



Sandy Foster, David Strawn, and Kay Harkins. Not pictured: Maxine Walker.

David Strawn

Passionate about mathematics, music, sports, art, and literature, Dr. David Strawn has been called a Renaissance man. It's a term that seems fitting for a man whose 37-year story at Point Loma reflects the heart of this place.

In 1971, Strawn came to Point Loma on the recommendation of faculty emeritus Dr. Bill Hobbs and quickly established a reputation as an excellent teacher, the consummate classroom professor. In 1990, he was asked to become the new dean of liberal arts. In 1997, he took on the added position of associate provost for international studies. His most recent title has been vice provost for international studies and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Strawn has handled staffing, budget, and curriculum development with professionalism and heart. His faith has informed everything he has done, from managing academic equipment and renovation to developing the international studies program. Among the responsibilities he has most enjoyed are faculty recruitment and study abroad – a program that has grown to

national prominence. Teaching will also remain dear to his heart.

"I just loved to teach a class that students *had* to take. When a student would look at me and say, 'You really like this [math] stuff, don't you?' I'd know I had an influence. That kind of feedback from a class is a pretty good feeling," he said.

In looking back over his career, Strawn reflected on some of its most significant moments.

"I'll never forget asking President Brown about the purpose of the university. He said it was to provide the highest quality education with Jesus Christ as the focus," said Strawn, who believes that purpose has never been stronger at PLNU than it is today. Other memorable occasions he noted were being named dean and witnessing the outpouring of affection and appreciation when he announced his retirement.

After 40 total years in Nazarene higher education, Strawn plans to play more golf, to enjoy greater flexibility in his schedule, to spend time with his family, and to continue his annual fishing trips with Hobbs, who is still his close friend.

Sandy Foster

by Starlin Welsh

After dedicating 38 years to mentoring countless students through academic and personal pursuits, Sandy Foster, professor of family and consumer sciences with an emphasis in child development, has decided to retire. She says her time has arrived.

"I want to leave while I am still wanted. I don't want to overstay my welcome. It feels like the right time; I feel at peace about the decision," Foster said.

A Pasadena College graduate, Foster didn't originally consider teaching as a career possibility until the "doors opened" for a position in Amarillo, Texas. After two years of teaching there, Foster accepted the invitation to teach at Pasadena College.

Upon arriving at Pasadena, she was welcomed by professor and men's golf coach Ben Foster. Shortly after their initial coffee date, the two began dating and were married the next year.

Foster has played an important part in making the family and

consumer sciences department what it is today. When she began, it was a very small program under the education department called Home Economics. It is now its own department with five majors, all of which Foster has helped design.

"She has always been a wonderful team player in the department," said Dr. Kay Wilder, department chair. The two were the only department faculty for 10 years. "All faculty members within the department respect her very much."

One of Foster's former students and current professor of child development, Susan Rogers, remembers Foster's encouraging nature, always reassuring and teaching her to "be brave enough to dream."

"She has such a presence of calming, such a presence of knowledge, and a very deep, open understanding," Rogers said.

Although she is stepping down from her position as a full-time professor, Foster will continue to teach part time as an adjunct. She plans to stay in touch with former colleagues and students and will continue to have students over to her home. Foster also intends to take a course in financial planning and to spend more time with her mother, who lives in Foster's native Texas, and grandson.

Family and Consumer Sciences has created an endowed scholarship in Foster's name. To contribute, please visit www.pointloma.edu/GiveOnline.

Maxine Walker

Dr. Maxine Walker, professor of literature and director of the Wesleyan Center for 21st Century Studies, is known for both her creativity and her diligence. A faculty member at PLNU from 1987 to 1991 and 1993 to 2008, Walker is retiring this year after giving 37 years to Nazarene higher education.

In addition to the significant influence Walker has had on her students, she has been instrumental in helping the university achieve its vision of being “a nationally prominent Christian university and a leading Wesleyan voice in higher education and the church” through her work with the Wesleyan Center. Through her leadership, the center articulates a Wesleyan voice through numerous disciplines by providing faculty research grants, fellowships, national conferences, and support for visiting scholars. Much of the scholarly work of the center has been published by Point Loma Press, also directed by Walker, and has contributed to articulating a Wesleyan voice.

“Maxine has brought a breadth of ideas and context, as well as a very creative mind to the center’s work,” said Dr. Ron Kirkemo, who originally presented the vision for a Wesleyan Center to past PLNU president Jim Bond. “She has been just what the center needed.”

Kirkemo also praised Walker for her creativity in putting together the

center’s conferences and seminars and its honors colloquium.

Walker’s colleague at Duke Divinity School, Dr. Randy Maddox, professor of theology and Wesleyan studies, summarized the sentiments of many at Point Loma, saying, “Over the years of her leadership of the Wesleyan Center at PLNU, I came to appreciate Maxine Walker’s intellectual breadth and inquisitiveness, as well as her skills in networking with and inviting a wide range of the Wesleyan tradition into the work of the center. These combined strengths helped establish the center’s reputation as one of the few places where the full range of questions are encouraged and addressed about the implications of Wesleyan convictions for liberal arts education and the life of the church. All in the broad Wesleyan family are in her debt for this foundation-laying work!”

President Brower said, “I have long admired the creative work of Dr. Walker and her leadership in the Wesleyan Center and Point Loma Press. Her many contributions to PLNU are noteworthy, and the mark she leaves on us through the Wesleyan Center is profound and lasting. I’m grateful to Maxine and husband, Dr. Keith Walker, for their long service to PLNU and Nazarene higher education. I wish them the best in what I’m sure will be an active and productive retirement.”

Kay Harkins

by Starlin Welsh

After 15 years of guiding students in their writing, Kay Harkins, M.F.A., decided it was her turn. She is retiring to devote more time to writing.

“I’ve poured a lot of my life – and loved it – into mentoring other people’s writing,” Harkins said. “Now it is time for me to mentor my own writing.”

She has completed one memoir, titled *God and the Ordinary Woman: A View from Eternity*, and is working on another memoir, a book of poetry, and a collection of short stories.

Harkins began her undergraduate career in the music education program at Texas Tech University but left before her last semester to marry her fiancé, Jack, in 1969.

When Harkins became director of teacher placement and credentialing at Point Loma in 1984, she had the opportunity to take one course a quarter. Four and a half years later, the same year her daughter, Cadence, graduated from PLNU, Harkins completed a degree in liberal studies with a concentration in literature and writing.

After acquiring an M.A. in writing and literature from George Mason University near Quantico, VA, where her husband was called to military duty, Harkins returned to PLNU in 1991 as a

professor of writing and literature. In 1999, Harkins earned her M.F.A. from Bennington College.

“My birth as a writer truly occurred at Point Loma because I had professors like Drs. Arthur Seamans and Gerard Reed who saw that I had what it took to be a writer. I had never allowed myself to think like that and these professors gave me the confidence to actually write and teach,” Harkins said.

Transitioning from her role as a student to professor was a “natural progression.”

“I’ve always been in love with learning. If you love to learn, then when you teach, you try to find ways to help students love their learning experience,” Harkins said.

Thomas Fleming, journalism major with a concentration in creative writing, appreciates Harkins’ devotion to students’ learning.

“She is able to treat students holistically. She’s in tune with what people have going on in their daily lives and what they are writing,” Fleming said.

Harkins has loved her time at PLNU and treasures the rich relationships made with her colleagues and students. She is “fearless about retiring.”

“It all seems utterly glorious. I’ve had such a great time; I want to leave the party while I’m still having fun.” ☺