

LMU Update

Winter 2007 Issue

Office of Community & Government Relations

Loyola Marymount University

LMU Partners to Launch LMU Family of Schools



Terry Marcellus, Shane Martin, Marlene Canter, Robert B. Lawton, S.J., Kelly Kane, Anita Barner and Roy Romer

Last fall, Loyola Marymount University in conjunction with Westchester/Playa Education Foundation (WPEF) and the Neighborhood Council, initiated a partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District to improve academic performance at seven Westchester schools.

The partnership began through the grassroots efforts of a few parents, with the goal of improving academic achievement and graduation rates in our public schools. The seven schools include Westchester High School, Orville Wright Middle School, Cowan Avenue Elementary, Kentwood Elementary, Loyola Village Elementary, Paseo del Rey Elementary and Westport Heights Elementary.

“We see this partnership as a way to strengthen the educational pipeline in a community LMU has long supported,” said Shane Martin, dean of the School of Education at LMU. “This collaboration will not just make a difference in thousands of students, but it’s

also something that can be modeled in the future, across the state and country.”

The five-year partnership allows LMU to provide professional development services and support to the Westchester schools by offering assistance in gathering and analyzing data to improve instruction, implementing a mentoring program for staff and faculty, helping to develop Small Learning Communities and locating partners within the business community. Additionally, LMU will offer assistance in math and science instruction, special education, English Language Learners, school counseling and psychology and other programs.

First-year efforts will focus on planning and assessing the local schools. LMU’s School of Education will examine and focus attention on student/teacher placement, intern placement, targeted professional development and tutoring.

Dear Neighbor:

Happy New Year!

There are several new and exciting ventures that LMU is embarking on as it strives to educate tomorrow’s leaders: The LMU Family of Schools, LMU For Others Mentoring program, and the launch of the Community Web site, all of which you will learn more about as you peruse the pages of this update.

The Web site can be found at www.lmu.edu/community. It contains information regarding LMU’s economic impact, volunteerism, environmental responsibility, government relations, neighborhood relations and calendar of public events. Additionally, you can sign up to receive LMU’s news and events e-newsletter.

Special thanks go out to all of you who have taken the time to share your suggestions on ways to improve our communication with the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clarence Griffin'.

Clarence Griffin
Director of Community and
Local Government Relations



INSIDE this Issue

- 2 | International Journalists Visit LMU
- 3 | Community Clean Up Day a Big Success

New Office Formed to Address Student/Neighbor Relations

Working within the university's mission to educate the whole person, LMU has developed the Office of Off-Campus Student Life. It provides programs, support and services for LMU students living off campus with efforts directed toward building positive community relations and developing life-long citizenship.

Jade Smith, assistant dean for student affairs, oversees the office and works in conjunction with the office of Community and Local Government Relations to encourage and improve student neighbor relations.

Belles Volunteer at the Polls

The presence of the LMU Belles, a service organization, was invaluable at this year's record setting Neighborhood Council elections. For two days, students checked in stakeholders and collected ballots. "It was amazing to see so many members of the community come out and vote, and everyone greeted each other so warmly – a lovely thing to see in Southern California," said Mali Glisson, a member of the Belles, about her volunteer experience.

Update on "LMU for Others"

The "LMU for Others" pilot mentoring program paired off 26 Westchester High School students with a LMU staff mentor. The one-on-one time has greatly benefited students. Included in the mentors list is Ernest Rose, senior vice president and chief academic officer at LMU. The program is in collaboration with Catholic Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Laurie David Speak on Global Warming

Leading environmentalists Laurie David and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. spoke at Loyola Marymount University about "Crimes Against Nature" and the urgency for all Americans to join in the cause to stop global warming.

"We have to have a serious and immediate shift in attitude," said David to the students, faculty, community members and special guests gathered in Gersten Pavilion on Wednesday, Nov. 1. When it comes to global warming, she believes people fall into the extreme categories of denial or despair, without pausing in the middle to remedy the problem.

She emphasized "the power of one" and encouraged the audience to join the Stop Global Warming Virtual March, a non-political

“ We can not have a democracy if we don't have an informed public, said Kennedy. ”

effort to unite voices and urge the United States to address global warming. David has produced multiple documentaries that bring the issue of global warming into mainstream culture. Most recently, she produced "An Inconvenient Truth" based on former Vice President Al Gore's thirty years of research on the topic.

Following her remarks, Kennedy, who initially inspired David to pursue her environmentalist endeavors, directly charged the current Bush administration and the press for the heightened warming crisis. "We can not have a democracy if we don't have an informed public," said Kennedy. He argued that the press is being driven by five major corporations which keep Americans entertained, but not informed. "The kind of



Councilman Bill Rosendahl presenting City of Los Angeles proclamations to Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Laurie David

stories that the public need to understand about the environment are not coming through," said Kennedy.

Kennedy is Chief Prosecuting Attorney for Riverkeeper, an organization that safeguards Hudson River's ecological integrity. He has successfully worked on environmental issues across the Americas and was named one of *Time* magazine's "Heroes for the Planet."

International Journalists Visit LMU

The Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at LMU participated in the first Los Angeles Sister Cities Visiting Journalist Fellowship last fall. The center organized presentations by Fernando Guerra, CSLA director and Mara Marks, associate professor of urban studies, about the city's challenges in the areas of transportation, housing, public safety and the environment for journalists representing China, Japan, New Zealand and the Philippines. The program is an initiative of Councilman Tom LaBonge to reinvigorate the Los Angeles Sister Cities Program.

LMU to Build New Library

The new William H. Hannon Library, which is scheduled to break ground in the latter part of 2007, will enhance the educational experience of our student community, promote greater collaboration among faculty and staff, and incorporate key features essential to learning, communicating and achieving success in a digital age. It will also serve as a tribute to one of the university's most treasured and honored benefactors.

Designed for a vacant parcel at the northern end of campus, the new William H. Hannon Library will provide the "campus center" approved as part of the Master Plan

for LMU's Leavey Campus. The library will house 88,000 square feet of library space in three floors and will provide for many amenities.

The architectural firm of DMJM Design drew upon the artistic harmony represented by the image of a circle inscribed within a square. This harmony serves as the basis for the plan of the William H. Hannon Library. The library will incorporate environmentally sensitive design elements and materials, in accordance with the LMU philosophy of good environmental stewardship.

Community Clean Up Day a Big Success



Left to right: Christal Laudle, Clarence Griffin, Jimmy Abe, TJ Wheeler, Cornelious Burke, Mike Giordiano, Devon Kelts and Scott Rowan.

Last fall, more than 30 LMU students took to the streets to join members of the Westchester community for a "Clean Up Day." In less than three hours, participants cleaned Sepulveda Blvd. from Manchester to the 405 Freeway, one of the most traveled thoroughfares in the area. The event was initiated by LMU's Office of

Off-Campus Student Life and the Center for Service and Action. It included the participation of Councilman Bill Rosendahl's Office, Westchester Vitalization Corporation and other local grassroots organizations. Plans for the 2007 clean-up are currently underway.

First English Learner Research Center of its Kind in the Country Opens

LMU's School of Education opened an English learner education research center, thanks to a generous donation from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation.

"There is no existing center like it in the nation," said Shane Martin, dean of the School of Education. "This center will serve as a critical resource to resolve a local, statewide and national crisis and transform the lives of countless numbers of students who will not succeed without better educational opportunities."

The Center for Equity and Excellence in English Learner Education and Research (CE⁴R) addresses the challenges immigrant students or the children of immigrants who speak another language at home face in the classroom. It prepares teachers in appropriate and specialized instructional techniques that can help students learn English and instruct them in other subject matters despite language limitations, thus improving students' skills, confidence, job-preparedness and wage-earning potential.

LMU's Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles is collaborating with CE⁴R by conducting related research on leadership and policymaking in the Los Angeles education sector.

Have questions?

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LMU Update

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LMU Events Calendar

Art at Laband Gallery

Xposition: Recent Work by LMU Studio Arts Faculty*

January 25 – March 10

Featuring some of the most recent art created by the 10 full-time studio faculty of LMU's Department of Art and Art History, this exhibition will not only highlight a wide range of media, but will also explore diverse yet unifying themes present in the work. There will be an opening reception Jan. 25 from 4:30 – 8 pm.

23rd Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition*

April 13 – May 5

This popular exhibition is comprised of the work of LMU Studio Arts majors and students enrolled in studio arts courses. It will showcase a variety of media and techniques with selections made by jurors prominent in the Southern California arts community. A reception will take place April 26 from 5 – 7 pm.

Dance

An Evening of Music and Dance from Indonesia and West Africa

April 14 at 8 pm

Annual Student Dance Concert

April 18 – 21 at 8 pm & April 22 at 3 pm

Music

LMU Guitar Series: Minneapolis Guitar Quartet in concert

January 27 at 8 pm

The Sinatra Opera Workshop presents Scenes from The Coronation of Poppea*

Feb. 23 – 24 at 8 pm & Feb. 25 at 3 pm

LMU Choruses Pre-Tour Concert

March 16 at 8 pm

3rd Annual LMU Guitar Festival

March 16 – 18

LMU Choruses: 42nd Annual Spring Chorale

April 28 at 8 pm

Theater

The Fury Project

January 24 – 27 & 31 – February 3 at 8 pm

This Place on Third Avenue

February 15 – 17 & 21 – 24 at 8 pm

A Chorus Line

March 21 – 25 & 28 – April 1 at 8 pm

Cloud Nine

April 24 – 28 at 8 pm

Lecture Series

Urban Lecture Series: Mobilization in Los Angeles*

The 8–10 guest lecture Series focuses on pressing issues facing Los Angeles, debate and solutions for civic action. The series brings together top government officials and community leaders on panels that interact with students and the public.

LA in Film Feb. 1; **Scholars of LA** Feb. 8; **Commentators of LA** Feb. 15; **Education** Feb. 22; **Elections: Exit Polls and More** March 15;

Political Infrastructure March 22; **Mobilization** March 29; **Physical and Mental Health** April 5; **LA Riots 15th Anniv & Recovery of Cities** April 19
For more information, visit www.lmu.edu/csla

*Denotes free events, for all others contact the Central Ticket Agency at 310.338.7588. The Laband Art Gallery is open Wednesday through Sunday from Noon – 4 pm.



Wine Classic 2007

Join LMU on February 11 for an unforgettable wine tasting event featuring more than 150 wines. Meet with owners and vintners from 46 prestigious boutique California wineries. There also will be a silent auction of specialty wines, wine country packages and products. All proceeds benefit LMU student scholarships. For more information and to buy tickets, please call 310.338.5278 or log onto www.lmu.edu/wineclassic.