The new Sara & Michael Abraham Campus Center is finished and open, a gift from the University of La Verne to its students
Changing For the Better Keeps La Verne Relevant, Competitive

During this year’s Homecoming celebration I enjoyed speaking with students, alumni, parents and friends, some either on campus for the first time or for the first time in many years. And whether it involved the new Sara & Michael Abraham Campus Center, the pair of eye-catching pieces in the Muriel Pollia Sculpture Garden, or the energized atmosphere evident everywhere across the campus, everyone had seen and sensed real change at La Verne.

In a recent committee meeting, Professor Kathy Lamkin observed that La Verne is no longer a small liberal arts college but rather a mid-size comprehensive university and, as such, needs to compete with other universities in terms of the facilities it provides. Of course she’s right. We are a university rather than a more singularly focused liberal arts college, and we are an extremely busy place with myriad academic, co-curricular and external activities.

Nearly four years ago my VOICE message spoke of La Verne beginning a period of change, one that would transform the university. A great deal has happened since then. In the past few months alone we have experienced an upswing in student enrollment, received encouraging ratings from Forbes Magazine, enjoyed a surge in federal grants, and even celebrated the men’s golf team finishing second in the nation. And there is the Campus Center, already a hive of activity and which has directly enhanced student recruitment and retention. We also expect it to attract conferences and events to the campus.

Just as times and people change, institutions of higher education must change to remain relevant and competitive. At La Verne we are committed to building a stronger university, pursuing an array of initiatives to augment our offerings as we prepare our students to face the challenges of a changing world. As long as it is done with a clear vision and a dedication to our time-honored values, then we should openly welcome such change.

I invite you to visit La Verne – either in person or online through the redesigned university website at www.laverne.edu – and see first-hand how we’ve changed.

Steve Morgan, ’68
President, University of La Verne
'Wow' factor is high on campus

When you’re planning to build something big, like, say, a campus center, there are times when you hold your breath. There’s a lot of money to be raised, a lot of promises about how spectacular it’s going to be, and then, you have to deliver.

Well, La Verne’s new Campus Center is open and, based on the reactions observed among students returning for fall classes, hundreds of others at the Grand Opening Celebration and still thousands more on hand for Homecoming Weekend 2009, the university has delivered.

But the response has overwhelmingly been one of delight. I can honestly say I have yet to hear one negative comment since the building opened for business.

Please come and see the new Campus Center at La Verne, if you can. There are galleries and video footage on the university’s website, and we’ve also tried to give you a sense of the spectacle here, in this issue of the Voice. It starts on Page 4.

Also inside is a behind the suit-and-tie view of Luis Faura, the new Chair of the Board of Trustees. His roots are from family, and he remains a staunch family man. And, he has a very un-Chairmanlike way of cutting loose during precious stretches of free time.

Speaking of family, you’ll recognize the Hines family name if you’re at all familiar with La Verne athletics. While Ben Hines-coached baseball teams put La Verne on the map, his son Bruce has made quite a name for himself in Major League Baseball as a coach. We catch up with the La Verne Athletic Hall of Famer on Page 20.

From athletes past to stars of today, Mitch Fedorka met golf great Jack Nicklaus after being named NCAA Division III player of the year in golf last spring. Hard to believe a freak injury nearly ended his season before it began.

Enjoy the Voice, and please remember to send in your Leo Lines. You’ll find a handy form on the back cover of this magazine.
**La Verne Receives National Grants to Help Students, Fund Research**

La Verne is enjoying an unprecedented period of success in obtaining national funding with the university and its faculty receiving three prestigious grants that help support and encourage students and fund significant research. Programs established through these grants involve the College of Arts & Sciences, College of Education & Organizational Leadership and College of Business & Public Management.

The United States Department of Education (USDE) has awarded the university a five-year, $2,875,000 Title V grant, part of the department’s Promoting Post-baccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans Program. La Verne will use the grant to establish a program designed to strengthen graduate studies to reflect the ethnic diversity of the population it serves. It is the university’s fourth Title V grant this decade.

A significant portion of the funding will support graduate students through writing and statistical skills tutorials, financial aid, mentors, career ladder development, and graduate school orientation. A Graduate Success Center will be developed. Funds will also assist faculty in updating and strengthening graduate curriculum and in integrating learning technology into curricular content and methods of delivery. Additionally, funding will underwrite two new programs – a Certificate in Teaching Technology and a Certificate of Bilingual/Bicultural School Counseling – and a culturally diverse Master’s in Business Administration (MBA) degree.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded La Verne a five-year, $899,746 Robert Noyce Teacher Scholars Program grant. The program seeks to encourage science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) majors to become K-12 science and math teachers. At La Verne, the grant will assist in providing education and training to prospective teachers.

A majority of the grant will fund scholarships for future science and math teachers during their final two years of college and the initial year of their teaching credential program. Remaining funds will support other related initiatives.

As part of La Verne’s Noyce program, for each year a student receives a scholarship, he or she will be required to teach two years in an underserved or high-need school. La Verne’s longstanding excellence in the sciences and teacher education was cited as factors in receiving the grant.

The National Institute of Health (NIH) has awarded Associate Professor Christine Broussard a $203,538 grant in recognition of ongoing research she and undergraduate students are conducting on potentially harmful chemicals found in plastic food and drinking containers and the health risks these substances pose. A three-year Academic Research Enhancement Award from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (AREA) of 2009, also known as the federal economic stimulus package, is the university’s first federal biomedical research grant.

AREA grants are intended to stimulate research in educational institutions that have not been major recipients of NIH support in the past and to provide unprecedented research opportunities for students.

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**Dewey Appointed to Interim Provost Position**

**Gregory Dewey** distilled the essence of the University of La Verne in a single word: “Californian.”

“Recently, I looked at the ethnic diversity of La Verne’s incoming freshmen and compared it to the state’s 2008 census, and they matched remarkably well,” said Dewey, who was appointed interim provost at the university, effective October 1. “La Verne is a private university that is closely tied to the community and reflects the region’s rich diversity.

“La Verne is a university that values students and puts them first. Some universities are faculty-centric, some are research-centric, and I would classify La Verne as student-centric, and that’s refreshing,” he said. “I see great potential here. The interaction La Verne provides between faculty and students is exceptional. There’s nothing else like it in the Inland Empire.”

Dewey comes to La Verne after a decade with Keck Graduate Institute (KGI) of Applied Life Sciences at the Claremont Colleges, where he served as senior vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty from 2002 to 2008. He also served seven years as the Robert E. Finnigan Professor of Applied Sciences. From 1995 to 1999, he chaired the chemistry department at University of Denver and spent 18 years as a chemistry professor there. He earned his master’s degree and Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Rochester in New York and completed his postdoctoral work at Cornell University. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Carnegie-Mellon University in Pennsylvania.

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**La Verne Ranks High On Annual Forbes List**

As part of its effort to provide a true comparison of the country’s top traditional undergraduate schools as viewed from a student perspective, Forbes Magazine ranked the University of La Verne 18th among California colleges and universities and 206th overall in its “America’s Best Colleges 2009” ratings. The Forbes ratings include institutions of higher education awarding undergraduate degrees or certificates requiring four or more years of study as recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Only the top 15 percent – 600 in all – of the more than 4,000 eligible colleges made it to this year’s list.

“It is extremely rewarding to see Forbes, an internationally respected publication, recognize our university as being among the best in California and the nation,” said University President Steve Morgan. “While La Verne’s focus on personalized education in a diverse and engaged setting is very attractive to students, its appeal can sometimes elude a broader audience. Forbes’ rankings reflect well on our efforts, both regionally and nationally.”

Compilation of the Forbes list is the result of collaboration between the Center for College Affordability and Productivity and Economist Richard Vedder, in cooperation and consultation with the staff at Forbes. The rankings are...
based on the quality of the education provided by the schools, the experience of the students and the achievements of students and alumni.

**BBC Interviews Lamkin During Haydn Tribute**

Kathleen Lamkin, Professor of Music at La Verne and one of the world’s foremost authorities on the life and times of Austrian composer Franz Joseph Haydn, took part in a live program connected with the yearlong observance of the 200th anniversary of Haydn’s death. Her interview, conducted during the interval of a concert titled “Heroic Vienna,” was broadcast in Great Britain on BBC Radio 3 and simultaneously streamed worldwide on the Internet.

Since 1984, Lamkin has made a yearly pilgrimage to Eisenstadt, Austria, to study the works of Haydn. She has spent many hours poring over archives of original documents and music that are two centuries old. During the BBC interview she discussed the state of the archives, including the austere conditions in which they are housed, and the actual musicians used and existing conditions when Haydn’s works were originally performed.

**Lecture Series Reviews Bhutto-Pakistan History**

With worldwide attention focused on South Asia, internationally respected economist and longtime La Verne Professor Ahmed Ispahani drew on his personal and professional experiences during his talk, “Struggle for Democracy: Benazir Bhutto and Pakistan,” the inaugural presentation of The Benazir Bhutto & Ahmed Ispahani International Lecture series last April.

Presented as part of the “Hot Spots” series sponsored by the university’s International Studies Institute, The Benazir Bhutto & Ahmed Ispahani International Lectureship was established thanks to a gift by La Verne Board of Trustees member Paul Moseley ’88 and his wife, Jeanne. Ispahani enjoyed a close relationship with his cousin, the late Benazir Bhutto, who was twice elected Prime Minister of Pakistan, the first time in 1988 when she became that nation’s first woman prime minister and the first female head of a Muslim state. He began advising her on economic matters in 1990 and was instrumental in arranging for her to visit La Verne and lecture in 1997.

When Bhutto returned to Pakistan in 2007 to seek re-election as Prime Minister, she was killed leaving a political rally in Rawalpindi. “We were extremely close,” said Ispahani of his relationship with his cousin. “(One) thing that touched me about Benazir was that she was campaigning in a small village. She promised jobs to those who complained about not having jobs. After her death, many more jobs became available. She kept her word … even after death.”

**La Verne, Chaffey Sign Transfer Agreement**

In a joint effort to provide an enhanced and seamless transfer process, officials from La Verne and Chaffey College in Rancho Cucamonga signed an agreement that provides guaranteed admission to La Verne for qualified Chaffey students. La Verne President Steve Morgan and Chaffey Superintendent/President Henry Shannon signed the agreement during a formal ceremony in the Student Activities Lounge on Chaffey’s main campus. The program is the first of its kind between the two institutions.

La Verne is in the process of finalizing terms for similar agreements with a number of additional community colleges throughout California.

**Golf Team is Runner-up at NCAA Championships**

For the second time in three years, the University of La Verne golf team finished No. 2 in the nation with an impressive performance in the 2009 NCAA Division III Men’s Championship Tournament at the PGA Golf Club in Port St. Lucie, Fla. The Leopards turned in a closing-round of 291 to card a four-day team score of 1,168, trailing only Oglethorpe University (Ga.), which used the final day’s best round of 289 to capture the national championship.

Junior Mitch Fedorka (Upland) tied Olafur Loftsson of Oglethorpe for first place in the individual standings with a four-round total 3-under par 285. Loftsson beat Fedorka on the opening playoff hole for medalist honors.

A feature story on Fedorka appears on pages 23-24 of this issue.

**New Campus Home to City’s First Public Art Display**

The sculpture had its intended effect on its first audience, the 100 or so La Verne students, faculty and staff members who witnessed the installation of “Inhale/Exhale,” a twisting, orange, 54-foot-tall monolith at the center of campus.

"Wow, it’s a lot more orange than I thought it would be," one spectator said.

A giant crane lifted the piece off a flatbed semi truck and lifted it up and over mature oak trees lining C Street near Miller Hall, and set its bottom end on an anchoring perch. Indio-based artist Phillip K. Smith III, who designed and created the sculpture, followed along with a video camera, recording the momentous event.

"Inhale/Exhale has been a long time in the making and we are so excited that the university has a great first significant public art piece," Smith said. "As I walked out of the Campus Center yesterday before I left, just seeing the piece within the landscape of the university made the campus feel more serious and prominent."

Smith also created a smaller, copper tube sculpture, "Clarity," which stands next to the Campus Center, just south of "Inhale/Exhale." The two pieces compose The Muriel Pollia Sculpture Garden at University of La Verne.
How did we ever get along without it? Less than three months after the Sara & Michael Abraham Campus Center opened its doors to University of La Verne students, faculty, staff, alumni and visitors, that seemed to be the burning question.

The inquiries started once the 2009-10 academic year began and the three-story, 40,000-square-foot center quickly fulfilled its intended purpose.

“I always knew it would change the culture of life on campus, but I had no idea it would have this much impact,” said Chip West, Executive Director of the Campus Center and Capital Planning. “It has changed student life completely. The game rooms are packed late into the evenings. There were fires today locally and about 40 students were watching the TV news in there. Barbara’s Place is always busy. The lounges are always full. I came downstairs the other day and every single chair had someone in it. The building has exceeded all of my expectations.”

A record Homecoming turnout in early November was largely attributed to the spectacle of this, the first new building on campus in more than a decade. A Friday night dinner for La Verne College alumni was held in the Ludwick Conference Center on the top floor. Saturday’s Homecoming picnic was moved to C Street, in full view of the new building. All the

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Abraham Campus Center facts

- **Design:** Gonzalez Goodale Architects
- **Builder:** KAR Construction Inc.
- **Levels:** 3
- **Square Footage:** 40,000+
- **Features:** Classrooms, student offices, faculty offices, cafe, conference center, student lounge, meeting rooms

University President Steve Morgan addresses the audience during the grand
University President Steve Morgan addresses the audience during the grand opening ceremonies for the Campus Center on September 10. Morgan described the structure as the university’s new “family room.”

Tom Zasadzinski photo
ASULV president Chris Kaelberer, center, with scissors, cuts the giant ribbon to officially open the Campus Center September 10.

Tom Zasadzinski photo

The Green Roof is a 700-square-foot area of roof covered with 87 low-profile plants, part of LEED Silver Certification guidelines adhered to by the university during construction to maximize sustainability and reduce energy costs.

Tom Zasadzinski photo
while, students kept the center buzzing, playing billiards or video games, watching TV, eating and socializing in the café, and working in Student Government offices.

Proof there is plenty of life in student life these days.

“When it got so loud that I had to yell, I realized that people knew it was the place to be,” said Jennifer Baca, a La Verne student who has worked behind the lobby counter since the building first opened in late summer. “I think it has livened up the campus. There’s more interaction between students and it’s nice to feel that there’s something new. It’s been busy from the first day of school. There’s a lot of flow through this particular area on the first floor. So far, this building is doing the job it was created to do.”

Michael Abraham was still relatively new to the university’s Board of Trustees when he inspired creation of the Campus Center. The La Verne campus greatly reminded Abraham of his days as a student at UC Santa Barbara. He said he sensed the campus needed a student center, so in 2003 he issued “The Abraham Challenge.” If the Board members could raise the first $4 million, he would match that amount in the interest of building a Campus Center.

“When we decided to build the Campus Center, I believe we started out with an estimated cost of $12 million,” University President Steve Morgan said. “Obviously, over time, that escalated for a variety of reasons. As the campaign moved along, we had the Abraham Challenge, which was a real motivator, but the cause was right and the timing was right. We were at the height of the economy.”

Timing is everything.

“We hit it when people had resources, when the economy was on an upward trajectory and...
The Lewis Family Grand Staircase is illuminated by window-walls of natural light during the day and connects the three levels, of the new building, which has many seating areas designed for socializing and for quiet study.

Tom Zasadzinski photo
that’s the time people invest, so we were lucky. Then we got lucky with construction because, by then, building had dropped off and costs dropped off,” Morgan added. “We built the building on schedule and on budget, I think partly as a result of that.”

The Campus Center was designed by Gonzalez Goodale Architects of Pasadena. After an intense study of the site, Armando Gonzalez and David Goodale came up with plans for a building with expansive window walls that would let in the maximum amount of natural light and provide spectacular views of the San Gabriel Mountains to the north. Inside, the feeling would be open and airy, with an emphasis on mixing space for students, faculty — whoever stopped by.

There were lots of opinions about how the interior space would be used. How much would be dedicated for offices? How many classrooms? How much space for TV watching, billiards, video games and other lounging opportunities for students? Somewhere along the way, the Abraham Campus Center became all things to all people.

“The most important feature of this building is that, for the first time since the days of the Lordsburg Hotel, students have one place, under one roof, to take care of all of their needs,” ASULV President Chris Kaelberer said at the Grand Opening Celebration on September 10.

It comes as no surprise that the first floor gets the most traffic. Its design was dedicated primarily to the students: game and lounging area, offices for student government and student affairs, and a café named Barbara’s Place, after Barbara Harris, wife of longtime Board Chair Benjamin Harris.

“Steve Morgan has called it the new “living room” of the campus and it really is,” West said. “I think it’s the living room, the family room and the kitchen. It has fulfilled all of the parts our campus needed. That saying, ‘If you build it, they will come?’ Well, we built it and they have come. It has enhanced all of our programs for student activities. When we’d show movies in the past, we were lucky if 20 showed up. We got more than 100 for the last movie.”

A calmer tone greets second floor visitors. The Office of Admissions is there, along with other faculty and student adviser offices, including the Career Center. There are also classrooms, which addressed a pressing need to alleviate a shortage in class meeting space elsewhere on campus. The Rothweiler Family
An exterior view at night illustrates the effect of creating vast window-walls for maximum light transfer in the Campus Center.

Rhiannon Mim photo

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Mezzanine overlooks the lobby and provides the first views of the San Gabriel Mountains.

On the third floor, the Ludwick Conference Center is a versatile and spacious meeting place, suitable for the hosting of luncheons and dinners, as well as seminars, lectures, symposiums, job fairs, wedding receptions and film presentations. Previously, the university paid to hold its large-scale events in nearby hotel and convention center ballrooms.

Also on the third floor, out the west door to the Gayle & Tad Lowrey Veranda, is the GreenGrid Roof, a collection of 87 low-profile plants that helps the new building reduce its average daily energy demand for cooling. It’s one of the sustainability considerations that went into the building, which was designed to a LEED Silver rating. LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification system designed to promote design and construction.

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practices that increase profitability while reducing the negative environmental impacts of buildings and improving occupant health and well-being. Such practices drew praise from local leaders during the Campus Center Grand Opening.

“The University of La Verne has been loved and attended by students worldwide and the university just got better – a lot better,” La Verne mayor Don Kendrick said to an audience of hundreds on hand for the special occasion. “This university has always strived to be an environmental leader in the City of La Verne, and this green building shows that leadership.”

In addition to traditional-age undergraduate students, the Campus Center has also been embraced by commuter students and night students – both groups that often have a little time on their hands before or after classes and previously had few available options.

“It’s been very successful and we’re finding new possibilities every day,” said Doug Waite, manager of Student Life Services, who has one of the first-floor offices. “We’ve had lots of comments from commuter students and adjunct faculty about how nice it is to have a place to spend time during the day. It’s such an enjoyable place to come to and it’s a pleasure to walk in every morning. It’s good to have a building that’s finally meeting some long overdue needs.”

Mostly, the Campus Center — centerpiece of the university’s $26.1 million Campus Center Project — has drawn a dispersed campus community together. Along with the renovated Sports Science & Athletics Pavilion and the construction of The Frank & Nadine Johnson Family Plaza, it’s now crystal clear where to meet up for just about any event.

“Now, with the Plaza, the Pavilion, and the sculptures, it has created a central place of activity,” West said. “I know for football games, the whole place used to be dead. Now everyone gathers here. Even the opposing team comes and checks it out and they’re impressed.

“The deans have their meetings in the meeting rooms; we’ll have a holiday party there and Town Hall meetings. Every classroom in the building is full. The community has embraced it as well. We’ve had a few Chamber of Commerce events and I’d love to get “A Taste of La Verne” in there. Overall, it’s really had an impact. The sophomores came back to school after not having it and loved it, and the incoming freshmen asked, ‘What did you do before you had this building? ’ ”

A question that is sure to puzzle many in the not-so-distant future.
Leader of the Pack

In succeeding Benjamin Harris as Board of Trustees Chair, La Verne alumnus Luis Faura ’89 has big shoes to fill, but knows that hard work, resolve and focus will take him a long way.

By Lisa O’Neill Hill

When Luis Faura was a boy, he often accompanied his grandfather to work, where he’d run errands for the older man and go with him on visits to clients and suppliers. Faura didn’t realize it at the time, but he was soaking up his grandfather’s business acumen.

Generations later, Faura, now President and Chief Operating Officer of C & F Foods, Inc. — the company founded by his grandfather — does the same thing with his children.

And Faura’s grandfather, a 90-year-old Cuban émigré, still goes to work every day.

“He’s an outstanding individual, a man of honor, word, principle and ethics,” said Faura, the new Chairman of the University of La Verne’s Board of Trustees. “He’s a great individual who has taught me a lot by example in his leadership and also his hard work and perseverance.”

Those who know Faura, 43, say he has his grandfather’s work ethic, resolve and focus, traits that have served him well in his professional career and will help him as he leads the Board of Trustees in dealing with myriad issues, including the effects of this challenging economy.

A well-organized, gracious man who gets up at 4 a.m., Faura has the enviable ability to do it all and to make it look easy. He is known as a devoted family man who puts his family – wife, Maria, and daughters, Alexandria, Daniella and Mariella – first. He’s a visionary businessman and a committed philanthropist who believes giving back is vital.

Faura also appears to have mastered the ability to compartmentalize his life. Work stays at work. When he walks through the door at the end of a work day, it’s family time. The mornings, while everyone else is sleeping, are his quiet time to read, watch TV, and brainstorm and plan for the day.

But there is also a surprising side to Faura, who earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business from La Verne and an MBA from Pepperdine University’s Graziadio School of Business and Management. Whenever he has the chance, Faura gets on his Harley-Davidson and soaks in the fresh air and the freedom. Two years ago, he and friend Bob Hackerd rode their bikes to Sturgis, South Dakota, for the annual motorcycle rally, which draws a diverse group of people from across the United States.

“He is an extremely successful businessman and I don’t mean just by monetary terms,” Hackerd said. “He’s a very well-educated man, he contributes to the community and contributes to his own charities; he’s a very giving guy. But when he’s out and about with me, he’s a regular guy.”

Faura’s approachability is one of his assets, according to University of La Verne President Steve Morgan.

“Luis believes in a team approach,” Morgan said. “He treats all of the people who work with him as associates. He is in constant contact. He is a very inclusive kind of leader.

“I’ve known Luis for a number of years and have always been impressed with his energy and his ability to be articulate and his ability to identify
When Faura wants to get away and clear his head, he often hops on his Harley-Davidson motorcycle and hits the road. "It's a great release," he says.

Tom Zasadzinski photo
problems and then look for common solutions,” Morgan said. “I think he knows a lot about the university. He has a lot of practical experience and a lot of interest in higher education. He has a particular interest in the students we serve, both the traditional undergraduates and the adult students.”

Faura, who has been on the Board since 2002, brings experience from his own business to La Verne. While dealing with the impact of the economy on tuition, enrollment and financial aid will be of concern to the board, additional renovations and capital projects will continue. He aims to keep good financial responsibility and governance of the institution.

There is also a lot to celebrate: Forbes Magazine ranked the University of La Verne 18th among California colleges and universities and 206th overall in its recently released “America’s Best Colleges 2009;” the campus and community recently celebrated the opening of the 40,000-square-foot Sara & Michael Abraham Campus Center; and the university’s new website has given the school a huge lift, Faura said.

Faura said that he is excited and honored to be chosen chairman. He credits his predecessor, Benjamin Harris, for laying a strong foundation.

“Benjamin Harris was quite a chairman and luckily he’s on the board still so I can use him as a source of wisdom,” Faura said.

Harris called Faura an excellent choice and said now is the right time for Faura to take the helm.

“We kind of wanted someone with some young blood. I think he’s going to be a great chairman and he’s got youth on his side,” Harris said.

Former trustee Kurt Rothweiler describes Faura as a “phenomenal guy” who will do well in his position and that the board will look for him to take ownership and propel the university into the next century.

“People love to follow his lead,” Rothweiler said. “He has the personality and skill sets to draw people.”

Maria Faura said that her husband pushes himself hard and is devoted to his family.

“We’re excited for him,” she said of her husband’s new position. “We’re proud of his success and accomplishments.”

Faura, who was born in Duarte, completed his general education at Mt. San Antonio College and came to La Verne on the advice

One of Faura’s first official duties after taking over as Board Chair was to speak at the grand opening of the Sara & Michael Abraham Campus Center on September 10.

Tom Zasadzinski photo

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of his mother. She basically told him he would attend La Verne and he had always been an obedient child, he said.

When he arrived at La Verne, he instantly liked it. “It was small, easy to maneuver in,” he said.

“It’s the size that makes it so very quaint,” Faura said. But although small, La Verne has a big reputation in terms of academics and in terms of serving surrounding communities. “You have a voice here versus other institutions that are so large in population that you don’t have an actual impact.”

Throughout his life, his parents and his grandfather were a major influence on him, Faura said. His grandfather taught him so much without him even knowing it.

“I never really saw him as a businessman, when I was a child,” Faura said. “I saw him as my grandfather who would take me along on every adventure. Even though it was ‘go get me this’ or ‘do this,’ unbeknownst to me, I was being threaded into the business in a quiet way. It got me glued to it. Every summer vacation and spring break, I was there. It was really cool, really exciting. I got to hang out with all these grownups.”

Jose Fernandez emigrated from Cuba and founded C & F Foods Inc., in the City of Industry in 1975. The company is a major originator and packer of dried beans, peas, rice and popcorn for the retail, industrial, food service, canner and frozen food manufacturing industry throughout the United States and overseas.

Faura said he was naturally apprehensive when he took over leadership of the company. He had a vision for national expansion. The company exports all over Latin America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

Nearly a decade ago, Faura was on the cusp of what would become a national interest in organic food. He invested $8 million in that effort. Organic food suppliers need to invest in more expensive fertilizers and new machinery for milling and packing the beans.

“That was very cutting-edge,” Faura said. “We invested a large amount of money and it paid off. It was gut intuition as well as an inclination about the marketplace that there was a need for a better food supply in terms of quality and a changing of the American palate towards more wholesome grains.

“I think I’m a calculated risk-taker. Being in business in general, you take risks, but I try to make sure those risks I’m taking have exit strategies and fall-back positions.”

In addition to his work and serving on the Board of Trustees, Faura is on the Board of Directors for Padres Contra El Cancer and is involved with Foothill Country Day School.

“I think it’s the most important thing — to give back to the community and the institutions that have either given you an education or have provided some sort of impact on your life,” he said. “In the case of Foothill, it’s mostly to demonstrate to my kids that it’s very important to look outward and help institutions and people with as much philanthropy as humanly possible.”

Faura acknowledges that the key to getting so much done is being organized, and credits his wife, Maria, and his executive assistant with helping him stay on track, as well as other members of his team.

In his down time, Faura likes to travel with his family, taking the lead from the girls about where they should visit. The family recently returned from a trip to Spain and Egypt and will be going on a safari in South Africa next year. Faura said he believes in the importance of his children’s education and in exposing them to diverse cultures and places.

Next summer, in addition to traveling with his family, Faura has plans to return to Sturgis with Hackerd.

“Luis is just a hoot to be with on a trip like that,” Hackerd said. “He’s easy to get along with and he’s just interested in everything that’s out there to see. We tried to see as much as we possibly could.

“You never have to worry about where this individual is coming from. He puts it all out there. What you see is what you get. He’s a very gracious, hard-working, high-integrity individual that I personally trust explicitly.”

Faura is the first to help anyone, Hackerd said.

“I can tell you that in a lifetime those kinds of people that you have in your life, you can put on one hand or less.”

During that last trip, on the way there, the pair checked out as many monuments and historical sites as they could.

On the way back, “we rode from about 5 a.m. from Jackson Hole, Wyoming, all that day until 2 a.m. the next morning in one stretch to get back to San Dimas and Upland,” Hackerd said, experiencing extreme temperature changes as they made their way home.

Faura said the trip took 12 days. There is something to be said for seeing sights from outside the confines of a car, he said.

“You can smell the earth, the grass, the trees,” Faura said. “The olfactory sense really was the one that grabbed me. Being exposed to the elements, the wind, the rain, the sun.

“There is a certain freedom about riding a bike. I know this sounds corny, but it’s a great release.”
As the United States military approaches its third consecutive decade of fighting in the Middle East, the American consciousness of its active soldiers fades a little each day. But all it takes is an account by one local soldier to make the conflict half a world away very real and hit home at an intensely personal level.

Robert Parry is a 1999 graduate of La Verne who earned a bachelor's degree in journalism. He went on to get an MBA at USC and take a position at a Century City public relations firm. Parry is also a soldier, with the 184th California National Guard unit that in October deployed to Afghanistan.

It is Parry’s third venture into harm’s way, with missions to Kuwait and to Baghdad, Iraq, under his belt. This trip to Afghanistan may be his most dangerous encounter yet.

“We will be in Eastern Afghanistan,” Parry said in August. “Most of the fight right now is in southern and eastern Afghanistan. We’ll be going to what is generally a friendly neighborhood where there are a few people who are very unfriendly and will be very opposed to us being there. Members of the Taliban are the main security threat there.”

Parry and other National Guard troops will carry rifles, because the U.S. agricultural advisers who will be working with Afghani farmers undermine the efforts of the Taliban and provide a very real threat to its local support. The U.S. detachment is basically there to shut the Taliban down.

“The Taliban are not the religious zealots that [members of] Al-Qaeda are,” Parry said. “They’re in it for the money. The Taliban is offering the Afghans $10 to fight and they can only make $5 farming, well, you do the math. They’re going to take the $10. But when you teach them to be efficient as a farmer, they can make more money to support their family and even to buy their own AK-47 to protect themselves. Then, when the Taliban come to plant mines and tell them, ‘Look the other way,’ they might be more loyal to the U.S. When our soldiers come in they might say, ‘Don’t go down that road; the Taliban was here last night.’ ”

There are other benefits as well. It is reported that many Afghan farmers cultivate poppy fields and sell the opium derived from them to drug traffickers and terrorist groups. Through education, farmers may well discover legitimate crop options, which may prove to be as profitable and less dangerous. Parry said that Afghanistan was once a net exporter of crops, meaning its people consumed less than it produced. Then, when the Taliban came to plant mines and tell them, ‘Look the other way,’ they might be more loyal to the U.S. When our soldiers come in they might say, ‘Don’t go down that road; the Taliban was here last night.’ ”

“Right now, they can make more money producing opium crops, so if we can get them to the point where they make more money from other crops, they’ll focus on that and not on opium.”

— Robert Parry ’99
On Afghanistan farmers

La Verne graduate Robert Parry’s mission with the National Guard to educate Afghanistan farmers and steer them away from opium crops is one that could literally come under fire independent nation and part of that is to get these farmers out of the opium business. Right now, they can make more money producing opium crops, so if we can get them to the point where they make more money from other crops, they’ll focus on that and not on opium.”

But Parry is also a PR guy and it’s obvious he is a dedicated soldier who believes in his work and in the mission. There are many reasons to reach out to other countries, but colonizing them is not one of them. It’s clear that Parry will approach the Afghanistan people with at least the same level of respect he showed the Iraqis.

“When the U.S. Army goes anywhere the idea is to do as little damage as possible, with the locals,” Parry said. “We’re dedicated to preserving the infrastructure and protecting the locals as much as possible. We don’t want any collateral damage, and even back to World War I, the American GI’s were known for being kind to the locals, giving them candy bars and things.

“When I was in Baghdad, I was a platoon leader and I tried to work with the locals, get them to tell us what was going on. My mission in Afghanistan will again be to work with the locals.”
Ruth (McDaniel) Rupel ’48 from La Verne and is about to start his 7th year is a past basketball letterman and their new granddaughter. Tom are enjoying spending time with each other. A past Governor of Maryland. Both Donna and two years of working in the Law Office of profession, five years with the Maryland Senate operated the Old World Deli, a well-known eatery place in Oregon. Since 1977, Ted has owned and "Murray Loop: Journey of an Oregon Family 1808-1940," Teddy Cox ’69 will release a history book, "Murray Loop: Journey of an Oregon Family 1808-1940," a story that also took in December of 2009. In 2005 he published "The Loop: Journey of an Oregon Family 1808-1940," the book. In 1953, deals with automotive vehicles on or off the road operation in commercial or military service. It honors the memory of L. Ray Buckendale, 1946 SAE President, who had a strong desire to develop the potential abilities in young people. In his honor, the lecture is directed primarily to the needs of young engineers and students.

1950s

Wanda Hines ’63 and Ben Hines ’58 recently traveled to Seattle to see a Seattle Mariners baseball game, where son Bruce Hines ’80 was a coach for the Mariners. Several La Verne alumni joined them for the game and dinner afterward.

1960s

Patty (Davis) Lyons ’60 and Richard Lyons ’65 celebrated 50 years of marriage on August 8, 2009, by renewing their vows in front of family and friends.

David Hollinger ’63 is now President-Elect of the Organization of American Historians, and will soon become president of the 9,000-member professional association for specialists in the history of the United States.


Donna (Chalton) Neumann ’69 and Tom Neumann ’71 report that Donna is enjoying retirement after 18 years in the teaching profession, five years with the Maryland Senate and two years of working in the Law Office of a past Governor of Maryland. Both Donna and Tom are enjoying spending time with each other and their new granddaughter.

1970s

Mike Molony ’72 is a past basketball letterman from La Verne and is about to start his 7th year as the Family Life Center Director at Sandia Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque. Mike also serves as the acting director of the basketball program in which they have 440 kids playing on 52 teams.

1980s

Bruce Hines ’80 has accepted the position of Minor League Field Coordinator for the Los Angeles Dodgers. (See story, page 21)

Pete Verga ’80 has been awarded the Presidential Rank of Meritorious Executive and has been awarded two Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Awards and the Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Award. He is a retired U.S. Army officer with more than 26 years of service in a variety of command, operations and management positions, including combat operations in Vietnam from September, 1969 to November, 1971. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration from the University of La Verne.

Dianne G. (Ohman) Van Hook ’81, chancellor of College of the Canyons, was honored on March 16, 2009 as a recipient of the “Women of the Year” Awards at the 24th Annual Commission for Women Awards Luncheon held at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. Dianne, who assumed her current position in 1988, is the longest seated California Community College CEO and has received a wide range of honors and awards including the Community College League of California’s Five Star Leadership Award. Most recently, Van Hook was awarded the North American Council for Staff, Program and Organizational Development President’s Award, and was a Leader of Character Honoree by the Boy Scouts of America.

Lynne (Shore) Garcia ’83 has recently been awarded the 2009 bioMerieux Sonnenwirth Award for Leadership in Clinical Microbiology. This award recognizes a distinguished microbiologist for the promotion of innovation in clinical laboratory science, dedication to ASM, and the advancement of clinical microbiology as a profession.


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**1990s**

Dennis Warring ’90 retired this fall, after 43 years, from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. During those years he served our nation as a decorated member of the U.S. Air Force and the Federal Service as a Draughtsman, Geometer, Geodesist and Geospatial Analyst. He now enjoys gazing at the stars, with his wife, Dorothy, on the Central Coast of California.

Carol Coleman ’92 is very grateful for her degree and has been able to put her communication skills to good use at every stage in her career.

Mike Greenlees ’92 retired on January 16, 2009, after almost 42 years at Honeywell. Mike and his wife, Charli, celebrated his retirement with an Amtrak trip from Tucson to Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., where they boarded a cruise ship for a 50-day cruise around Cape Horn to San Francisco. Mike and Charli spent four days in San Francisco visiting Alcatraz, Muir Woods and the Wine Country before flying back to Tucson to prepare for their next trip.

Denise (Francis) Neugebauer ’92 reports she “finally got married” in November of 2008. Denise and her husband, Ed, are enjoying traveling and boating.

Christina (Denson) Van Sickle ’93 and her husband, Jeff, have three beautiful children. Christina plans to open a school of her own after nearly 13 years of teaching.

Adelaida Bautista ’93 completed a Master of Science degree in Communicative Disorders from the University of Redlands in May of 2009. She is now working as a speech-language pathologist with Downey Unified School District.

Jeannie Johnson ’94, Director of Human Resources at Northrup Grumman, received Women of Color Technology’s Diversity Leadership Award for her efforts in promoting diversity across the organization and community. In her role, she established the strategic direction of HRIS across company elements, ensures the protection and privacy of employee data, and delivers Northrop Grumman’s human resources systems that are user-friendly and efficient for employees. Johnson earned her Master of Science in Leadership and Management and her doctorate in Public Administration from University of La Verne.

Alisia (Beltran) Proctor ’94 graduated from La Verne with a B.A. in Religion and Philosophy in 1994 and then went on to complete a Masters in Pastoral Studies. In 2001, she received her MAS and celebrated her 70th birthday. She is an ordained minister at Park Vista Baptist Church and continues to serve the Lord and the Hispanic community every day.

Christel Schoenfelder ’94 & ’03 became a partner at Rose, Klein & Marias LLP as of January 1, 2009.

Peggy Wozniak ’94, superintendent for the Binghamton City School District, is now a member of the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (“CICU) Alumni Hall of Fame.” Alfred University presented Wozniak with a Distinguished Alumna Award from the Alumni Council in June 2008 in recognition of her service to the University and its students. She serves on the AU Women’s Leadership Center Advisory Board. She has been a speaker in the “Women of Influence” series and volunteers her time to work with education majors through the Career Development Center.

Joseph H. Miraflor ’96 is currently working as a Sr. District Attorney Investigator for the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office and is a California real estate broker. He and his wife, Martina Miraflor, celebrated their 15-year wedding anniversary in July. Together they have two children: Andrew, 15, and Antonia, 12. Joe is enrolled in the Graduate Program to pursue a degree in MSLM.

Frank Anthony Zappia ’97 & ’00 recently became a licensed Marriage & Family Therapist. He is opening a psychotherapy private practice in Upland. He received his B.S. in Psychology and his M.S. in marriage, family, and child counseling.

Danny Scott Craig ’01 was appointed Secretary of the Public Relations Society of America, Orange County Chapter.

Chunjuan Wei ’01 received a Ph.D. in Political Science from Claremont Graduate University in 2008. She is Assistant Professor of International Political Economy & Diplomacy at University of Bridgeport in Connecticut. Chunjuan most recently purchased her first house in a beautiful seaside city in Connecticut where she resides with her daughter.

Christina S. Magana ’02 & ’07 and Gilbert D. Frasquillo were married on March 7, 2009, at St. Peter and St. Paul Catholic Church. Christina is a first grade teacher at Tokay Elementary School and Gilbert is a Senior Airman in the U.S. Air Force. The happy couple will be living in Nevada near Nellis AFB where Gilbert is stationed.

John Preston Hamilton ’05 has joined the Academic Advancement Program staff at UCLA as the director of New Student Programs.

Jesse Silva ’05 graduated from Penn State University with a Master of Education in Children’s Literature in 2008. He received his B.S. in Psychology from the University of La Verne.

**2000s**

Wendy (Schwartz) Wright ’05 married Michael Wright on August 2, 2008. They met while both were studying abroad at Oxford (in fencing class of all places) from different home colleges in the U.S. They had no idea when they met that they lived so close to each other — Wendy at La Verne and Michael at Azusa Pacific University.

Teresa Sargent-Maiden ’06 recently accepted a
position with Walgreen Drug Stores as a Certified Pharmacy Technician.

Jose Jaime Navares '06 began his 14th year with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department in 2009. He is on special assignment within the COPS Bureau. Since graduating from the MSLM program in 2006, his family has grown. His wife, Jennifer, is expecting their third child to join Isabella, 3, and Amelia, 2. He attributes his professional and personal success to the dedicated MSLM staff and high quality professional students.

Michelle Calvin '07 proudly announces the launch of her business, MLC Business Solutions, (www.MLCBusinessSolutions.com) a virtual assistant business providing a variety of services, virtually, to businesses, entrepreneurs, and individuals that are in need of administrative support.

Ashley Lauren Joseph '08 is working on a Masters of Educational Counseling at La Verne and is working as the Community Coordinator for Housing & Residential Life.

David LeSieur '08 accepted a position as a Senior Lab, Cooper, just turned six!

Matthew, are honored to announce the birth of their second daughter, Hailey, in May 2008 and oldest daughter Alexis turns four in June. Their lab, Cooper, just turned six!

Pamela Quinteros '07 and her husband, Matthew, are honored to announce the birth of their son, Ethan Blake, on February 26, 2009.

Marie (Tingle) Snell '30 passed away peacefully on October 2, 2008, at the age of 99½. Her son, C. Terry Snell '62, his wife Bonnie J. Snell '63 and grandson Kenny Snell '96 are all alumni of the University of La Verne.

Everett Myer '35 passed away on January 24, 2009, at the age of 94. He was survived by his two sons, Ralph "Ed" and Harold, two daughters, Jeanne Davison and Susan Agee, six grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Robert Tafoya '40 passed away on December 25, 2008, due to congestive heart failure. He was a lifelong teacher and loved sports. He attended La Verne College, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree.

Nettie (Lopez) Fovall '43 passed away May 4, 2008.

Dwight Heminger '51 passed away at his home in Claremont on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2009. He had enjoyed careers in the insurance field and teaching. Two of his granddaughters are now attending the University of La Verne.

Anita Louise (Morales) Trujillo '53 passed away on July 9, 2009, in Fountain Valley, Calif., at the age of 77. Annie, as she was known to her friends, was born in Chino, Calif., and worked for nearly 45 years as a grade school teacher for the Santa Ana Unified School District. Although she retired from full-time teaching in 1991, she continued to work as a substitute teacher until her death. Her interests included traveling, tennis, arts and crafts, reading, and going to the movies.

Pauline S. Duerksen '53 passed away on October 3, 2008. She was very grateful for all the good times at the University of La Verne during her undergraduate years.

Lois Ann (Davidson) Cheney '66 passed away on January 10, 2009, at the age of 64. Lois personified benevolence. A teacher in Hemet for 34 years, Lois enjoyed teaching and helped develop the educational program for the Riverside County Office of Education for Teen Mothers. She faithfully attended First Presbyterian Church and was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma. Lois was recognized by various groups for her talents and efforts over the years including, “Teacher of the Year” presented by the Riverside County Office Teacher’s Association in 1986 and “Women of Distinction” Education Award from Soroptimist International. She is survived by her husband of 42 years, James Cheney of Hemet; daughter and son-in-law, Kristina and Brian Tooley of Hemet; son, David Cheney of Los Angeles; granddaughter, Rebecca Tooley of Hemet; and brother, Roy Davidson of Hemet.

Dr. Richard A. Zeller '66 passed away on April 16, 2009, at the age of 64. A retired professor of statistics in the College of Nursing at Kent State University, Dr. Zeller’s professional career spanned more than 40 years. He served on many thesis and dissertation committees and worked with students and colleagues on the research design and statistical analysis of social and biological data. Dr. Zeller is the author of three books and more than 90 published professional research articles. His greatest professional satisfaction was assisting in improving the statistical sophistication of nursing research.

Douglas Wayne Emery '73 passed away on April 7, 2009, at the age of 58 due to complications during open heart surgery. Doug had recently retired from teaching in 2008 at Beaver Lake Middle School in Issaquah, Wash. He was a founding member of FISH (Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery) and at one time president of the board and a lifetime member. Duane E. Bovett '74 passed away February 15, 2009. Among his surviving children are David D. (J.D., '86) and Robert E. (B.A.,'87). Duane had a long career in the computer industry. Among his accomplishments are two computer-related U.S. patents.

Frances V. Mallow '75 passed away on August 30, 2008, at the age of 82. She earned her master’s degree in education from the University of La Verne. She is survived by her sister, Margaret Brown Miskimen of Mt. Vernon; nieces Margie C. Gerczak of Livonia, Mich., and Sally Simpson Johnson of Granville and Lady Lake, Fla. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by husband, Burley C. Mallow.

Lydia Neubuck Harper '75 passed away on March 24, 2009, at the age of 85, following a long battle with LAM, a lung disease affecting only women. Lydia had been the oldest known survivor of LAM, and was a willing participant in a study at the National Institute of Health. She was a devoted member of the Salvation Army and served as a volunteer for countless organizations, including prison ministries. Lydia was an active member in the National Speleological Society and the first woman elected to its board of directors and named “Cave Woman of 1950.”

Sylvia Sawyer '76 lost a valiant battle against Multiple Myeloma Leukemia on September 1, 2008. She was always so proud to have achieved her degree at La Verne as she was one of the first in the family to be a college graduate.

Mack J. Matthews '79 passed away in February, 2008.

Jennie Montecino Gonzales '79 passed away on September 22, 2009.

Paul McAfee Jr. '80 passed away on February 3, 2009 at the age of 78.

Philip Rex Winters passed away December 27, 2008 at his home in Santa Maria. One of his passions was education. Philip was a senior adjunct professor at the University of La Verne where he taught Oceanography for almost 30 years.

Marian Johnson Wagner, a longtime friend of the university, passed away on September 21, 2009. She had a 39-year career in the Chino Unified School District. She served as Secretary to Superintendents Leonard Collins and Levi Dickey, and as Office Manager for the business and the personnel departments. The last 10 years of her career she was a business teacher and department chairperson for Chino High School, retiring in 1979. Marian was a 1957 charter member and past president of the Soroptimist International of Chino, member and president of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 299, and charter member and past president of the Chino Valley Historical Society.
La Verne graduate Bruce Hines has worked in professional baseball for 30 years, including one season as third base coach for the Seattle Mariners in 2009. He'll work for the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2010.

Seattle Mariners photo
The Son Also Rises

A lifelong love for baseball has taken Bruce Hines ’80 to the game’s highest level, coaching in the major leagues, following in the footsteps of his father, Ben Hines ’58

By Benjamin Gleisser and Rusty Evans

The thing they don’t tell you about following in your father’s footsteps is that not all the steps are forward.

Bruce Hines knows this all too well. His father, Ben, was head coach at La Verne from 1960-1980, guiding the baseball team to eight Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference titles, five NAIA World Series appearances and a 1972 NAIA national championship. He then was hitting coach at Arizona State University for a couple of years before coaching in the major leagues with the Seattle Mariners, Los Angeles Dodgers and Houston Astros. And, he was a member of the Dodgers’ 1988 World Series championship team.

The great ones make it look so easy.

Bruce Hines’ coaching career began in 1984, after playing baseball for his father at La Verne and then a brief minor league career as a player. He’s spent most of his time with the Angels organization in various capacities, from scout to minor league manager. He’s also coached in the major leagues, just like dad.

“It wasn’t a case of ‘I wanted to do what he did,’ ” Hines said. “I always looked up to my father as a good person and a great dad. But growing up in my house, where my mother and father were both teachers – mom in public school, dad at the university – I always thought I’d be involved in some aspect of teaching. And coaching is a kind of teaching.”

But recently it was Bruce Hines, with 30 years of professional baseball under his belt, who was taught yet another lesson in the harsh realities of being a coach. With almost no warning, Hines was fired after one season as third base coach of the Seattle Mariners. This, after the Mariners improved to 85-77 in 2009, following a dismal 61-101 mark in 2008. To most people, it didn’t make sense. Weeks earlier, with the season quietly winding down, Seattle manager Don Wakamatsu sounded very appreciative of Hines’ contributions.

“The real mark of a coach’s legacy is the players he’s impacted on and off the field,” Wakamatsu said. “I would not be in the position I’m in now if it were not for the impact Bruce had on me.”

Ah, but coaches are hired to be fired, the saying goes in sports.

“It was unfortunate, the way things worked out with Seattle,” Hines said. “The scary part was being out there looking for a job when 80 to 90 percent of the jobs had been filled. That was a harrowing experience, one I wouldn’t wish for anyone.”

Before Hines had a chance to second-guess himself, the phone started ringing and he quickly had interviews with a handful of teams. The Dodgers made him an offer — just as they had to his dad once upon a time — and he accepted in early November.

A step forward.

“I’m as happy as can be,” Hines said. “Everybody should have a chance to work for the Dodgers. My dad had a good run with the Dodgers and I’m hoping to start mine.”

Hines will serve as Minor League Field Coordinator with the Dodgers, back down in the minors, trying to help young players move up to the next level. It’s a job he nearly perfected with the Angels a decade earlier. It’s coaching in one of its purest forms.

“Because of my familiarity with the position, I have a lot of confidence in my ability to do the job,” Hines said. “Don’t get me wrong, it’s a daunting kind of job. But with a lot of hard work and perseverance, we developed a program with the Angels that was very successful. I’ve done it for a number of years and the challenge is that you’re always working with new players who come in, trying to get them to the next level.

“The only difference is that it’s a new organization and a new set of faces. It’s a uniform position, and I’m in uniform on a daily basis. I’ll be in charge of all aspects of instruction for all minor league teams in the organization.”

You don’t last 30 years in pro baseball — as Hines has — without doing your homework. One advantage he’s had has been a direct line to the teacher and his teachings.

“My dad has a great work ethic: ‘If you want to do something right, you gotta do it right the first time,’ ” he said. “Another thing he taught me was baseball demands a lot of preparation. The difference between winning and losing is intense physical preparation.”

As third base coach for the Mariners, Hines kept copious records on all American League outfielders, so that when the game was on the line, he already knew who had the best and worst chances of either gunning down a runner or throwing the ball off the mark.

“I know every American League ballpark outfield and I know who the good outfielders are,” he said. “But sometimes decisions you make in a game don’t turn out the way you’d like, so what was really nice was I could call Dad and talk about what happened. He’d watch all the Mariners games on TV and sometimes he’d see things I didn’t.”

Ben Hines said he’s very proud of his son and is always glad to talk baseball with him.

“He called me the other night about a decision not to send a runner on a fly ball to a left fielder

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Bruce Hines

Age: 52
Residence: Mesa, Ariz.
Occupation: Baseball Coach
New Title: Minor League Field Coordinator, Los Angeles Dodgers
La Verne Connection: Member of the La Verne Athletic Hall of Fame; played football and baseball at La Verne College. Son of longtime La Verne College baseball coach Ben Hines.

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who didn’t have a great arm,” Ben Hines said one day in August. “I told him, ‘Your job is to make a choice in a split-second. Sometimes you’re going to make the wrong decision. And if it happens, you just gotta go on and keep doing your best.’”

Radio play-by-play announcer Rick Rizzs, who has called Mariners games for 27 years, is in the unique position of seeing the father/son coaching duo in action: Ben in 1984, and Bruce, 25 years later.

“Both of them have great work ethic,” Rizzs said. “Ben, the hitting coach, had the ability to see something wrong and be able to fix it. Bruce is the same way. Both are able to take young guys and get the best out of them.”

One of Ben Hines’ favorite moments was when the Dodgers played the Angels in 1991, and father and son met at home plate before the game to exchange lineup cards. “That was so exciting,” he said.

Reflecting back on coaching his son at La Verne, Ben Hines said, “I think it was a lot harder on him than me. I’m sure he felt he had to be much better than the other guy to beat him for a starting job. I wouldn’t let favoritism get in the way and he wasn’t a starter until his junior year. “As a player, Bruce had a lot of drive. He had good intuition and knew where the ball was going to be.”

Bruce Hines agreed that playing for his father could, at times, be trying. When he heard teammates bad-mouthing his father in the locker room, he had to turn away and hide his annoyance. And during his sophomore year when another player beat him out for the job of the football team’s starting safety, he swallowed his disappointment.

“That was a tough time for me,” Bruce Hines said. “(Dad) didn’t talk to me about it, and I wasn’t happy about it, but that’s the way things go.”

Bruce Hines’ memories of La Verne extend past the goalposts and the outfield fence. “I enjoyed my classes because class sizes were small,” he said. “That made it easy to develop personal relationships with teachers like (the late) Herb Hogan in the history department.

And after classes, sharing a Warehouse Pizza with friends and roommates from Brandt Hall was always fun, he said. Working out in the weight room or playing pool at the Student Center were other good ways to relax.

“If I were going into the mists of reflection, I’d say La Verne had a great influence in shaping who I’ve become,” Bruce Hines said. “More than anything, I hope the kids who are going there now have half the enjoyment I did. I had a blast.”

Occasionally, Bruce Hines will cross paths with another La Verne product, as he did in Toronto, where he got to jaw with Blue Jays third base coach Nick Leyva, a 1975 La Verne alumnus who also learned baseball under Ben Hines.

Now that the Dodgers have moved their Spring Training operations from Vero Beach, Fla., to Glendale, Ariz., it could be an easy transition for Hines, who lives in Mesa, Ariz.

At least he’ll be home every night with his wife, Wendy, as he takes the next step in a long baseball career.

“The Dodgers do have their Spring Training in Arizona and that’s one advantage,” he said. “But whether the Dodgers had it there or in Florida or on Mars, when you’ve been in professional baseball for 30 years, at some point you should work for the Dodgers. Or for the Yankees. You know, these are organizations with storied histories and there’s a reason they’ve stayed at the top all these years.”

For Hines, it’s a step in the right direction.
As a junior, Mitch Fedorka led La Verne to its third consecutive SCIAC team title and was conference Player of the Year. In May, he and the Leopards were runners-up in NCAA individual and team competition. Still, Fedorka was NCAA Division III Player of the Year.

Kelly Rivas photo

Out of the Rough

A freak spleen injury nearly cost La Verne golfer Mitch Fedorka a dream season and the chance to emerge as one of the nation's top collegiate players

By Will Darity, La Verne Sports Information Director

Early November weather was holding nicely as Mitch Fedorka prepared for one of college golf’s most prestigious tournaments. His senior year at La Verne, the sparkle of a stellar junior campaign still fresh, his place among the elite collegiate golfers secure. Thanksgiving was approaching and nobody had to tell Fedorka how much he had to be thankful for.

The previous six months had produced a dizzying array of awards and achievements for both Fedorka and his La Verne teammates. In May, Fedorka led La Verne to its third consecutive Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship and was SCIAC Player of the Year. Then, he led the Leopards to a runner-up finish at the NCAA Championships, within four strokes of a national title won by Oglethorpe University. He was named NCAA Division III Player of the Year.

Fedorka’s excellence also earned him an invitation to join an elite field for this month’s Western Refining College All-America Golf Classic in El Paso, Texas. It is the final fruit of his labors. The last reminder of the season that almost wasn’t.

For all of the achievement in his amazing junior season, Fedorka came within a spleen-ectomy of missing the 2009 spring campaign altogether.

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“Right before the season opened, I played an outside tournament that was one of the qualifiers for a PGA Tour event, the Buick Invitation- al,” he said. “I medaled in the qualifier, shooting seven-under for the day. That night, I had a freak accident that sent me to the hospital. I had injured my spleen and there was internal bleeding. At the time, they had no idea where it was coming from. They said I might need surgery, which would have made me not touch a club for six months. Luckily, nothing was too severe and I was able to get back out practicing after resting for three weeks.”

Once cleared to play, Fedorka said he didn’t know what to expect, coming back from such an injury. But his focus sharpened, his confidence soared, and both were reflected in his play.

Fedorka won three times, and finished out of the top 10 only twice. He was the top ranked player in the Golfstat individual standings, which earned him the Jack Nicklaus Award for Division III. That included a trip to the Memorial Tournament in Ohio, to meet Nicklaus himself, during which Fedorka learned a little more about himself.

“I was excited and nervous when I woke up the Sunday morning in Ohio,” he said. “The car ride over to the Memorial, where we would be announced as one of the Nicklaus Award recipients, was a quiet one... at least for me. When I arrived, the other award recipients and I had a press conference with Jack, and we got to talk to him for a while. I also had to get some autographs of course. But meeting him gave me an extra shot of confidence and made me realize that I really am good at what I do.”

Ironically, Fedorka may have impressed first-year La Verne coach Eric Riehle more with his character off the course than with his ability on it.

“Mitch is a great player, but more importantly, he is an honorable and exemplary young man who represents his family, the golf program, and the University of La Verne in a very good light,” said Riehle, who suggested that when all is said and done, Fedorka could be considered the top player in the history of the SCIAC. “His confidence is what every coach loves to see in an elite level player. He carries our team through example alone. He has the ability to make other players better while continuing to focus on his improvement.”

In light of his talents, it’s amazing that Fedorka received little attention on the recruiting trail. Only former La Verne coach Rex Huigens, who guided the Leopards golf program to national prominence before his retirement in 2008, showed much interest.

“No school ever recruited me,” Fedorka said, “I talked to the coach of Loyola Marymount, but he ultimately decided to go with another player. I never thought of La Verne until I got a call from Coach Rex at the time. Rex is an amazing coach, teacher, but more importantly a person. After meeting him a couple of times I noticed that, and thought I could not pass up this great opportunity for me. Not to mention, they had a heck of a team.”

From there, Fedorka became acclimated to the collegiate game and began to flourish under the guidance of Huigens. La Verne won SCIAC titles in 2007 and 2008 while earning trips to the NCAA Championships. As a freshman, Fedorka was a member of the Leopards squad that finished second at the 2007 NCAA Championships. That Leopards squad featured All-Americans Rizal Amin and Chris Davis along with SCIAC Player of the Year Jordan Talah.

In the shadow of his more established teammates, Fedorka honed his game. Then, he emerged as a star his sophomore season, earning First Team All-SCIAC honors, and helping to lead La Verne to a second consecutive league title. The Leopards then placed ninth at the NCAA Championships.

Fedorka’s spectacular junior season followed, and now he heads into his senior campaign with a quest to reach a specific set of goals. With success comes expectations, but Fedorka embraces the challenge of maintaining his level of excellence for the season ahead.

“My personal goals are to win, and be the number one player in Division III again,” Fedorka said. “The Conference Final, the Sun Bowl, the NCAA Championships, any event I play in, I want to win. I set my goals high because I believe that’s the mentality anybody needs in a sport to succeed. Plus that is what I think I am capable of. And, of course, to have fun while doing so.”

Riehle says the resolve and quiet confidence Fedorka takes into each match will serve him well at the next level.

“There is one aspect in the game of golf that every great player has but cannot be taught,” Riehle said. “That is the focus, self-assurance, and grit to be able to win. These aspects allow him to grow as a player in collegiate golf and in the future as a professional player.”

Fedorka and his La Verne teammates have a little unfinished business left in the 2010 season. If they can avoid the freak accidents waiting out there to trip them up, they could all have much more to be thankful for this time next year.

“We want to do everything the same as last year except for one thing,” he said, “and that is to win a national title for the University of La Verne. Also, we want to have fun and enjoy the competitive nature within the team.”
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