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December 12, 2005

Dr. Antonio Nassar
28938 Mirada Circulo
Valencia, CA 91354-1587

Dear Antonio,

As a UCLA Extension Instructor of exemplary devotion, you have been the face of our institution to the students whose lives you have enhanced through your teaching, guidance, and many acts of professional and personal generosity. In addition, you have advanced the well-being and standards of excellence of our institution more broadly through contributions to Extension that have gone well beyond your classroom dedication.

For many years as dean, I have wanted to be able to acknowledge special individuals like you, to celebrate the best of our instructors and promote excellence, and above all to demonstrate our institutional recognition of your personal—and all instructors' collective—role in assuring UCLA Extension's exalted standing among university continuing education programs.

Accordingly I have the great pleasure of announcing that I have selected you and about 20 of your colleagues from across Extension's many fields of instruction to be recipients of the first ever Dean's Distinguished Instructor Award. You collectively represent about 1% of Extension instructors, as our active instructor cadre numbers close to 2500. You will be honored at a dinner on Friday, January 20th, at the UCLA Faculty Center. (An official invitation for you and a guest will be sent out in the weeks ahead.)

You are probably aware that I myself will be stepping down as dean early next year. The need to launch a process of institutional instructor recognition had been an unfulfilled ambition for me for some time; so even though I am leaving UCLA myself, the establishment of this award and the inaugural awards dinner will constitute a precedent that I am certain my successors will build upon. And on a personal and a professional level, I am grateful to be able to do this.

Please know that because of the great numbers of worthy candidates, for this first year I have established a special criterion for the first Dean's Award, namely a focus primarily upon Instructors of longstanding, whose commitment to Extension spans the 15 plus years of my deanship. There are many others worthy of selection, and I am hopeful that they will be recognized in subsequent years. But it gives me particular pleasure to count you among the first recipients, and be able to affix my name to your award.

Eve Haberfield joins me in congratulating you for your selection as do key academic and administrative leaders, including Associate Deans David Menninger and Maida Hastings and Instructor Development head, Joyce Manson. We all keenly hope that you will be able to be present next January 20th. You have our abiding gratitude for your devotion to UCLA Extension in the past, present, and we trust, well into the future.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Lapiner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a checkmark at the end.

Robert Lapiner
Dean
Continuing Education & UCLA Extension

Cc: Eve Haberfield