

Dear Leos,

From start to finish, 2020 was momentous. From the COVID-19 pandemic to state and national elections and increased activism for social justice, America experienced a dramatic year. In a community as vast as ours, the variety of that experience is kaleidoscopic. There is not one story to tell, but rather a mosaic to create. In this spirit, we invite you to participate in an interesting and inspiring community project.

Archives and Special Collections at the University of La Verne is embarking on an ambitious effort to document these historic times: **The La Verne 2020 Project**. We are collecting words and imagery—photographs, essays, journal entries, social media posts, etc.—that reflect your experiences over this past year. Your 2020 story is an important part of our collective community's history, and we want to see and hear you tell it in your own words.

What stands out to you as you reflect on your life this past year? What special things happened or didn't happen? What lessons were learned? What photos would you show your grandchildren in 50 years to convey what it was like to live here, now? Moments big or small, we want them all!

[Click here to submit your material](#). We can't wait to see how our Leo Family will share their memories. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Archivist Benjamin Jenkins directly at [bjenkins@laverne.edu](mailto:bjenkins@laverne.edu).

Best wishes for a peaceful and healthy new year,



*Kim Grant*

Kim Grant, Assistant Vice President of Alumni Engagement

## Commencement | Saturday, January 30

We invite you to support our new graduates by joining the University of La Verne's Virtual Commencement ceremonies for the classes of spring 2020 and winter 2021. All four college ceremonies will be livestreamed on Saturday, January 30. Links to view the livestreams and other commencement-related information will be accessible by visiting [the commencement website](#). Below are the times and keynote speakers for each college:

- **9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. – College of Law**  
David M. Goldstein, Esquire
- **11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – LaFetra College of Education**  
Ana Guerrero, Chief of Staff, Los Angeles Mayor's Office
- **1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. – College of Arts and Sciences**  
Dolores Huerta, American labor leader and civil rights activist
- **3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. – College of Business and Public Management**  
Jarrod B. McNaughton, CEO of Inland Empire Health Plan

Our virtual ceremonies will encapsulate the same communal spirit, energy, and excitement as past commencements. Graduates will be viewable on Zoom during their ceremonies and we encourage you to cheer and congratulate them on social media using the hashtags #ULVGrad and #LeosForLife. A social media chat function will populate on the screen during the event. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact [commencement@laverne.edu](mailto:commencement@laverne.edu).

[Commencement Website](#)



### Enter to Win a \$50 Bookstore Voucher

Why not start the new year off right with a new set of Leo pajamas, or a new University of La Verne golf shirt?

If you can get three friends to activate their profiles on [Leo Connect](#), we'll enter all four of you into a drawing for a \$50 campus bookstore voucher.

Email us at [alumni@laverne.edu](mailto:alumni@laverne.edu) to let us know who you invited. The winner will be announced on Valentine's Day on Facebook and Instagram. Good luck!



### Give Back with AmazonSmile

Did you know that you can support the University of La Verne every time you make an Amazon purchase?

AmazonSmile will donate .5% of your eligible purchases to the university. To sign up, visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and simply select "University of La Verne" as your charity of choice. Then, remember to shop from the AmazonSmile website every time you buy something. It's an easy and convenient way to make an impact and show your Leo love.

[Fill out this quick form](#) to let us know once you've signed up and you'll even receive

[Visit Leo Connect](#)

a small thank you gift from us in the mail.  
Happy shopping!

[Complete Form](#)

## 2021 Virtual Programming Survey Results

You spoke, we listened! More than 400 alumni responded to our recent programming survey. In a sure sign of the times, the strongest interest that emerged was in health-related programming—both physical and mental. Luckily, our [Randall Lewis Center for Well-Being and Research](#), along with our [Ludwick Center for Spirituality, Cultural Understanding, and Community Engagement](#), have really stepped up in the last year and provided an amazing array of virtual wellness programs for our larger campus community, including yoga, meditation, breathwork, and more! Alumni Engagement will soon partner with these colleagues to offer similar programs to our alumni. Stay tuned for details and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for updates.

Congratulations to Eva Rodriguez '00, MEd '03 for winning our first survey raffle! A cozy ULV sweatshirt is on its way to her as we speak.

Missed out the first time around? It's not too late to add your two cents—[fill out this quick survey](#) by Valentine's Day and we'll pull another winner!

[Complete Survey](#)

## Wishes Do Come True on Leo Connect



Several respondents to our alumni programming survey wrote that they “wish we had a free, digital alumni directory” and that they want to “post jobs to give alums first dibs.” They also remarked on how nice it would be “to talk to each other in small groups, not having to use Facebook or LinkedIn.”

Well guess what? We already have all that and more on [Leo Connect](#), our customized alumni networking site! More than 35 groups have formed on the platform, like [Leo Live](#) hosted by our Theatre Arts Department or [CAPA Alumni](#) enthusiastically managed by Angelina Fiore '16. You can [post a job](#) right now, and our Leo Business Directory will soon

be live.

Get 2021 started on firm footing. Get online and get connected with your Leo Family!

[Visit Leo Connect](#)



**Office of Alumni Engagement**

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