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Laguna College of Art & Design Professor Chronicles *Van Gogh's Untold Journey*

VAN GOGH'S UNTOLD JOURNEY: Revelations of Faith, Family, & Artistic Inspiration, a beautifully presented, 300+ page, manuscript containing more than 30 black and white and color plates is scheduled for worldwide release in January 2010. Authored by LCAD professor and art historian Dr. William Havlicek, *Van Gogh's Untold Journey* is a thoughtful and sensitive study of Van Gogh through the lens of his correspondence. Havlicek also examined in detail the artist's personal life and the historical period in which he worked, drawing on the writings of historians, philosophers, art historians, literary critics and scholars of religion. The result is a complex picture of the artist and his religious and artistic ambitions. The *Untold Journey* is the captivating story of Van Gogh's struggle to transform the profane into the sacred through acts of atonement in his life and his art.

"I have long been interested in what motivates an artist like Van Gogh to create. Writing a book about him was one way to find out. Being a painter myself was another way. In a real sense, it was through both of these ways that I found answers to my question about artistic motivations. It was a discovery that took me into the heart of human motivation itself and the wells of spiritual, cultural and natural power that feed artistic life," said Dr. Havlicek.

The book explores undiscovered aspects of Van Gogh. Such things as his relationship with other artists, his deeply held moral and ethical views, his use of literature as a catalyst for his art, his profound understanding and striking nearly parallel life with that of Charles Dickens. "There is an unknown, adventurous, remarkable, compassionate man who seems to have been lost in the dramatic stories surrounding his illness and early death," he continued. "My effort is to resurrect an unknown aspect of Van Gogh - one that is even heroic and certainly praiseworthy and profoundly religious in the best sense of the word."

Dr. William Havlicek has over 30 years of experience in college teaching, museum administration, publishing and fine art/studio production and exhibition. He holds a PhD from Claremont Graduate University and is a graduate of the University of Iowa with both Masters of Arts and Masters of Fine Arts degrees. He currently teaches at Laguna College of Art & Design.

The book is being published by Creative Storytellers, a Dutch based American company, and will be available at www.WilliamHavlicek.com. Creative Storytellers contributes more than half of its profits to the rescue, safety, treatment, and rehabilitation of trafficked, exploited, and endangered children worldwide. Every book purchased makes an enormous difference to the future of just one destitute child.

Image:

Cover - *Van Gogh's Untold Journey*

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Laguna College of Art & Design is a private, not-for-profit college where outstanding artist-educators, visual arts programs, state-of-the-art facilities, and year-round exhibitions give fresh vision to Laguna's extraordinary legacy in the visual arts. Founded in 1961, the college educates artists at all stages of their creative careers, offering Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in Drawing and Painting, Graphic Design, Illustration, Game Art and Animation, and a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting.