



President Bob Brower

Excellence, Abroad or at Home

Since the beginning of spring semester, I've talked with many students who were away from campus last fall participating in PLNU's International Studies program. I am always encouraged to hear about the new insights, knowledge, understanding, cultures and people students encountered. Some studied art, literature, and language in England and France. Others studied in Italy, Germany, Spain or Costa Rica. Several studied in 16 countries through the Semester at Sea program. For all, it was a time of learning and maturing that pressed them to new levels in their academic, spiritual and personal lives.

As I've talked with students and faculty involved in international studies, I've reflected on the work we have done in the last two years to fine-tune our mission statement. The essence has been captured in the words, *Teach, Shape, Send*. Our mission fulfillment occurs simultaneously, not sequentially. The real challenge of great teaching is the engagement of the whole person, intellectually, spiritually and personally, in action and application. This mission, while dramatically demonstrated in study abroad, is the driving force of all education. Teaching, shaping and sending require extraordinary effort, not accomplished casually, but by intentional improvement and the desire to multiply the gifts and talents with which God has blessed PLNU.

I've been looking at the university's mission in the context of Jim Collins's best-selling book, *Good to Great*. Collins's proposition is that "good is the enemy of great." Too often organizations, schools and churches settle for what is good and fail to make the commitment to become an organization that sustains great results—the results that fully accomplish the organization's mission. Collins believes that there must be a search for those timeless principles that create enduring, great organizations and great people.

When I consider PLNU's variety of learning experiences, the commitment of faculty to improve teaching, the environment of inquiry and research, the attention to spiritual growth and faithful service, and the breadth of resources available, I'm confident that the work of fulfilling mission and developing great people is a "good to great" effort that occurs each day at Point Loma. Whether it's learning internationally or the discovery of something new in a classroom, students are being taught, shaped and sent through timeless principles of faith in God through Christ, excellence in education and profession and service as a way of life.

The mission to *Teach, Shape and Send* is a powerful force when it is focused on the potential of students and their futures. Moving from good to great becomes more than just a phrase; greatness becomes the sustaining result that graduates express through their lives. "Good to great" is about developing great people who are centered in Christ and available to be used by him in every aspect of personal and professional life. That's Point Loma's mission with purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Brower". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS SHAPING UP

Nease Hall expansion, administration and business buildings progressing on schedule

The three construction projects on PLNU's San Diego campus are moving along well, say those close to the work.

The projects are a new 17,200-square-foot administration building; a 15,000-square-foot building for the department of Accountancy, Business and Economics; and a 17,000-square-foot addition to Nease Residence Hall. The construction is scheduled to continue through the fall of 2004.

Workers at the site of the future administration building are preparing to pour grade beams for the foundation. Excavation for the new business building is under way.

The framing of the Nease addition is finished and the roofing is going up. Nease Hall, on the north end of campus directly west of Mieras, has for years been limited to room for 300 freshmen and sophomore women. The expansion will add 96 beds for residential students.

The additional space will allow more students to live on campus instead of commuting daily, reducing their overall cost and helping to cut down on commuter traffic on Lomaland Drive.

"We're right on schedule," said Calvin Biggers, maintenance manager.

Some of PLNU's heritage will be built into these projects, literally. Last fall the concrete from Rohr North, which was demolished to make way for the business building, was crushed for recycling. The recycled concrete will be used in these building projects.

For more information on PLNU's construction projects, go to www.ptloma.edu/NewsEvents or contact Archie Yates, community liaison, at 619.849.3336 or archieyates@ptloma.edu.

—AKP

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ON THE COVER
Images from Point Loma's International Studies programs by Eugene Harris, Aubrey Coon and Kathryn Milburn

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Teach, Shape and Send
Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

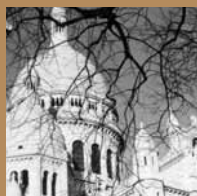
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viewpoint

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PLNU ISSUES TICKETS FOR UNDERGRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

To accommodate crowds, PLNU will issue tickets to each 2004 graduate for the annual undergraduate Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 15.

Over the past 30 years, since the university moved to San Diego, the number of graduates has virtually tripled; and accordingly so has the Commencement crowd.

"The university has made every consideration to accommodate the growth; so much so that we are now looking seriously at issues of safety and security created by having an oversized crowd in the Amphitheatre," said Keith Bell, associate provost of academic affairs.

To address the growth, the university divided into separate convocations for undergraduate and graduate students. Consideration has also been given to moving the ceremony to an off-campus location such as the San Diego Sports Arena. But with the history and tradition of graduating in the Greek so much a part of the Point Loma experience, that option was dismissed.

The only other viable alternative is to limit the number of tickets made available to each graduate. This will ensure that each graduate has family members in attendance, a solution that has worked well for other universities.

Tickets will be available to graduates beginning on March 15, 2004. For a complete Commencement schedule, visit the web at www.ptloma.edu/commencement.