



It's our Birthday year... We are turning 125! All are welcome for our Founder's Day celebrations the fourth week of April. We will have concerts, lectures, feasts and fairs. More information to come.

University of La Verne hosted the Western Regional Youth Conference over Martin Luther King Jr.'s weekend entitled *Becoming the Beloved Community*. We had nearly 45 high school students partake in campus tours, talks by La Verne's renowned religion professor, Richard Rose, and overall facilitation by On Earth Peace and District Youth Pastor, Dawna Welch. It was a moving and transformational experience for all.

As a private institution, the university is governed by a Board of Trustees. This body can be between 25 – 40 members. Currently we seat six Brethren Trustees: Mike Bidart, Mary Ann Davis, Mary Ann Melleby, Bob Dyer, David Shively, and Jim Long. The trustees range from educators to neurosurgeons and we have recently added our very first international trustee from Taiwan. We thank them for their continued wisdom and guidance.

Our Brethren Students enjoy 1/5 off their first year in tuition with an award of a Brethren scholarship in subsequent years. We have 15 Brethren students currently attending. Students have opportunities to take leadership in clubs, attend Brethren student dinners, and sometimes they have even preached in a local church! La Verne's welcome is wide for our Brethren students.

The university has hired an archivist, Ben Jenkins, who is a recent graduate and loves the history of our institution. In addition to organizing and categorizing

80 unmarked boxes, training interns to digitize our photo collection, Ben has established a video archives and a ULV YouTube channel. You can access it by going to <http://library.laverne.edu>. Videos and photos range from Lordsburg Academy period to alumni receptions just a few years ago. There are many interesting links on the Wilson Library page. Who knows, you might just see someone you know!

Our signature program, Summer Service, has reached a landmark of 60 years of serving churches, camps and social service agencies. This last summer we were able to, through generous donations, send 20 students out as far as Virginia and as close as Hillcrest. And a quote from one of our participants:

*... I am mostly thankful that the Summer Service Program and NCP taught me that I am physically, mentally, and emotionally stronger than I ever thought I was. This summer I lived some of the happiest and most peaceful moments of my life.*

The University of La Verne College of Law received full accreditation from the American Bar Association, an accomplishment gained through the implementation of innovative programs that have increased accessibility, enrollment and success for its students. Law School Dean Holmes said, "University of La Verne College of Law's enrollment has been on an upward trajectory the last four years, when law schools throughout the nation are suffering from decreased enrollment due to criticism about law schools' relevance, high cost, student debt and dwindling job prospects. We are proud to be recognized as leading change for law schools, and even prouder that our hard work has yielded full accreditation."

The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life spearheaded a new Interfaith Fellows program. This program selects student leaders who want to do high level interfaith education, dialogue and advocacy on campus. In this inaugural year, we had seven students who received the Interfaith Fellows Scholarship. They helped organize interfaith programs and events, led a workshop for our Sophomore La Verne Experience Course (SoLVE) on interfaith cooperation, and conducted research on the usefulness of interfaith skills for employers.

For any questions please contact Julie Wheeler, Director of Church and Interfaith Relations [jwheeler@laverne.edu](mailto:jwheeler@laverne.edu) 909-448-4686. I am happy to serve.