

# PLNU bids farewell and thank

By Joseph Pena



**Beverly Foster | Graduate Education**

Born and raised in San Diego, Foster earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at San Diego State University. She worked in the San Diego School District as a teacher, principal and an area superintendent for 40 years. While an administrator in the district, she taught as an adjunct at PLNU from 1983 to 1996.

Jo Birdsell, director of graduate education at PLNU, said Foster's personal and professional impact on the program and her colleagues will be missed.

"On a professional level, she

The view wasn't always the best for Beverly Foster. In 1978, Foster sat in the portable classroom buildings near Golden Gymnasium working toward her degree in graduate education at PLNU. After leaving in 1980 and earning her doctorate through a joint program with Northern Arizona University, Foster found herself back in the portable buildings as an adjunct professor of graduate education in 1983.

Two decades later Foster has enjoyed the view from her Mission Valley office where the grad ed program moved in 2000. And the view only gets better from here.

Foster has retired from PLNU, though she plans to do adjunct work in the fall.

Foster will renew some of her old hobbies in her free time—painting, cooking, reading—and she plans to travel to Italy in July.

really sees the big picture of her program," said Birdsell, noting Foster work with the California Association of Professors of Educational Administration. "She knows everything about the field of educational leadership in advance. Her expertise in her area will be sorely missed."

Birdsell also called Foster a personal mentor who has coached her in many ways.

Gennifer Bell from the University of North Carolina at Fayetteville will fill the vacant spot in the graduate education program. Sue Bentley, the assistant superintendent of Carlsbad (Calif.) Unified School District, will also join the staff. Birdsell is excited at the expertise and knowledge the two will bring to the program.

"She [Bentley] is versed in policy and had run doctoral programs, so now we're poised for the next step," said Birdsell. ♦



**Jeanie Milliken |**

The view for Jeanie Milliken was never that bad. In 1970, Milliken looked out from in Evans Hall before Pasadena College bought California Western University's property in Point Loma. Milliken, a student at Cal Western, was working toward her master's degree and would later graduate from United States International University (now Alliant) with her Ph.D. in human behavior and educational leadership.

She did not know that 30 years later she would be packing her office in the same building at PLNU, ready for whatever life had in store for her next.

Milliken, professor of education, served as director of Point Loma's well-regarded teacher education program. Jo Birdsell, PLNU's director of graduate education,

# Thank you to retiring faculty

likened Milliken’s professional expertise to Bev Foster’s.

“Jeanie’s leadership put our teacher credential program on the map,” said Birdsell. Her role as director of the program “made it more proactive and able to move to the next step,” according to Birdsell.

Christie Pearson, the credential analyst for teacher education, has worked with Milliken for 13 years. She said Milliken had a heart for teaching.

“Jeanie is such an amazing person and mentor, not only to me

## Teacher Education

but to countless students,” said Pearson. “She has the highest integrity ... and her teaching is of the highest caliber.”

Milliken is excited for this new phase in her life. The view is going to be much different for her now. She plans to travel to Italy and Hawaii with her family and spend more time with her grandchildren.

Though she may return after next fall to work as an adjunct professor in teacher education, Milliken is anxious to take time for her own interests. ♦

**“Jeanie’s leadership put our teacher credential program on PLNU on the map.”**



## John Pearson | Economics

when he does—the rest of us listen. He has a way of cutting directly to the core issues,” said Gene Shea, chair of Accounting, Business and Economics.

At Pearson’s retirement banquet, Becky Havens, PLNU associate provost for faculty development, called Pearson a solid and committed member of the business faculty and a “dear colleague and [a] long time friend.”

“John certainly has been a public servant and a departmental contributor,” said Havens. “He is also an investor in people—John

**T**he view has always been the best for John Pearson, who has had box seats for many historical events.

Pearson has flown combat flights over Vietnam in the Vietnam War; he worked in the executive office of the president during Watergate and he was present when John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Texas.

Now, as he retires, the pace will slow for Pearson. A professor of accountancy, business and economics, Pearson earned his master’s of arts degrees in political science and public policy and administration from the University of Wisconsin. He also has a bachelor of science in social science and general engineering. He has owned four small businesses and is a certified public accountant.

“John does not speak a lot in department faculty meetings, but

devoted over half of his career to an investment in students.”

Alumna Jennifer Oakes Boswell, now a financial analyst with the FBI, says Pearson helped shape her decision to pursue accounting as a major and called him a caring educator.

Far from the danger and excitement that he has experienced, Pearson hopes to spend more time reading, writing, traveling and exercising. He also plans to achieve his goal of visiting all 57 U.S. National Parks. He’s been to 43 so far.

And though the pace of life will calm considerably, Pearson insists: “I’m only retiring from teaching, not from life.” ♦

**“I’m only retiring from teaching, not from life.”**