

Throughout history, there have been significant discoveries that connect us more fully to the past and expand our understanding of aspects of life today. As people of faith, we have also looked to significant moments that have deepened our spiritual journey. In the last 60 years, one such moment has been the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Unique in their historical significance and in their relationship to the religious foundations of our culture, the Dead Sea Scrolls provide extraordinary opportunity for learning. In the context of that foundational significance, Point Loma became one of the main sponsors of the San Diego Natural History Museum's Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit, which opened in June and runs through December. It's a relationship that makes a lot of sense as the university seeks to extend the full work of academic and spiritual life in all that we are and do at Point Loma.

The museum's exhibit provides the rare educational opportunity to learn about the discovery of the oldest known biblical manuscripts, and the university is pleased to play a role in sharing the story of their discovery, publication, and significance with our local community. In addition, we want to share them with our readers by encouraging you to visit the exhibition and learn more through the feature section of this issue of the *Viewpoint*. I think you will enjoy learning more about the Dead Sea Scrolls and what they can teach us about the time in which Jesus lived.

In addition to PLNU's sponsorship, many from the university community have been involved. School of Theology and Christian Ministry professors Dr. John Wright and Dr. Brad Kelle, whose insights on the scrolls can be found in our feature section, provided leadership on the project. Wright is currently teaching a course about the Dead Sea Scrolls for Point Loma students, and Kelle participated in a local television channel's special show on



Dr. Brower makes remarks at the 2007 Business Breakfast (more on page 20).

the exhibit. Dr. Enedina Martinez, from the School of Education, designed the curriculum the museum is offering to teachers who bring their students to learn about the scrolls. PLNU graduate students are responsible for narrating the virtual tour offered by the museum. And several PLNU alumni are working at the museum, including Lydia Heberling (06), who wrote a special feature about the science of the scrolls' preservation for this issue.

As the university has been able to assist in bringing these ancient biblical texts to San Diego for the enjoyment of countless visitors, I hope this issue of the *Viewpoint* will provide you insight and greater understanding of the Dead Sea Scrolls and their significance in understanding the roots of our faith and culture.

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