

Happy February!

First of all, a warm welcome to another group of Leo grads. At the end of last month, the University of La Verne held its first-ever [virtual commencement ceremonies](#) for the classes of Spring 2020 and Winter 2021. If you watched any of them, you know that the organizers did a brilliant job, creating virtual events that were celebratory and inspiring. We did our best to help out by sending surprise gift boxes to all the new Leos. Watch for the new alums on [Leo Connect](#) and drop a line to say hello!

We always love to hear from members of our Leo family near and far. Starting this month, the Alumni and Friends E-Newsletter will feature an Alumni Highlights section in every issue. In the past, these highlights were shared in the biannual VOICE magazine, but if there's anything the pandemic has taught us, it's that time is precious and good news should be celebrated often. So we invite you to [submit your news](#) about new jobs, awards, marriages, babies, travel adventures, and other life events you want your fellow Leos to know about.

Stay well, friends. Spring is coming!



Kim Grant

Kim Grant, Assistant Vice President of Alumni Engagement

Leo Life Coaching Event Series

Plotting Your Path—
Learning to Pivot



Leo Life Coaching

Amidst the flurry of last month, we launched a new series of talks designed to benefit both students and alumni. Our monthly Leo Life Coaching sessions

BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH

Black History Month

February is Black History Month! As we continue the fight for racial justice and equity, it is important to stop and recognize the many contributions that

feature members of our Alumni Advisory Board sharing wisdom gleaned from life and professional experience. The first session focused on [networking and job hunting tips](#), with a particular focus on first-generation students. Join us for our next session, which will focus on strategies for pivoting your career, on Wednesday, February 24, at 7 p.m. You can participate via Zoom or Facebook Live. If you can't make it live, all sessions will be archived [on our Facebook page](#).

[Register](#)

African Americans have made to this country. Our Center for Multicultural Services has [programmed a number of events this month](#) to both celebrate Black achievements and discuss difficult issues facing the community. We also encourage all Black Alumni to stay in touch with each other by joining the [ULV Black Alumni Affinity Group](#) on Facebook. And in case you missed it, here is a near-perfect performance of [Black excellence](#), courtesy of UCLA gymnast Nia Dennis. *Aché!*

[Events Calendar](#)



New! Alumni Highlights

Dr. Karen Pollard, MS '06, PsyD '10, was honored with [Brainz Magazine's 500 Global Award](#) recognizing entrepreneurial success, achievements, or dedication to help others. Capt. Josh Hannan '03 was named [firefighter of the year](#) by the Redlands Chamber of Commerce. Eric G. Jackson, MBA '12, has joined the board of directors of [Santa Barbara's Mental Wellness Center](#). Bruce Hines '80, son of the late Leopards coach Ben Hines (see below), has [joined the Los Angeles Angels](#) as first-base coach and outfield coach. Dr. Jasmine Shauna Ruys, EdD '06, is the new [Vice President of Student Services at College of the Canyons](#).

We hope you enjoyed this first edition of



Well-Being for Alumni

Through our recent alumni survey, a large number of you expressed your desire for more health and wellness programming, and we are delighted to deliver. Our friends at the Randall Lewis Center for Well-Being and Research have now opened up their virtual classes and lectures to all alumni, free of charge.

Bookmark the full menu of offerings at the link below, including yoga, Pilates, meditation, circuit training, and more. Click on a class to bypass normal campus registration requirements and go straight to the Zoom link, with an option to add the class to your Google or Outlook calendar. There is no need to use the RSVP button, which will require

our monthly Alumni Highlights. Got some news you want to share? Please drop us a line at the link below.

[Submit Your Story](#)

registration. We hope you find your new favorite routine to support a healthy body, mind, and spirit!

[Events Calendar](#)

In Memoriam

Gone but never forgotten



Since the start of the year, the University of La Verne campus community has been deeply saddened by the unexpected passing of no less than three beloved and esteemed community members. [Legendary Leopards baseball coach Ben Hines](#), who also coached for the Dodgers under the late Tommy Lasorda, passed away on January 13 at the age of 85. [Trustee Anthony LaFetra](#), who made the largest gift in the university's history to name the LaFetra College of Education, left us on January 29 at the age of 80. [Trustee Margaret Sedenquist](#), an influential supporter of the university's mission and icon of the Pasadena civic community, passed on February 9. All three left indelible imprints on the university that will not soon be forgotten. A [virtual memorial service](#) for Hines will take place on February 27; there is also an opportunity to donate to the [Ben Hines Memorial Baseball Fund](#), which directly supports Leopard baseball. Gifts in LaFetra's memory can be made to the [LaFetra Overcomer's Endowed Scholarship](#). Sedenquist's family and friends have set up the [Margaret Sedenquist Scholarship Fund](#) to honor her legacy; help them reach the \$100,000 endowment level by making a contribution.

Now on Leo Connect

More than 80 new members have joined Leo Connect, including Juliano Alezandro '04 and Diana Acosta MBA '13, who have also raised a paw to offer to help! In addition, kudos to Helen Brooks '10 who attended almost all of our [Ask Me Anything](#) series and was inspired to start a new Leo Connect group called [Concerned Citizens: Climate Change](#).

Work your network! If you are looking to hire, consider posting your job listing on Leo Connect to give our alums and students a first shot at the opportunity. [Here is a video tutorial](#) to show you how. Thanks to Dr. Ron Hurst, MS '06, MBA '09, posting his opening for a [Consultant for Developing Leaders, Inc.](#)

[Visit Leo Connect](#)



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