.”

Moseley and his wife, Jeanne, say they hope the lectureship series will engage La Verne students and raise their level of awareness about what happens in that part of the world and its impact on domestic policy. Bhutto exemplified leadership and courage, Moseley said. Knowing she was in danger, she returned to her home to lead her people, he said. She did what she thought was best for them, Moseley said.

“I think that is a message and a legacy that is pertinent today and is going to be pertinent in the future,” he said.

The lectureship will bring guest speakers who have a particular expertise in international politics to the university, President Steve Morgan said.

“I think because of Ahmed’s relationship with Benazir Bhutto, Paul learned a lot about what she was attempting to do in Pakistan and the type of leadership she tried to provide,” Morgan said. “He sees the need for strong leadership. He saw a chance to honor Benazir Bhutto and to honor Ahmed.”

Moseley said that when he was planning his own business, he thought about what he had learned from Ispahani.

“I think everyone has a teacher or a professor that they connect with, that they have a comfort level with who is also a mentor at the same time,” Moseley said. “Dr Ispahani provided that for me.”

— Lisa O’Neill Hill
For three weeks each summer, dozens of high school juniors come to the University of La Verne for a business camp. They eat in the cafeteria, stay in a residence hall, and work together. ULV professors introduce the students to economics, marketing, finance, management and other topics. It’s hands on; the students have to come up with an idea for a business and write out a detailed business plan.

But, by the time the REACH camp is completed, the teenagers come away with much more than business acumen.

“All of us kids went in there thinking, ‘oh, what is this?’” said Samantha Bryan, 18, of Baldwin Park, who participated in the REACH Summer Business Camp last year. “But they made us feel like we could do anything and they made us believe in ourselves.”

“It was such a gift,” said Bryan, who graduated from Covina High School and will attend Mt. San Antonio College. “It changed me. It changed my whole life.”

Sponsored by the College of Business & Public Management, the camp provides the young people with a glimpse of college life, and professors encourage participants to further their education. The teenagers gain all of this free of charge, thanks mostly to corporate and individual sponsorships.

“We are really trying to provide underserved or first generation high school students an opportunity or an exposure to business and business education and motivate them to go to college,” said Issam Ghazzawi, Assistant Professor of Management and the director of the REACH camp.

Bryan said she hesitated when her school counselor told her she should attend the REACH camp.

“I didn’t really know about it,” Bryan said. “She told me you go and live on campus and you learn about business. I really didn’t know what to do. I wasn’t planning on majoring in business.”

Numerous professors and experts speak to the students, including Ghazzawi, Ahmed Ispahani and Rita Thakur.

Students learn about accounting, economics, marketing, finance, Web site creation, business management, motivation and organization. They hear from visiting professionals and take field trips to the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the J. Paul Getty Museum – places they likely wouldn’t venture to on their own.

Students are chosen to participate based on their demonstrated interest in business education. Ghazzawi said the students all have at least a 2.5 grade point average.

During the camp, the students break into teams of five to come up with an idea for a business. The professors teach them how to research their idea, market it, create a Web site and figure out financing. At the end of the third week, the teams present their business plans before a panel of judges.

“We got great feedback from the judges last year,” Ghazzawi said. “Many of them were questioning that (the participants) were high school students” because they knew so much, she said.

By Lisa O’Neill Hill

Recognized for its mission to create effective leaders and managers to meet the needs of an ever-changing global environment, the University of La Verne’s College of Business & Public Management has seen one of its own step into a prominent leadership role with the recent appointment of Ibrahim “Abe” Helou to be the college’s new dean.

Helou began his tenure as dean on July 1. He succeeds Gordon Badovick, who retired at the conclusion of the 2007-08 academic year following six years as CBPM dean. During his time at La Verne, he has served as a professor of finance, chair of the college’s graduate business programs, and for the past five years as CBPM associate dean.

In a concerted effort to revise the MBA curriculum in the face of changing market conditions, Helou has helped the university increase the enrollment of international MBA students by 105 percent since fall 2001, which includes developing recruitment contacts in Taiwan and Thailand.

“My appointment as a Dean of the College of Business and Public Management comes at a time when this university is poised to assume a leadership role among the private universities in Inland Southern California,” Helou said.
1960s

Dave Richardson ’60 wrote “Vietnam Air Rescues.” The book depicts a very important time in his life. It depicts his personal experiences and outlook on the Vietnam War. He has retired after 24 years as an Air Force helicopter/ fixed wing pilot. For 13 years, he taught 8th grade mathematics. Dave currently lives in Kansas.

Jolene Jennings Lichty, ’66 retired from teaching after 31 years. Upon retirement she was awarded the WHO award (We Honor Ours) by the Garden Grove Education Association. She worked as peer assistance review panel members as well as a reading recovery teacher.

Dr. Mike Welch ’68 was recently recruited by fellow classmate and President of the University of La Verne, Steve Morgan, to return to ULV and work in the University Advancement office. He previously worked at Duke, Pepperdine, and UCLA.

Raenelle (Plank) Zumbo ’69 and Robert “Bob” Zumbo ’64 are both retired. Raenelle joined Bob in retirement after she spent 25 years of working in the field of education. Most of her career she taught writing and speech at Oregon Institute of Technology. She was honored with Professor Emeritus status. She and her husband Bob now plan to travel and spend time in their summer home in Washington. Recently, they celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

Rich Castro ’69 was presented with a check for the Rich Castro Track & Field Endowment Fund at the University of Colorado during the annual press luncheon of the Bolder Boulder. The check completed the endowment goal of $25,000. Rich served as the official athletic coordinator for this Memorial Day race that has included as many as 54,000 runners. Rich retired from the University of Colorado after 35 years of service.

1970s

Kevin J. Saiki ’71 has a son by the name of Michael-Kelly Saiki who was voted captain of the H.P. Baldwin High School tennis team. They won first place in doubles at the MIL Finals (state semi-finals).

Honorable Judge Dennis E. Murray ’76 was recognized for 30 years of service to the citizens of Tehama County. Dennis’ greatest satisfaction has been the quality of the court and the court administration; “we’ve changed a lot in the past 30 years, and I’m proud of the people who have worked for me.”

Doris M. Barnes ’78 recently retired after 30 years of service with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation where she worked as the Chief Deputy Warden at the California Institution for Women. She has worked at four California prisons. After only 3 weeks of retirement, the Department asked her to return as a Retired Consultant.

Frederick J. Mendes ’81 has been hired as Vice President of New Business at CIBER Federal Government Solutions. Frederick is a 23-year veteran of Computer Sciences Corporation.

1980s

Gloria Story ’82 is currently living in a small town where she grew up. She moved back from Las Vegas about six years ago to be near close friends. Gloria is healthy and happy and goes to Shreveport, La., five or six times a year. She enjoys the casinos and tends to win more than she loses.

Michelle Blossom ’83 was awarded her MA in Sociology and Pan African Studies. While at La Verne, Michelle was the captain of the cheerleading squad and performed in many dance and theater productions.

Terry Dipple ’83 received the 2008 Jack Phillips Award, which recognizes individuals who have had a significant impact on the
Vennita Lewis-Browning ’85 works as the Program Director for Peak Education in Colorado Springs. She has three sons: Geoffrey, a junior at Graceland University, Mark, a freshman at Columbia University, and Paul, a junior at Widefield High School. Vennita would enjoy reconnecting with any of her La Verne friends.

Dr. Scott Wright ’85 completed 20 years of military service in the US Army. His service included two combat deployments in both Active Duty and Army Reserve. He is now eligible for retirement.

Cynthia Harris ’87 is proud to announce that her son, C. Jordan Alexander was selected to be 1 of 50 students to attend the 2008 African American Leadership Conference in Sacramento. Damon Alexander, ’86 is C. Jordan’s proud father.

Hosea Lewis ’87 has recently accepted the position of Director of Residence Life at Fort Valley State University. Prior to this new position, Hosea was at Tennessee State University. He is working toward a doctorate.

Catherine Lombardo ’87, ’92 opened The Brick, a new New York-inspired nightclub and restaurant in the heart of the Pomona Arts Colony in Pomona California.

John Russell ’87 was honored with the Community Leadership award from the Washington Association of School Administrators for his volunteer work with the Stanwood-Camano School District. John and his wife, Ronda (Gibson) Russell (1988), own two UPS Stores Franchises. In addition to the work with the school district John is also active with the City of Stanwood, serving on several committees and boards. John and Ronda reside in Stanwood, Wash., with their two daughters, Elizabeth and Olivia.

Dominick H. Copas ’88 with is wife Anne Marie are proud to announce a second generation La Verne graduate, his daughter, Jennifer Nicole (Copas) Matthews. His other daughter, Amanda, is a senior and his son, Dominick Jr., is in 7th grade.

Angelina M. Gomez ’88 and David Gomez ’81 have both retired. After a successful career Angelina retired from the San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center as a Consultant. David retired from the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. They have a daughter, Laura Alvarado, who received her Masters in Counseling in Higher Education in 2006 and is currently counseling and teaching at Chaffey College.

James Smith ’88 is an associate professor of social work at Washburn University in Topeka Kansas.

Michael J. Trevis ’88, a former police chief in Huntington Park with 30 years experience in law enforcement, became police chief at El Camino College.

Craig Junginer ’89 was recently appointed police chief in Huntington Beach. He received this position after a nationwide search.

1990s

Dr. Carmella S. Franco ’91 retired after 12 years with Whittier City School District. She intends to begin a new chapter in her life that will include involvement with Kindergarten –12th grade education.

Enrique Sadsad ’92 is the Navy Captain in charge of the Whiting Field Naval Air Station. Capt. Sadsad is a naval aviator and previously commanded one of the training squadrons VT-4. The unit was named best Navy Primary Training Squadron during his tenure. He has received numerous awards and decorations, in a career that spanned more than 30 years.

Frank Sansone ’93 was named the new CFO of LiveOffice. Frank fills this newly created position to help support the company’s ongoing growth and expansion into new markets. He brings 15 years of experience in financial management, compliance and e-discovery, and will oversee LiveOffice’s finance, administration and human resource divisions.

Tim A. Wessel ’93 is a division chief for the San Bernardino County Fire Department. He is assigned to the North Desert Division, which includes 27 fire stations and 9600 square miles. Tim lives in the high desert area around Hesperia and has two sons: Trevor, 14, and Tanner, 16.

Continued on 17
Judith Crowe ’95 is retiring after 15 years of teaching at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. She will be honored as an emeritus faculty member. Judith’s expertise is reading and language arts instruction and the use of technology to enhance teaching.

Lisa F. Preston ’95 wrote a book — “Alternative Treatments for Animals” — that will soon be released by Alpine Publications. She also wrote a book titled “Canine Scent Work Log.”

Kal M. Paviolo ’96 & Dan E. Paviolo ’96 are pleased that the music school started in their home has grown into Virtuo Music Center.

Dr. Sharon McClain ’96 is the new superintendent of the Del Mar School District. Her husband, Dr. Joe Condon, is also a graduate of the University of La Verne.

Sandra Hutchens ’97 becomes the 12th sheriff of Orange County and the first woman to hold the position. Orange is California’s second largest sheriff’s department.

Rafael Gonzalez ’99 works with Robert Half Technology in Ontario, Calif.

2000s

Dr. Jaime M. Bohnke ’00 has been appointed Vice President of Supply Chain Management for Tyco International. Jaime’s supply management career spans more than 20 years. Prior to her new position at Tyco, she served as Vice President of Global Supply Management at Westinghouse Electric Company.

Michelle L. Thornton ’00 is pursuing a teaching credential and planning for her upcoming wedding to Chris Adams, a Riverside city fireman.

Dr. Maryam Davodi-Far ’01 was recently selected one of four most exceptional women in San Diego by Bellissima, a resource magazine for healthy living. Dr. Davodi-Far is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Cancer Coping Center.

Manny Escalante ’01 lives in La Verne and has been married for a year. He has launched www.bookpersonaltraining.com and is an athletic trainer for Disneyland Resort. He is the co-owner of a fitness facility in Rialto, Calif. He has completed three Ironman Triathlons.

Rick T. Murphee ’01 was appointed President of Brown Mackie College in Boise, Idaho. Most recently, he was Director of Operations for Santa Barbara Business College in Santa Barbara. He also spent 10 years in the U.S. Army, serving as a Chief Operations Officer.

Kelly Tedrow ’01 works as an admissions counselor in the prospective student center. Kelly will graduate in the spring with a master’s degree in post-secondary educational leadership. Her area of emphasis is in student affairs. She earned a nomination by her peers for an award in post-secondary educational leadership.

Dr. Angela Haick ’03 accepted a new role in the Attend and Achieve office of the Oakland Unified School District. She will be collaborating with various district departments as well as government and community partners on ways to improve attendance.

Christine Boucher ’03 has added to her growing family. She now has two daughters, one of them 8 and the other 10 months.

Kim S. Gomory ’03 is among 400 Bureau of Labor Statistics staffers, including 13 in the Los Angeles area, who compile data used to calculate the consumer price index, the best-known gauge of U.S. inflation.

Mike S. Henderson ’03 is the new Downey High School principal. He has been principal at La Loma for three years and before that, he spent two years as La Loma’s assistant principal and eight years as an English teacher at Sierra High School in Manteca.

Johane Metellus ’03 currently attends Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale. Johane is pursuing a Doctoral Degree in subject area, Conflict Analysis & Resolution.

Dr. Albert J. Roman ’03 was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources for Pajaro Valley Unified School District. His previous position was the Director of Human Resources for PVUSD Classified employees. Roman and his wife, Andrea, have two children, both attending PVUSD schools.

Clariza Ruiz de Castilla ’04 is a doctoral student in the communications studies department at the University of Texas at Austin. Her studies are in the rhetoric and language program. Clariza received a fellowship for her first year and will have a teaching assistantship in her department for the next three years. She is also a mentor for student athletes. She holds masters degree from California State University.

Nancy Lynch ’04 has moved to El Dorado Hills, Calif., and is now Superintendent of the Placerville Union School District.

Dr. Danny Maria Ramirez ’04 recently received her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of California San Francisco, School of Dentistry.

Dave A. Plouffe ’04 recently graduated with a master’s degree in art from California State University, Fullerton. He is now teaching.

Kapono Kobylanski ’05 won the 6th annual Mr. Philippines USA 08/09 title.

Carrie Mattingly ’05 was named the new...
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Director of Utilities for San Luis Obispo after a nationwide search of more than 70 candidates.

Art Acevedo ’06 was sworn in as Austin Police Department’s eighth chief of Police. He began his professional career in law enforcement in 1986 in California.

John Buccola ’06 was recruited as Chief Information Officer for Panavision, a global manufacturer and provider of cameras, lenses and lighting equipment to the entertainment industry.

Ruth Kane ’06 is now the Co-Director and teacher at Bright Beginnings Pre-School and Day Care Center, which was voted the number 1 Preschool for the Lompoc area in 2007.

Angela M. Maiorano ’06 has been a Special Education teacher for 3 years. She visited Turkey in April of 2007 and most recently toured New Zealand and Australia.

Dr. Giovanna Brasfield ’07 recently received the Female Democrat of the Year award for the 52nd Assembly District of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party.

Jennifer Gouailhardou, ’07 married Dave Foster, the Irishman she met while studying abroad in Fall 2005.

Michelle V. Medina ’07 is preparing to join the Sisters of Life in the Bronx in September. When she was young, she attended Catholic schools and served as a leader at Catholic retreats and summer camps. When she graduated from the University of La Verne, she obtained a master’s degree and teaching credential and became active in the church again.

Justin R. Fields ’08, the former Orange Glen standout linebacker, signed to play football with the Marbella Bulls of the European Professional League. Justin played football at the University of La Verne and professionally with the Marbella Bulls of the European Professional League. Justin played football at the University of La Verne and professionally in Germany last year.

LITTLE LEOS

Amber Jantz ’97 and her husband, Darrell Jantz, are pleased to announce the birth of their second daughter, Hadley Grace.

Tieu-My Nguyen ’97 and husband Chris Burt recently became proud parents of Clive Theodore Burt. Theodore will soon celebrate his first birthday.

Perry and Karen Ferrero (Garcia) ’00 gave birth to twins, Sarah Angelina Ferrero and Ashley Natalia Ferrero. They were welcomed home by their older brother, Timothy Sean Ferrero. The godparents to Sarah and Ashley are fellow alumni Talia Anne Di Nicola & Dr. Scott Wright.

Zorahida Preciado ’03, with her husband Antonio Huacuja, welcomed their first child, Antonio Huacuja Jr. This year, Zorahida and Antonio also celebrate their first wedding anniversary.

Joel M. Leathers ’04 and his wife, Brooke, are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Madison.

IN MEMORIAM

Donald E. Sperline ’42 passed away on February 9, 2008, due to complications from liver cancer.

LeeAnn Gimbel ’61, after being ill for more than two years, passed away on February 24, 2008, due to complications from liver cancer.

Marjorie Loberg ’68 passed away on February 6, 2008. Marjorie was a retired school nurse.

Jacqueline Peters ’74 died on July 12, 2008, at the age of 60 in her Upland home. She grew up in Dubuque, Iowa, and received her Master of Arts degree in history and teaching from the University of La Verne. Peters was a teacher in California for 34 years and spent many of those years at Chaffey High School teaching in the English and social studies departments. She was recently inducted into the Iowa Sports Hall of Fame for her achievement in golf while at Dubuque Senior High School. Those who knew Peters have fond memories of a good-natured woman.

William “Bill” Battle ‘80 passed away on June 17, 2008. A transfer student from East L.A. College, Bill was a communications major and served on the staffs of the Campus Times, La Verne Magazine, PRISM and KLVC/KULV radio. Along with his newspaper reporting (he did freelance sports writing for the Pomona Progress-Bulletin), Bill was known for his sports broadcasting, providing play-by-play and color commentary for La Verne football, basketball and baseball games. Bill competed on the university’s wrestling team, played intramural sports and
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From a young age, he has listened closely. Hearing different genres and tastes in music, Joseph Paul Kilanski Jr. had a knack for recognizing unique patterns and melodies through beats and rhythms. He can identify songs your grandfather couldn’t recall. Whether listening to the hits of Kool and the Gang, Earl Klugh or Def Leppard, he’s always been able to remember when and where he first heard those sounds. Growing up with this eclectic mix of tunes around him helped Kilanski form a distinct ear for music.

And it helped transform him from his shy beginnings at the University of La Verne to becoming an international music mogul. This has been the reality
for Kilanski or “PJ Butta” as he is better known to listeners for the past 15 years. His impact in the entertainment industry has been widespread — as an on-air personality, as a trusted contributor to some of the most popular recording artists today, and as miner of new talent, breaking urban music on his own Web site, pjbutta.com. But this is only part of the story of Kilanski’s stardom.

He began his ascent into show business by working as an intern in the promotions department of the Los Angeles-based 92.3 KBBT “The Beat” radio station in 1993. Before Kilanski ever went on the air with his own show, a disc jockey at “The Beat” would allow him to get on the air and talk about where he was going as part of “The Beat Street” promotions team. Then, as Kilanski recalls, the DJ gave him the idea for his radio name.

“He would say, ‘You have a nice voice,’ ” Kilanski said. “‘Your voice is smooth, like butter.’ ”

From there, Kilanski dropped the ‘er’ from ‘butter’ and switched his first and middle name initials to form his radio alias, PJ Butta. At the time, he believed it was catchy, easy to remember and sounded like peanut butter. With this new name, Kilanski took advantage of the opportunity to get on the radio and expose his sultry voice to listeners.

His first time on the radio happened by accident as Kilanski had to fill in for some DJs who missed their flight one Saturday morning. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity led him to be one of the youngest and most popular on-air personalities in Los Angeles, at the age of 22.

That opportunity and others would come through University of La Verne connections. Before college, Kilanski came from humble beginnings in his hometown of San Diego. His father is of Polish, French and Irish descent, while his mother is from The Philippines. As a kid, PJ was always around music and the radio.

“I was listening to radio as young as 5-years-old,” Kilanski said. “I would always dream about being an actual artist.”

At Kearny High School in San Diego, Kilanski was influenced by a media class during his junior year. He was able to experiment in working with hip hop beats and music production in the class. When it came time to choose a college, Kilanski wanted to go to a school with a strong radio program, but he was unable to get into his top choices of Loyola Marymount and USC. Then he received a letter from the University of La Verne and his life changed.

He toured the La Verne campus and its radio station, KULV, then decided to move to Southern California and chase his dream of working in music and radio. While in school, Kilanski began to distinguish himself by performing at the Black Student Union talent show, performing rap music with a friend. It was after that event that Kilanski became more outgoing, personable and popular, after being a quiet, shy student in the beginning of his undergraduate days.

“I give PJ credit for breaking a lot of artists into the music industry. He is responsible for exposing a lot of artists.” — DJ Anthony “A-One” Morris

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“Before that point in time, I didn’t like to talk,” Kilanski said. “I wasn’t very social, so it kind of got me out of my shell and got me noticed because I wasn’t just another sheep in the crowd.”

Kilanski continued to pursue music and radio leading up to his senior year, when he landed his career-changing internship at “The Beat” through an alumni connection. He began his work as an intern in the promotions department and was later hired full-time.

While working at “The Beat,” Kilanski fulfilled his duties at KULV and also landed a night shift at a radio station in Oxnard.

After moving to Burbank, Kilanski began a six-month period where he worked at “The Beat,” KULV and at the Oxnard station. In October 1993, the Beat hired Kilanski full-time as a radio personality, a position he would hold for the next 12 years, until he was cut loose by Radio One, the parent company of The Beat.

Kilanski, 35, has been a guest speaker at many universities and colleges. He emphasizes his theory of N.I.L.E. (Networking, Internships, Luck, Experience) and points to his experiences that helped him get where he is today.

After speaking at Mt. San Antonio College, Kilanski was offered and accepted a part-time teaching position at the college to educate radio students. He still hopes to one day return to La Verne and teach in the communications department.

“If I hadn’t gone to La Verne, I would never be where I am today,” Kilanski said. “It’s just the stuff I took from there and the people I met, as well as classes I took — all prepared me for this business.”

After vowing once to never work in radio again, he returned to host a Sunday show for KHHT-FM “Hot 92.3,” an old-school, rhythm and blues station, at the urging of a University of La Verne colleague. Kilanski decided to make his comeback to “Hot” but only on a part-time basis on weekends, and to fill in for other on-air personalities during the week.

“Since day one, PJ has been a class act,” said Randy Williams, program director for “Hot 92 Jamz” since March 2007. “In my opinion, he’s one of the most personable jocks on the air. I have really felt fortunate to work with a professional like him.”

In addition to hosting a show on “Hot 92.3,” Kilanski also does a radio show called the “World Chart,” which is syndicated overseas and plays the top hip-hop and rhythm and blues track every week.

Although a far cry from his early popularity, Kilanski is still a prominent figure in the music industry. He launched his own Web site, pjbutta.com, which features a popular segment from his radio show, “Butta Bootlegs.” The bootlegs are part of the free membership available on the site, where users can download new and unreleased hip-hop and rhythm and blues tracks that are submitted by artists, record labels and publicists.

“I give PJ credit for breaking a lot of artists into the music industry,” said Anthony “A-One” Morris, a renowned DJ who used to work with Kilanski at “The Beat.” “He is responsible for exposing a lot of artists on his ‘Butta Bootlegs’ like Bobby Valentino and others.”

Kilanski has a wife of nine years, Nautica De La Cruz, who also used to work in radio. They met while Kilanski was working for “The Beat” in 1996 and married in 1999. They have a child together, Brooklyn, 4, who was named after the New York borough where De La Cruz is from and after her former radio name, “Ms. Brooklyn.”

When not tending to his family duties, Kilanski writes and produces songs for the Grammy Award-winning production team, the Avila Brothers. He met the group while still at “The Beat,” and the brothers had signed with Warner Brothers Records. The team has made tracks for such superstar artists as Janet Jackson, Usher and Mariah Carey.

With such a prolific career in the music and radio industry, Kilanski points to television as one of the few aspirations he has left, although he said he hopes to stay with the music side of his life.

“Hosting a show or doing something in television would be cool,” he said. “But I don’t want to look like Ryan Seacrest and look like I’m doing a million jobs over here.”

With an extensive career in music, radio, the Internet and possibly television, there’s no telling what else Kilanski can do. But with a voice like that, you can bet any move he makes will be as smooth as butter.
Strength in Numbers

Center for Teacher Leadership employs new model for more impact in schools

Julie Vitale has never been more proud of being a University of La Verne alumna. Vitale, the principal of Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Corona who graduated from La Verne in 1991 with a bachelor’s degree in history, attributes the shaping of many of her leadership qualities to the university’s Center for Teacher Leadership. Now that she’s sending her teachers to the CTL’s weeklong summer sessions, she’s seeing them develop the same type of quality leadership skills, and she’s beaming with pride.

“I think it’s an outstanding program, one that helps people understand what it is to be a teacher leader,” Vitale said. “I first went through the program about 12 years ago, and it fundamentally shifted the way I viewed teaching. It’s very empowering and taught me how to be a teacher leader and get involved.”

Since its inception in 1994, the Center for Teacher Leadership has maintained three goals: to collaborate with local school districts in identifying teacher leadership training needs, to identify existing and emerging teacher leaders, and to provide training and support for teacher leaders. The program is organized by the University of La Verne’s College of Education and Organizational Leadership, and conducted by CEOL dean Mark Goor, Peggy Redman and Tom McGuire.

The original model called for this to be done one teacher at a time. But Margaret “Peggy” Redman, director of the Teacher Education Program at La Verne and one of the CTL’s organizers, says it became evident that that method proved to be lacking.

“When one person from a school attended, he or she would go back to his or her school on fire, but nobody else would be,” Redman said. “With the new model, a group attends, then goes back to their school and develops a bond of leadership between themselves.”

At Roosevelt, this is called the “Stang Group” after the school’s nickname, the Mustangs. This past summer, Roosevelt’s second group completed the program, further strengthening the presence of CTL-trained leaders at the Corona high school, which opened in 2006.

“I knew if I had that type of experience that I would love to offer that to my teachers,” Vitale said. “The last two years, those teachers, called “Stang Groups” — because we’re the Mustangs — have developed a protocol for teachers observing other teachers. It’s really had a positive impact on our campus. Our teachers who attend the sessions feel special and are treated special, and it has solidified their roles on campus here.”

The CTL sessions feature keynote speakers recognized nationally for their expertise in teacher leadership and organizational change. Some, such as Terry Deal, Leonard Pellicer and Tom Harvey, have strong La Verne ties and multiple publishings.

Roosevelt now has 20 teachers who have completed the CTL program. If it’s up to Vitale, there will be many more to follow.

“I would love that,” she said. “We’ll keep sending teachers as long as they keep inviting us back.”
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