

# Common Interests, Networking Opportunities

By Kimberly Berry Jones

PLNU is a place of strong relationships. One way that's reflected is in its many alumni auxiliary associations.

Through auxiliaries, alumni and friends of the university with common interests connect with each other, with the university and offer support to academic disciplines.

"Auxiliaries foster relationship-building among alumni," said Sheryl Smee, director of Alumni Relations. "It's also a comfortable environment in which to reconnect with PLNU," said Smee. "Each auxiliary has creative ways to support an area of the university."

For Point Loma to have 14 auxiliaries is unusual. Smee receives inquiries from other institutions asking how PLNU has accomplished such a feat. She credits alumni.

"Auxiliaries are alumni-created, alumni-perpetuated and alumni-funded," she said.

Here is a brief description of PLNU's alumni auxiliaries.

**Alumni in Business:** Alumni in Business was launched in March 2005 to reach all alumni in business, not just business majors. It will provide networking for alumni as well as support for current students in the School of Business by sponsoring speaker forums and helping students network and find jobs.

**Education Associates:** Education Associates awards scholarships to undergraduate and graduate education students. Education Associates is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year with a breakfast on Commencement Saturday, May 14.

**Friends of Forensics:** Friends of Forensics supports the university's nationally recognized debate and speech programs. It, along with the class of 1960, has established an endowed scholarship in honor of speech professor emeritus James Jackson Sr. Members are also called upon to judge forensics tournaments.

**Latino Alumni Associates:** Striving to help Latino alums reconnect with the university, the Latino Alumni Associates has a fund to help students buy textbooks and it is raising funds to launch an endowed scholarship for Latino students.

**Math/Computer Science Auxiliary:** In addition to networking and knowledge sharing, the Math/Computer Science Auxiliary supports the Mathematical, Information and Computer Sciences department by providing internships, summer research support and alumni speakers. It also hosts an alumni event each Homecoming.

**MUSICAlumni:** MUSICAlumni facilitates ongoing relationships between music alumni, provides support to the music department and awards an annual scholarship. MUSICAlumni hosts several events during Homecoming and Commencement each year.

**Nursing Alumni Association:** The Nursing Alumni Association mentors new nurses, awards scholarships, and provides a way for graduates to give back to their alma mater. It publishes a newsletter and hosts an annual Homecoming brunch.

**Phi Delta Lambda:** Phi Delta Lambda is the national honor society for the educational institutions of the Church of the Nazarene. Students ranked in the top 15 percent of each graduating class are inducted into Phi Delta Lambda during Commencement weekend.

**Point Loma Sports Associates:** Point Loma Sports Associates (PLSA) unites alumni and friends in support and promotion of the university's athletic program. PLSA funds equipment, scholarships, sponsorship of tournaments, sports banquets and team travel.

**Political Science Alumni & Friends:** This auxiliary cultivates contacts among political science alumni and creates opportunities for future political science graduates. Quarterly networking receptions are held in San Diego and one major event is planned each year to bring alumni and students together.

**Philosophy/School of Theology and Christian Ministry Associates:** This auxiliary fosters networking between students and those in full-time ministry, as well as provides prayer support, scholarships and grants to support faculty development and equipment. A scholarship in honor of Frank C. Carver is awarded annually.

**Psych Associates:** Psych Associates exists to facilitate networking and professional development opportunities for psychology alumni. It also supports the ongoing development of the department of Psychology through scholarships and program development.

**Research Associates:** Research Associates was started in 1977 by alumni who recognized that undergraduate research must be a part of a high-quality science program. Today, more than 300 alumni of the Biology and Chemistry departments are involved and provide support for research, scholarships, conference attendance and recruitment efforts. The auxiliary has set a \$2 million goal towards a new science complex.

**Women's Auxiliary:** The Women's Auxiliary started in 1967 with a dream to directly enhance the lives of students. To date, the Women's Auxiliary has raised more than \$1.6 million to provide building renovations, lighting, new walkways, sculptures, and other projects on campus, which benefit all students.

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Above: One of the most recent projects of the Women's Auxiliary was the construction of the Sunset Deck, just west of Nicholson Commons. The Sunset Deck was dedicated at a ceremony during Homecoming 2004.

Below: Just a few of the members of the Women's Auxiliary who helped to raise funds for the Sunset Deck.

For more information, contact names and web sites for these auxiliaries, visit [www.ptloma.edu/alumni/ada.htm](http://www.ptloma.edu/alumni/ada.htm)