

The shaping mission of PLNU

Recently, I spent some time reviewing the 2002 Annual Report that is sent to the generous donors of Point Loma Nazarene University. The theme of the report is a metaphor of the shaping creativity of a potter and the shaping influence and development of the people in the Point Loma educational experience. It is a wonderful reminder of and testimony to the university's pivotal mission commitment to teach, shape and send students who are highly educated, spiritually growing and committed to engage their world. After all, shaping, like making pottery, is a hands-on, personal experience that creates unique and wonderful results.

A potter doesn't come to the creative task easily. It takes years of learning, work, practice, and improvement to become a master. A few years ago, while watching a potter give demonstrations of his craft at the Wedgwood center in England, I began to ask him some questions. One question I asked was this, "How long has it taken you to learn how to do your work?" His answer was priceless. This accomplished potter replied, "Oh, I've only been doing this for twenty-six years, I am merely an apprentice. I am always learning and seeking new ways to shape my craft. Someday, I hope to become a master craftsman."

When I think about the mission of Point Loma Nazarene University and the people who carry out that

mission every day, I am reminded of the English potter. Our faculty and staff have spent their entire adult lives preparing for this time and for these students. Extensive graduate study, professional development, research, writing, teaching and many other experiences have prepared them for the creative art of teaching and shaping the lives of students, individual students, each day of every semester. But the task is never completed. The continuing efforts to teach and shape students require that learning and application be expanded and personalized day after day. However, the teaching and shaping is only the beginning, merely the start of what is intended to be a lifetime love of learning and growing that is instilled in those students who have been sent from Point Loma Nazarene University.

Unlike the potter, many "hands" are a part of the shaping that occurs at Point Loma. The shaping happens, certainly through the events and influences of the university community, but it also occurs as a result of the support and involvement of many others who provide scholarships, capital support, annual gifts and life estates. Without the financial support of Point Loma's friends, much of the shaping that is so vital to students could not occur. I thank each friend of PLNU for your special role in this shaping effort.



President Bob Brower

Today, the shaping mission of Point Loma Nazarene University is being fulfilled, and the results are beautiful, gifted, unique and valuable students with a lifetime of potential and promise.

For more than 100 years the university has been sending students on their way, shaped individually and uniquely, to invest their lives in the challenges and opportunities of their world. Today, the shaping mission of Point Loma Nazarene University is being fulfilled, and the results are beautiful, gifted, unique and valuable students with a lifetime of potential and promise.

As we begin this new year, I invite you to be actively involved in shaping the future through the students of Point Loma. Your gift, prayers, involvement and support will make a difference in the shaping "hands" of Point Loma Nazarene University.

A verse from 3 John 6 says it well, "...You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God." Thank you for your commitment to help send those who have been shaped as students at Point Loma Nazarene University. ▼

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Brower".