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In concluding the Viewpoint’s “year of hope,” there seemed no stories more fitting to tell than those of resilience. Throughout our history, PLNU itself has often been defined by both hope and the ability to overcome challenges.

For example, in 1946, the Pasadena campus was experiencing a great financial strain. Roy Smee, the district superintendent of Northern California, came to the aid of the campus by contacting pastors and laypeople to help gather nearly six tons of food for the dining hall in order to feed the students. The donated provisions were trucked to the campus followed by a caravan of cars and a police escort. The students lined the street and welcomed their arrival with the sound of a band. The morale and thankfulness of the students who witnessed this answer to prayer was truly contagious.

This proved to be a faith-building moment as well as a life-changing event for the students, faculty, and staff, as they witnessed the faithfulness of God in a time of need.

In 1973, many acts of faith helped move the university from Pasadena to its current location in Point Loma. The hope of President Shelburne Brown and others laid the foundation for our present institution. The revitalized university in its new location has now helped provide hope and opportunity for countless students.

The influence of this place has been great because PLNU has long been and will remain a place of hope and resilience. I hope you enjoy the individual stories reflecting these traits in our current issue.

Positively,
Bob Brower, Ph.D.
President

San Diego has experienced a few earthquakes lately, including a 7.2 quake centered in Mexico on Easter Sunday. Both that temblor and a 5.7 aftershock on June 14 have seen San Diego’s Petco Park rock and sway. But the rocking and swaying are actually really vital—they keep the huge structure from sustaining significant damage. They make the ballpark resilient.

In Romans 5:3-5, Paul writes, “...we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”

Being able to bounce back or recover from trials and tribulations often stems from hope that the swaying and shaking in our lives can serve a purpose. Our sufferings do not have to be pointless. They can shape us; they can imbue us with hope because of our faith.

In this issue of the Viewpoint, the last in our “year of hope” series, we look at stories of resilient individuals. The people you will meet in this issue—Chloe, Eddie, Dan, and Elsie—have undergone trials and pain. Chloe is a victim of abuse. Eddie struggled with gang involvement and drug use as he grew up without his parents. Dan is suffering from two incurable diseases, and Elsie lost her home to natural disaster. Yet, faith has helped all four of them find hope in their circumstances. Hope has made them resilient, and they have found or are finding renewed life and love for others.

Perhaps your story is like theirs—or at least has the potential to be. I pray that these stories of resilience encourage you to “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer” (Romans 12:12). If you would like to share your story of resilience with me, I would love to hear from you. You can reach me at editor@pointloma.edu.

Sincerely,
Christine Spicer
Ashley Whipple joined PLNU two years ago as a junior, and her years have been full: she earned high grades, made good friends, and served in a tutoring student ministry. But Ashley, who graduated in May with a degree in education, has become a leader of the ministry, which changed its location to the Presbyterian Church of San Diego, also in City Heights, and its name to Kids at Heart: Orange.

The ministry, consisting of about eight PLNU students, tutored two families, one from Tanzania and one from Burundi, helping them with English and math homework and playing soccer together. They also went on field trips. In spring, Ashley and the ministry organized a field trip to the Birch Aquarium in La Jolla. Fifteen kids joined. At the end of the fall semester, the students visited PLNU, where they played soccer, Frisbee, and basketball.

Junior Portia Beckman, who will lead the ministry next year, says Ashley has led the group smoothly. “Everybody’s so passionate about teaching and the kids,” Beckman said.

PLNU students were not the only tutors in the ministry. Women from La Jolla Presbyterian Church have sustained the program ever since they established it two years ago. These overseers, who served or still serve as teachers and administrators in local schools, taught Ashley how to become a better educator.

In addition to gaining leadership skills, Ashley has grown as an educator. “I’ve learned how important reading is, and while the kids may not like it, because that’s not what they’re best at, it’s super important,” Ashley said. “Reading makes you a better learner.”

Aside from serving in Kids at Heart, Ashley’s favorite PLNU experience was the senior women’s retreat last spring. “I left that retreat with so much wisdom from some of the most amazing faculty and staff women of Point Loma,” said Ashley. She felt “truly inspired, motivated, and confident in beginning the next chapter of my life that was right around the corner!”

Working with the women from the La Jolla church was a learning experience for Ashley.

“In the beginning with leadership, the biggest challenge was finding my place in my leadership role, combined with the La Jolla Presbyterian women leading here,” Ashley said. “It turned out to be absolutely amazing. They’ve been able to mentor us, we who will be future teachers, since they’re retired teachers.”

That next chapter commenced with Ashley graduating magna cum laude. Now, Ashley is enrolled as a graduate student at PLNU’s Mission Valley Regional Center to pursue a multiple subject teaching credential and a master’s degree in education.

For psychology professor Dr. Ross Oakes Mueller, gratitude and thankfulness aren’t just topics for conversation around the dinner table on Thanksgiving. Instead, gratitude has been a major topic of research during the past year for Oakes Mueller, along with psychology professor Dr. G. Michael Leffel and students in the psychology department.

Leffel explained that past studies have empirically linked gratitude with happiness, but their current research is a new endeavor in the world of psychology and focuses on gratitude’s link to sociability, compassion, and love. Both professors are involved in a series of projects in which they are “trying to understand the ways in which people become more caring, or more ‘capable of love,’” as Oakes Mueller puts it.

The subject, dealing with love and compassion, is closely connected not only to the field of psychology but to Christianity as well, a connection which intrigues both Leffel and Oakes Mueller.

For his graduate dissertation at Fuller Theological Seminary, Oakes Mueller also studied moral psychology. The subject has always been an important one to him. “Morality and ethics brought me to my Christian faith,” he said.

Oakes Mueller came to PLNU in 2007 along with his wife and fellow psychology professor, Dr. Kendra Oakes Mueller. He said the best part of his job is being able to work closely with students in classes and on in-depth research studies such as this current one.

Several students had the opportunity to be involved in the gratitude study, including Juliana Carras, Nick Gebhart (who was awarded a scholarship by the Western Psychological Association for his involvement with the project), John Games, Brittany Shook, Dane Cardiel, and Carrie Sparks.

Sparks loves the professor-student dynamic and appreciates the relationships she formed with Oakes Mueller and Leffel during the research process. “They pushed our team when we needed it and genuinely offered help with our ambitious ideas. Yet they never forgot to consider and attend to us as individuals,” she said.

Together, professors and students “wanted to see whether changes in students’ levels of overall gratitude were related to changes in their abilities to care for others,” Oakes Mueller said. “So we used both self-reports and friends’ reports of students’ behaviors to examine the relationship between gratitude, caring, and other virtue-related thoughts and emotions.”

The study did, in fact, suggest a link between gratitude and compassion. The reports from the participants’ friends suggested that an increase in self-reported gratitude levels is related to an increase in a person’s ability to care for and love others.

The researchers, including most of the students involved, presented their findings last spring at the Western Psychological Association’s conference in Cancun. "After hours and hours of reading, writing, and discussing, there’s nothing more rewarding than being able to spend four days away from school with people you admire the most,” said Cardiel. Plans are also in the works to write a full study on their research to be published. Also, future studies by the department will explore other virtues and their connections to a person’s capacity to love, closely following Leffel’s previous publications.

About the research, Oakes Mueller said, “You can’t study gratitude and not end up more grateful for things in your life.”

On Oakes Mueller’s personal list of things to be grateful for is his family, including his two-year-old son, Nolan, and newborn son, Nash Allen, born June 9.
As a kid, I felt intense terror every night when it started getting dark outside. Scared of going to bed, I was jumpy and easily startled watching the sun drop below the horizon. I would sit by the door to the kitchen while my mom made dinner and cry inconsolably. Most of what happened to me at night I would forget in the morning when I woke up. I didn’t know what was wrong with me. I felt abandoned and alone.

For a kid who grew up feeling isolated, no one paid attention to me like my maternal grandmother. She baked cookies and knit sweaters for all six of her grandchildren. I thought no one in the world loved me as much as she did. When I was young, she loved to give me baths, teaching me uncomfortable games to play with parts of my body. She would laugh, thinking our secret was so funny. Driven by a need for more, she picked me for sleepovers in her bedroom where the abuse worsened. Being sexually awakened as a defenseless child, I would close my eyes and pretend I was somewhere else. By morning I would forget everything that happened until the sun went down again.
"Getting married was one of my greatest accomplishments!" my friend John announced at "girls night in," as she unglued her drink.

"Marriage is not an accomplishment. Marriage is one step closer to death," I replied, and my living room erupted with uncomfortable laughter.

"How are things with you and John?" Jackie asked warily.

"I don't know. I have no idea what is going on," I said.

I stared at my hands, hoping the answer would look out of my skin.

While I was being abused at night, I was shut down during the day. I would lie in my room and stare at the ceiling, checked out, daydreaming, disassociated from reality and relationships. The abuse stopped when I hit puberty. When I was 15, my abuser died of cancer.

I met John when I was 19. Six years older than me, John was a mechanical engineer, born and raised by two high school math teachers in Northern Indiana. He said he liked me because I amused him. He wanted to marry me because he had a stable job, good looks, and, most importantly, he was a Christadelphian. I wanted him to possess me. Like a warm piece of shepherd's pie with a meaty center, I wanted him to fill me up and stick to my ribs. In keeping with my family's tradition, I found a rich husband to rescue me. We were married on July 15, 2001. We bought a cute house with a garden and two-car garage and settled down in Farmington, Mich.

My paternal grandfather, the family patriarch, was one of the most well-known, respected Christadelphian teachers. He traveled all over the world and every Christadelphian either knew him or knew of him. Being a Christadelphian was my whole world. I was expected to only spend time with Christadelphians. Everyone else was "in the world" and the possibility of being led astray by those in the world frightened most Christadelphians. The idea of dating or marrying a non-Christadelphian was enough to shut a conversation down. I knew I would not disappoint my family because I took great pride in obeying the Christadelphian rules.

I grew up in a strict religious family as a fifth-generation Christadelphian. I was a Christadelphian. I wanted him to possess me. Like a warm piece of shepherd's pie with a meaty center, I wanted him to fill me up and stick to my ribs. In keeping with my family's tradition, I found a rich husband to rescue me. We were married on July 15, 2001. We bought a cute house with a garden and two-car garage and settled down in Farmington, Mich.

I did my best to forget anything had ever happened. I came to life and became a prisoner of marriage in middle-class suburbia, afraid to drive my car because John didn't want me wasting gas.

I grew up in a strict religious family as a fifth-generation Christadelphian. Christadelphians (Greek word meaning “brothers in Christ”) are a small religious denomination with churches scattered over North America, Europe, and Australia. The religion is popular among white, middle-class families. Theologically, they are considered a cult of Christianity, rejecting the doctrine of the Trinity. Christadelphian women are expected to remain silent and keep their heads covered during church gatherings. Men provide the leadership, worship is somber, and sermons are Bible-based. Topics such as teen pregnancy, addictions, homosexuality, divorce, and child abuse are off-limits. If you are not following the rules, then you are not a Christadelphian.

My hands trembled as I picked up the phone and dialed the incest hotline. I had lost everything: my job, my marriage, my house, my church, my friends. My entire life was hanging on the edge. I had no idea who I was anymore. I grew up thinking what happened to me was normal. I grew up thinking what happened to me was normal. To acknowledge the incest raised terrifying questions regarding my own survival. My family was all I had left, and that was where the real problem had been buried for more than 20 years.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, my family swept lots of secrets under the rug. There wasn't room for them anywhere else.

I was so happy someone finally wanted me to be a part of his life, but it didn't last. If I refused to go to the bar with him, John got really mad. He would get me in the car, throw the eggs away as soon as their expiration date passed. He freaked out if I bought more bananas because he said they were disgusting. He freaked out if I bought food that was all I had left, and that was where the real problem had been buried for more than 20 years.

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"How are things with you and John?" Jackie asked warily.

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"Do you want to go to counseling and get help figuring this out?" I asked.

John replied, "Counseling would be helpful, but I don’t want to spend the money. I can’t justify the cost."

"I will give up my phone, new clothes, and Starbucks for this."

"No you won’t."

"Yes I will. I promise. But the minute you stop going to counseling, I get my clothes allowance back."

"Okay."

I hoped the counselor would help him relax about money. Good thing I raised my sister’s closet right before our conversation.

Our counseling sessions were short-lived. John didn’t have much to say. I saw our relationship slowly dying in a downward spiral once I found my voice. I found my voice when I started saying no. I had tried everything I could think of to make the marriage work, except saying no. I began saying no to going to bars and getting drunk, no to getting in his car, no to wearing what he demanded, and no to staying a prisoner in my own home.

When I called the incest hotline, I was referred to a 12-step support group called Survivors of Incest Anonymous (SIA). I attended meetings in Los Angeles until I moved to San Diego to live closer to my sister and brother-in-law, taking a job at PLNU. San Diego didn’t have any SIA meetings to go to, so in March I started one in City Heights. SIA provides a place for me to share my struggles with others who understand abuse and its debilitating consequences.

Once I started taking responsibility for my life, I started waking up to my own immature behavior, my lack of strength, low self-esteem, codependent tendencies, emotional repression, careless ways of spending money, and use of alcohol as the means for marriage survival.

I became strong enough to express my displeasure at the verbal abuse I experienced at work. Work did not like the new Chloe, and I was fired from my job as executive assistant to the CFO. I began to realize saying no to abuse meant abusive people would not want me around. I began to realize I was married to someone who was never around.

On Jan. 21, 2008, I packed up my car and left Michigan. I drove for five days across America. When I arrived at my parents’ house in Los Angeles, the sky began to cry. I watched salty wet drops jpeg my windshield and wondered how long it would take John to show up on my doorstep. I wanted him to promise to change everything. I wanted him to wake up and realize he wanted me around. Of course that never happened. I saw him once, more than a year later, when we stood before the judge and were finally divorced.

The Christadelphian men did not approve of my cross-country move. A good Christadelphian wife does not abandon her husband. The church elders wanted to know why I left. I refused to talk to them and expose my shame. I felt like they were asking me to ditch clothes and live naked. I had lost everything and suddenly memories were coming back to me — dark memories of a bathtub filled with ice, a toilet seat full of food, a man’s hand around my throat, a child’s nightgown on my face, a needle on my arm, and hands on my chest. Memories were coming back to me. I gave voice to that scared, silent little girl by telling my story to others. I write poetry and blog about my experiences; my life has been one of the hardest parts of my journey. I have gotten to know Jesus really well, because I have to know Jesus really well, because of what the abuse did to me. I feel like my skin is screaming for someone who knows the pain clenches my heart. My whole body will tense up as if lightning were flowing through my veins. Sometimes it feels like my skin is screaming to be held lovingly. Sometimes it hurts to breathe or eat.

Remembering the abuse through painful feelings and memories that surface has been one of the hardest parts of my journey. I have gotten closer to my sister and brother-in-law, taking a job at PLNU.

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Eddie’s feet pounded the pavement in quick succession as he jogged home from the high-risk youth day camp he attended after school. He didn’t mind the sweat collecting on his brow – today was a big day. Today was when home would be the home it was supposed to be, the home with both his parents in it. Eddie’s mother had been released from prison a few days before, and today his dad was also getting out of the joint. They’d all be together – Eddie, his mom, dad, and sister, Starla – like a picture perfect family (well, almost) as soon as he could get there.

Though Eddie slowed up as he got to his place, he was still slightly breathless when he opened the door. But it wasn’t right. The scene wasn’t what it was supposed to be. In fact, both Eddie’s parents were already high. It took a moment for the shock to translate into rage, but when it did, Eddie was overcome. Without a word, he fled from the apartment, running again. He smashed up cars along the street, trying to purge his mind of the questions that tormented him. But it was no use. When he stopped to breathe, it was there still: why did his parents love drugs more than they loved him?

Eddie spent the night at the home of his baseball coach, Henry. There was a roof over his head, but he took little comfort in that fact. He thought that he would never be able to love or respect his parents again. He thought that the recent Sundays he had spent in church with Henry would be his last – he was angry with God.

Life was challenging for Eddie from the beginning. Born in the South Bay area of San Diego, Eddie’s parents were both in and out of prison for most of his childhood. Drug use, thefts, and parole violations always seemed to send them back when they were released. Eddie and Starla were primarily raised by their grandparents, but sometimes one of their aunts temporarily sheltered them.

“Even though my grandparents tried to instill good morals in me, I grew up unstable and confused,” Eddie said. “I had a lot of anger and frustration. Already in elementary school, I was always getting into fights.”

Caring adults sometimes tried to help Eddie – there was his fifth and sixth grade teacher, an elementary school counselor, and baseball coaches, Roy and Henry, who invited Eddie into their homes and even took him to church. But the continual upheaval in Eddie’s life made it hard for them to make a difference. By middle school, he had a reputation for fighting and was constantly changing schools as he was shuffled between living with his parents, aunts, and grandparents.

By 13, Eddie was firmly headed down the same path as his parents. He was using drugs regularly and hanging out with kids who didn’t care about school. In eighth grade, Eddie got involved with a gang in San Ysidro and then, after moving again, with another gang in Imperial Beach (IB). He wasn’t allowed to walk at his eighth grade graduation because of his constant fighting at school.

Eddie’s uncle was the principal at Palomar, and he offered to help his nephew catch up. At first, Eddie refused to listen, but after his uncle enrolled him in a drug rehabilitation program, Eddie began to change.

“I started to think about my future. I didn’t want to end up like my parents,” he said. “My grandpa said that a wise man learns from his mistakes, but a wiser man learns from the mistakes of others. I credit my grandpa for teaching me to be a man. He means everything to me. He’s my best friend in the world.”

When he started continuation school, Eddie moved from his half-sister’s house back to his grandparents’ home. He wanted to make his high school year his best year yet. In addition to marijuana, he used cocaine, crystal, and acid. Except for shining baseball season when he put in just enough effort to be eligible, Eddie failed his classes. When Henry, who was himself an ex-gang member, tried to reach out to Eddie, Eddie wasn’t ready to listen.

The wake-up call came Eddie’s sophomore year. He was kicked out of another school – Mar Vista High – for fighting, and he ended up first at Southwest High Learning Center and finally, by his junior year, at Palomar High School, the continuation school in his district. It was a last chance to catch up and salvage his education.

“I had a lot of anger and frustration. ...I was always getting into fights.”
grandparents proud, and he finally began listening to Henry, his coach. Eddie started attending both sessions of the school day at Palomar (most students only attend one) and began going to church.

“When I first started seeking God, I was still messing around,” Eddie said. “But once I fully surrendered my life to God, I also fully gave myself to school. It’s like He changed me overnight.”

Eddie was 17 at the time, and he made dramatic changes in his life. Significantly, he realized he needed to forgive his parents – a big change from the night he spent smashing cars and hiding out at Henry’s. While some of his friends didn’t understand, some were happy for Eddie. They saw the change in him and were glad he was turning away from the life that entangled them all.

At the same time, Eddie went into overdrive at school. He took eight to 10 courses a day and caught up completely by the end of his junior year. He was able to return to regular high school for his senior year. Eddie said the administrators and teachers couldn’t believe how different he was. He earned all A’s and B’s, worked as an office assistant, and started a Christian club on campus. He was voted “Most Changed Student” in senior standouts and graduated on time with his class.

“The support and encouragement Eddie received from Macias were only the first he experienced at PLNU. Soon, associate professor of sociology Dr. David Barrows awarded Eddie his first A of the semester for a research essay on social stratification.

Eddie recalls that Barrows then told him, “You have what it takes.” Buoyed by the success and praise, Eddie’s insecurity began to diminish, and he began to believe in himself. When more A’s followed in courses on criminal justice and world literature, Eddie knew he was where he was supposed to be.

“What I love the most is that my department, dean, and professors have been there for me academically, spiritually, and personally,” he said. “They have prayed for me and been an iron rod in my back while I’ve been here.”

Sometimes Eddie was struck by the disparity between the two worlds he inhabited – the warm, academic surroundings at PLNU and the often hopeless, violent world at home where he watched cousins and friends struggle with the problems he had overcome.

“School became such a haven for me,” he said. “It was like paradise.”

After two and a half years, Eddie is graduating from PLNU with a degree in sociology and a concentration in criminal justice. He participated in Commencement in May and is finishing up his last class this summer.

Although graduating from PLNU is Eddie’s biggest achievement so far, his joy is tempered by recent tragedy. His beloved grandmother, one of the most consistent, positive forces in his life, the woman he calls “the most important person in my life,” recently suffered a stroke. The extent to which she will recover is not yet known.

The next step in Eddie’s life may be to apply to law school – though he worries about taking on additional debt. He’s also considering serving as a probation officer and trying to reach youth who are struggling the way he was. For now, Eddie is thankful for his education and for God’s grace in his life. Eddie’s parents have also both given their lives to the Lord, which brings Eddie joy.

“No matter what, I love my parents,” he said. “My experiences gave me my fighting spirit and taught me perseverance.”
by Christine Spicer
photos by Marcus Emerson

Elsie Pittam sifted through the ashes and rubble to salvage what she could. Among the few items she rescued was a bell. Its shiny finish tarnished nearly beyond recognition, the bell still rang clearly. These days, her friends use it to call their Bible study to order. It’s a game sort of but a symbol, too. Despite what it lost, it’s what’s inside the bell that counts, that functions, that sings.

Elsie’s life has never been about things, but the blessing and loss and regaining of things are a significant part of her story.

A 1949 graduate of Pasadena College, Elsie spent her first few years out of college working at Jet Propulsion Laboratories as a technical computer (yes, a computer was a human back then). When her husband, Bob, who had been in the Navy, graduated two years later, they pastored for five years in San Francisco and two more years in Houston, Calif. Bob then received a call to missionary work in Nicaragua.

After a year of language school in Mexico City, the Pittams and their four children served as missionaries, first in Nicaragua and later in Panama. They had two more children while serving as missionaries. Eventually, however, Bob developed health problems that necessitated their return to the U.S. For 11 years, he taught middle school before the family returned to Panama in 1980.

After three more years as a pastor in Panama, Bob developed congestive heart failure and underwent a total of six bypass surgeries. Bob was only able to establish the Pittam Missionary Scholarship to support students studying abroad. This time, Elsie was what they could – $10 a month – when Elsie’s class created a 1949 class scholarship in Bob’s honor. The couple had previously contributed what they could – $10 a month – when Elsie’s class created a 1949 class endowed scholarship in Bob’s honor. The couple had previously contributed what they could – $10 a month – when Elsie’s class created a 1949 class endowed scholarship in Bob’s honor. The couple had previously contributed what they could – $10 a month – when Elsie’s class created a 1949 class endowed scholarship in Bob’s honor.

Elsie had lived in Mesa Grande for 24 years when the 2007 wildfires hit Southern California. The winds had been blowing away from her house, so she didn’t worry too much that she could see flames from her home. She did meet with her neighbor, who kept cattle on her property, to discuss the situation. Both decided it was safe for her and the cows to stay the night.

As was characteristic of the 2007 fires, however, things changed rapidly. When the winds picked up to 70 miles per hour, a power line toppled, spreading new flames. Elsie’s neighbor called and urged her to get out of her house immediately and to come to his home since the main road was closed. From his house, there was a back way they could use to escape the escalating danger, he told her.

Elsie obliged. Though she didn’t know it until later, approximately half an hour after she left her home, it burned to the ground.

Elsie’s new home might have been barren had it not been for the generosity of others. A furniture store gave her a free bed frame and mattress since she was a fire victim. Jim lent her a card table and chairs for a makeshift dining room before her daughter Joyce’s friend gave her a dining room set. Joyce’s youngest son, Doug, a pastor in San Luis Obispo, gave her a loveseat and chair, and his neighbors gave her a second loveseat. One of Doug’s church members even donated an organ, allowing Elsie to continue playing music. Various friends gave her kitchen appliances and pictures.

One of her children gave her a painting of a lake in Nicaragua near where their family had lived. Elsie’s granddaughter and grandson-in-law painted her walls. So many of those who gave to Elsie were previously touched by her generosity, and the PLNU community was no exception. Members of the class of 1949 pooled together with students and other alumni to raise money to help Elsie refurnish and recover from her loss.

Today, Elsie continues to give generously. She serves on the mission council at her church, hosts a Bible study in her mobile home, and knits hats for missions all year round. Elsie also continues to go on mission trips herself, often with her daughter Joyce’s church. She has gone to Honduras multiple times, and this summer, she will be traveling with Joyce to Belize.

In fact, Elsie’s life has centered on giving. It’s little surprise, then, that when she was in need, others were so quick to give to her. Though Elsie insists she has more than she needs and while things themselves are not of vital importance to her, the love and generosity of her friends and family and of the PLNU community mean a great deal. With a heart full of gratitude, Elsie has bounced back from her loss and continues to give. 

Elsie’s nephew, a California Highway Patrol officer, met her at her home. She did meet with her neighbor; she was a fire victim. Jim lent her a card table and chairs for a makeshift dining room before her daughter Joyce’s friend gave her a dining room set. Joyce’s youngest son, Doug, a pastor in San Luis Obispo, gave her a loveseat and chair, and his neighbors gave her a second loveseat. One of Doug’s church members even donated an organ, allowing Elsie to continue playing music. Various friends gave her kitchen appliances and pictures. One of her children gave her a painting of a lake in Nicaragua near where their family had lived. Elsie’s granddaughter and grandson-in-law painted her walls. So many of those who gave to Elsie were previously touched by her generous spirit, and the PLNU community was no exception. Members of the class of 1949 pooled together with students and other alumni to raise money to help Elsie refurnish and recover from her loss.
After seven hours of driving through tropical hill country from Kigali to Gisenyi, 14 Americans climbed out of the Indiana Jones-style land cruisers to an excited, smiling, Rwandan crowd. The joy on Nelson’s face wasn’t dampened by his advancing Parkinson’s disease or Lou Gehrig’s disease. Neither did the atrocities of genocide that gripped the nation in 1994 dampen the spirits of those awaiting him: the hundreds of Rwandan children, barefoot or in ratty flip-flops; the traditional dancers, heads shaved and donning black and white skirts; or the local pastor, Simon Pierre Rwaramba, who was eager to greet his good friend, the American professor of music.

The tears and smiles marked deliverance, not as an end to suffering, but as a process of working through it. Nelson, whose suffering will continue to increase, sought to help heal the wounds for some in a recovering nation.

A professor at PLNU since 1991, Dan Nelson entered 2007 in the darkest period of his life. A divorce and a diagnosis of a crippling disease left him in a seemingly inescapable period of emotional and physical pain. Three years after Nelson became a PLNU professor, the small African nation of Rwanda erupted into a bloody torrent of murder, as members...
Wrestling with mortality

On their first few nights, the team encountered accommodations the members described as “dilferent”—the word LoveWorks participants are often instructed to use in lieu of the word “bad” to enhance cultural sensitivity.

“It was the least ideal place we stayed,” said then-junior Lindsay Burrows.

Of the group discussions that night she said, “It got super heavy super quick” as Jann told the group that it would be Nelson’s final trip. He said that he had to come to terms with his mortality.

Soon after, Bolster approached Nelson and asked if he would go to Rwanda, saying that he needed someone who understood pain and suffering.

“He used the same words I used,” Nelson said.

Following the trip, it was hard to get Nelson to talk about anything else. In class, it seemed he would share almost as much about Rwanda as music. He began raising money for the Ndengera Foundation by selling Christmas and greeting cards of paper and human hair, handmade by orphans in the banana leaf, handmade by orphans in the small African nation.

In early 2009, Nelson was selected to head a return trip. This time he co-led with his new wife, Jann, with additional support from Melissa Tucker, PLNU’s assistant director of international ministries, and Jared Callahan, youth pastor of San Diego First Church of the Nazarene. They excited 10 PLNU students.

At home, he went on disability because his Parkinson’s was the first of untreatable diseases to tax his body. The untreatable diseases to tax his body. The disease causes tremors and makes movement and coordination difficult, which as a musician, meant coming to terms with the impending loss of his ability to play and direct music.

Against the odds — though not in the positive way that people talk about defying odds in relation to illness — he was also diagnosed in the summer of 2008 with Lou Gehrig’s disease, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. In the spring semester of 2009, as the summer LoveWorks trip approached, the shaking had become so severe that at times he could not put cream and sugar in his coffee without spilling.

“On the 2009 trip, the LoveWorks team laid the groundwork for 16 classrooms, strategically placed on the property so the city of Gisenyi could not lay claim to it, a possibility that had threatened to compromise the organization’s expansion. If all goes as planned, the foundations will only provide very basic medical assistance on-site, but the leaders have plans to transform the current administrative building, which Nelson estimated was 5,000 square feet, into a clinic. The medical facility, which Jann said will rely on doctors volunteering their time, will give Ndengera the ability to provide treatment for diseases such as malaria and AIDS.

In addition to being pastor at a church in Gisenyi, Simon Pierre Rwaramba is the district superintendent for the northwestern region of Rwanda for the Church of the Nazarene. His wife, Caritas, heads the Ndengera Foundation. The vocational schooling the children receive at the Ndengera Foundation dedicated a new building in Gisenyi. For the event, the honored American guests took their seats amid the dinners and children. The foundation, which currently cares for more than 800 orphans, provides vocational training in fields such as sewing, painting, and auto repair. Though it is unable to provide shelter for each orphan, the care center subsidizes housing with local families to help meet the needs of the children.

It also provides medical care for the orphans and training on AIDS care and prevention for the orphans and the families caring for them. Gardens have been planted to provide food for families in which children are the heads of their own households.

The personal touch

According to team members, Nelson had raised approximately $25,000 for the foundation, but this was the first time he was able to see the results of his fundraising.

“Knowing the difficulties of his last few years, hearing the story of transformation that happened in that 2007 trip, to be there … in this orphan care center that he cut the ribbon on, to hear the way that people talked about Don’s faithfulness and goodness, and to see those 814 orphans, it was so overwhelming,” co-leader Melissa Tucker said.

For the next two weeks, the team played with children, made bricks, and laid the groundwork to build classrooms. They slept and spent mealtimes at Rwaramba’s house. Though Nelson was unable to assist in the physical labor, he gave trumpet and trombone lessons to children in the Gisenyi Nazarene community.

“Here are kids who can’t read words, let alone music, and we’re trying to teach them how to read music,” Nelson said. “There were about half a dozen kids who picked up on it very quickly.”

The new trumpeters and trombonists continued to play and performed in church after he left. Rwaramba on his final flight out of the country.

The vocational schooling the children receive at Ndengera will start careers that will give them the opportunity to facilitate the healing of their wounded nation and recovering economy.

Every child who walks into the foundation, once he or she is taught to read, will see the name of the American music professor, Simon Pierre’s friend, on the plaque above the main door.
On a warm afternoon in June, a small brown dog named Pebbles sits on Nelson's lap in his Point Loma home. He prefers big dogs, but his boxer died New Year's Eve, and Jann's poofy pooches have taken a liking to him.

His body slouches in the chair, reclining in a posture many of his former students would have assumed in lengthy classes. His arms no longer tremor, as Lou Gehrig's disease has, in a way, overcome Parkinson's.

He was given two to five years to live – two years ago. He doesn't talk about wishing for a miracle, for a cure. His body continues to degenerate, but he speaks, with occasional translations from his wife, about healing the nation once afflicted by murder.

"Everyone comes back from LoveWorks with a compelling story, but not everyone gets to share that story," he says. "I have been given the opportunity to speak because of the disease."

His daughter, Lauren Nelson, is near the country close to his heart, leading a LoveWorks team in Tanzania. On her team are two who traveled to Rwanda with him, Adrienne Archer and Cynthia Ribas-Santos.

The pair made a detour from Tanzania and traveled to Rwanda to visit Ndengera, to see what's become of the foundations laid a year earlier and to visit friends from across the Atlantic Ocean on the other side of the equator.

Nelson can no longer walk without assistance, but he has traveled as far as Oakland, Calif., for speaking engagements, raising awareness and money for Ndengera. It's not like aging. His body can't keep up with his Ph.D.-from-University-of-Minnesota mind, which is still sharp behind slowed speech and loss of motor function.

On campus at PLNU, where Nelson used to stand, someone else teaches his music classes and conducts his bands.

"It made me realize how dispensable we all really are," he says. "I thought when I saw other people directing my band and doing what I'd done that it would be hard for me to watch that. It wasn't."

"I really think that God took the passion that I had for the music at Point Loma and transformed it into passion for the Ndengera Foundation in Rwanda."

For the first time since infancy, Nelson can't take care of himself. He relies on his wife to feed him, dress him, bathe him, and remove the peanut butter stuck to the roof of his mouth.

"One of the hardest things I deal with, too, is I have no privacy," Nelson says. "It works because I like who I'm hanging out with. But I have no privacy, and I get bored."

Though he used to be able to read on a Kindle, an electronic book device, he can no longer press the button to turn the page.

He's working on a book, a compilation of weekly newsletters that he authored for 16 years, which included a sort of blog-like discussion of whatever he'd been thinking about lately. Though Rwanda is nearly all he talks about these days, it's not until the final chapters that it shows up.

Jared Callahan takes video of him weekly and will make a documentary of Nelson's life with the disease. The film has yet to be funded and will be completed after the final chapter of Nelson's life.

"There are things that happen that I think I wish I would be around longer to see," he says. "But the illness is, I believe, directly responsible for giving me a profound voice to be able to speak to the issue of orphans and widows in Rwanda."
Jim McEliece
After serving in the Army for 30 years, Dr. Jim McEliece retired as a colonel. He spent much of his military career working at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, both teaching economics and serving in academic administration. Teaching business and economics at PLNU was his retirement job, which began in 1994. Since then, he has been filled with a deep and abiding joy as he has watched his department, the Fermanian School of Business, grow and flourish.

“The sheer talent I have to work with and the progress we’ve made in terms of our physical facilities has been outstanding,” McEliece said. “It is truly a joy to work with the people here.”

McEliece has also enjoyed watching the content of the business program become ever richer and more professional.

“When I arrived, we taught typing and shorthand,” he said. “Now we require laptops, and every student receives practical business experience. The embedding of ethics and Christian conduct has led to growth in the program, and the students are really top-notch.”

He is also deeply grateful that PLNU and the Fermanian School of Business haven’t drifted from their core values while continually striving to upgrade academic quality.

“The fundamental commitment to Jesus Christ, to serving our Lord, and to preparing young men and women to serve Him and the community hasn’t changed,” he said.

With his disciplined military background, McEliece says he often projects a “severe and foreboding demeanor” that belies his sentimental heart. In fact, his fondest memories and the elements of teaching he will miss most are all relational.

“I will miss the students the most,” he said. “Interaction with students is what makes teaching wonderful.”

Don Evans
After spending the earlier years of his career in engineering and company-building, Don Evans found a new passion: working with students.

Evans graduated from Stanford with a math degree. His early career led to instrument design, large system management, finance, and start-ups. These produced some modest successes, but he wasn’t satisfied.

When his children urged him to go back to teaching, he began to volunteer as an unpaid tutor at Hoover High School in City Heights, a diverse, low-income area of San Diego. He continued the effort for more than seven years during the late 1980s to early 1990s.

“The students of refugee families who came to the school — maybe 25-30 percent of the student body — were hungry for help,” he said. “I merely responded to their intense desire to learn.”

While Evans was developing his love of teaching and mentoring, he also discovered another later-life interest: the study of Greek and Hebrew. Dr. Frank Carver, PLNU professor of theology at the time, allowed Evans to audit a Hebrew class he was teaching in 1993. This was Evans’ first introduction to the PLNU campus, and it led to his interest in teaching here.

In 1996, Evans was hired as an adjunct math professor at PLNU. Eventually, he became full time, and his opportunities to influence students multiplied.

“My area of greatest interest is the students,” he said. “I enjoy helping them find what they like to do and then pointing them toward doors that they may open.”

In addition to teaching formulas and equations, Evans has helped set an example for students by living a balanced and inquisitive life. Most of his students know that Evans competed in marathons and ultra-marathons for many years. One very long race that stands out in his memory took place in 1979. It commemorated the rescue of General Stephen Watts Kearny’s army in the San Pasqual Valley in 1847. The army had been besieged on a hill just south of what is now Lake Hodges. The cross-country race began on that hill and ended at Old Town in San Diego — approximately 32 miles.

Evans has also harbored a love for classical music. He has participated with community singers alongside students in PLNU’s Choral Union for the past dozen years and expects to continue in future years.

Finally, there is his delight in ancient languages — the interest that first brought him into contact with PLNU. His lifelong thirst for learning is something he inspires in students as well.

From math to mentoring, Evans’ time at PLNU has been among the most enjoyable in his life. Plans during retirement are only beginning to unfold, but he expects to spend more time with his wife, Ann (also retired), his five children, three stepchildren, and 10 grandchildren.

“Things will develop,” he smiled, wisely keeping the options for his future open. After all, a new passion may soon take hold.

Keith Bell
They call him “The Red Pen” and tease him about being OCD. But Keith Bell doesn’t mind. In fact, there’s more than a hint of a smile when he mentions these jokes. It’s a sign that the man who is known for his precision and attention to detail will be remembered for his humor and good nature as well.

In 1992, after spending 24 years working in various capacities at Midamerica Nazarene University – the last nine years as vice president for academic affairs – Bell was ready for a change, so he accepted a position teaching Spanish with PLNU’s Department of Literature, Journalism, and Modern Languages. For the next four years, he relished the joys of his new home.

“I remember sitting in Wood Hall [now Culbertson], overlooking the Greek Amphitheatre, the palm trees, and the ocean, eating my favorite sandwich, reading Spanish literature, and it was just a ‘hug’ moment. I felt, ‘This is right,’” Bell recalled.

Eventually, Bell was appointed vice provost for academic administration and helped craft his own job description. His numerous roles and responsibilities have included supervising records, registration, institutional research, Ryan Library, and the Academic Affairs Web sites; editing the annual academic catalogs and faculty handbook; serving as liaison to Academic Advising and with New Student Orientation; directing summer sessions; serving as academic probation officer; and participating in faculty and administrative committees. Two of his most visible roles have been as chief commencement officer and accreditation officer to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).
“Making order out of the chaos has always been fun for me,” he said.

Among Bell’s many accomplishments at PLNU, a few stand out as being truly transformative. In 1998-99, Bell helped PLNU move to online registration for students. Four years ago, he moved the university’s catalog from a print publication to an online one. He also helped craft PLNU’s commencement ceremonies, bringing more festivity and class to the events, and initiated streaming the convocations online.

One of Bell’s greatest legacies is helping PLNU become an accreditation model for other faith-based institutions. In fact, he was asked to serve as an adjunct associate director for WASC, a job he will continue part time in his retirement.

Bell also plans to spend time with his wife, Lois, and his eight grandchildren. He will dabble in photography and may join the model railroad club (he and his dad collected trains).

Though he’s looking forward to his retirement, there is much Bell will miss about PLNU.

“One of the things I’ve loved about PLNU have been the people who love to debate but can still leave a meeting friends, the open and accepting nature of folks here, the respect for your own journey, the tolerance of ambiguity, the deep understanding of Wesleyan holiness tradition, the excellent students, and the call to excellence – the expectation and attitude of quality,” he said.

Dwayne Little

As he reflects on his 36-year career at PLNU, the word that keeps coming back to history professor Dr. Dwayne Little is joy. It’s been a joy for him to spend time with students, colleagues, and several administrations. He’s found joy both inside and outside the classroom and perhaps especially in the debates and challenges that have ultimately made both he and PLNU better.

Little came to PLNU in 1973 and has been a significant influence at the university ever since. In addition to teaching history, Little has spent time serving as department chair; a member of the inaugural faculty council under President W. Shelburne Brown (the council that helped PLNU establish its current model of faculty-shared governance); pre-law advisor (along with Dr. Michael McKinney); and director of planning. He’s also PLNU’s resident expert on the Theosophical Society, which owned the Point Loma campus at the turn of the century, and has represented PLNU in the community as a member of the Peninsula Community Planning Board and as the vice president of the Point Loma Association.

Little has been honored to help enhance the professionalism of the faculty and to have been part of the continuous improvement of the university.

“During my first 10 to 12 years, Point Loma made huge strides,” Little said. “It derived great joy from having had a hand in laying the foundation for the extraordinary institution we have today.”

From 1990 to 1998 under President Jim Bond, Little was able to set an “aesthetic theme” for PLNU. Little worked with architects, students, faculty, and administrators to plan the building of Cooper Music Center, Nicholson Commons, Colt Hall, and Culbertson Hall; the extension of Ryan Library; and the moving and refurbishing of Cabrillo Hall. Pepper Tree Lane was also widened during Little’s tenure.

“It was nice to see the products of our work, and it was refreshing to take a break from academia to do something entirely different,” Little said. “In turn, the time away enriched my return to the classroom.”

Little is also leaving his department pleased with its progress. When he first came to PLNU, the Department of History and Political Science featured a single historian and a single political scientist. Now there are five historians and three political scientists – all with doctorates. There is also a gender balance, which will be exactly equal when Little’s successor, alumna Dr. Kelly McCoy, begins working at PLNU next fall.

What comes next? Little plans to continue traveling – he and his wife, Linda, have been to 44 countries already – and to spend more time with his family, including his children, grandchildren, father, and siblings. He also wants to read, practice photography, and engage in local history research projects.

Also retiring this year was biology professor Dr. David Kerk, who was unavailable for an interview.
There is cause for hope regarding the economy. PLNU’s chief economist, Dr. Lynn Reaser, told a crowd of several hundred businesspeople at the March 4 Economic Outlook Forum entitled, “The New Economic Reality – How ‘New’ and How ‘Real’?”

Reaser, who is also the president of the National Association for Business Economics, indicated that businesspeople at the March 4 event were focused on economic reality and the middle of 2009 most likely marked the end of the recession, PLNU’s chief economist Randy M. Ataide, executive director of PLNU’s Fermanian Business and Economic Institute (FBEI) and professor of entrepreneurship, moderated.

The forum was held at the San Diego Marriott Hotel & Marina and was co-presented by the FBEI and the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation. Bank of America Merrill Lynch was the title sponsor.

New Art History Programs Offered

In fall 2010, the Department of Art and Design will introduce a new art history concentration within the visual arts major, as well as a new minor in art history. Both will contain cross-disciplinary elements.

Professor of art Dr. Karen Sanggren was inspired to establish the new art history programs following her work as director of the 2010 ICCU/CAVA National Study of Art and Design Programs in Members and Affiliates of the CIVA for Christian Colleges and Universities.

“Art history provides the cultural and historical core for art and design programs in higher education,” says Sanggren, “...and equips art students with the abilities to see, think, read, write, and create.”

Leveraging Study Abroad for Today’s Job Market

As part of the second annual Lessons from Abroad: Study Abroad Returns Conference, Southern California students gathered at PLNU on Feb. 20 to learn how to leverage the marketable skills they gained from studying abroad. They also learned about additional opportunities their experience opens up for them both at home and internationally. PLNU, SDSU, USD, UCSD, Cal State San Marcos, and other Southern California schools teamed up to put on the event.

New Sustainability Studies Minor for 2010-11

Students will have the opportunity to participate in a new minor in sustainability studies beginning fall 2010.

The minor will include courses from a variety of disciplines, including biology, sociology, political science, theology, international development, and business. Students will also complete a sustainability practicum or internship as the culmination of the minor.

“The new sustainability studies minor represents the first step in integrating sustainability into the PLNU curriculum. It reflects a broad-based anddeeply felt conviction across the campus that God has called us to be engaged in teaching students to go into the world and be part of the solution to the environmental crisis we face,” said Dr. Mike Mooring, PLNU biology professor.

The sustainability studies minor is being sponsored by three of the university’s centers: the Center for International Development, the Center for Justice and Reconciliation, and the Wesleyan Center.

The program’s advisor will be Dr. Harry Watkins, from the Fermanian School of Business.

PLNU Sponsors Special Olympics Track Meet

For the 17th year, PLNU partnered with Special Olympics and San Diego Parks and Recreation to host the San Diego County Regional Special Olympics Track Meet on May 8.

PLNU’s School of Education and the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences were joined by key sponsor Scripps Clinic Medical Group to make this event possible. More than 550 youth and adult athletes participated.

Speech and Debate Excels Again

PLNU once again finished the year as one of the top five parliamentary debate programs in the nation.

At the National Parliamentary Debate Association national championships, two PLNU teams advanced to the elimination bracket from a field of nearly 200 teams. In addition, Katie Lucas took 14th place in school sweepstakes at the national tournament.

At Christian College Nationals, PLNU students won first place school sweepstakes in large school division; first place in division two for midsize entries individual events; and third place in overall combined sweepstakes, regardless of entry size.

Additionally, Ashley Nuckels was named national champion in extemporaneous speaking and the second top speaker in the tournament (missing first by one point). Senior Caitlyn Burford was named the top debater. Two PLNU debate teams, Katie Lucas and Andrew Schalin, were named co-champions in extemporaneous and the second top school in the nation.

New PLNU Leaders Announced

Dr. Danny B. Fuller is currently serving as PLNU’s acting provost and chief academic officer. Drs. Kathy McConnell and Holly Irwin-Chase were named interim deans of the College Arts and Sciences and the College of Social Sciences and Professional Studies, respectively. Dr. Conni Campbell is the new associate dean for undergraduate programs, teacher performance assessment and Mission Valley Regional Center, in the School of Education. Dr. Jeanne Maiden will be assuming the role of MSN director and associate dean for graduate programs in the School of Nursing, beginning fall 2010. Dr. Mark Pitts will begin as vice provost for academic administration, effective July 1.

Honors Scholars Recognized

Two students, David Pratt and Nicole Andelfinger, were awarded PLNU’s annual Samuel and Susanna Wesley Award for the honors projects they completed this year.

Pratt, a biology-chemistry major, worked with mentor Dr. Dawne Plage on “An Investigation of B Cell Development in Zebrafish by Transgenesis.” For his project, Pratt established several lines of transgenic fish that were used to visualize the development of B cells and track their interactions with other lymphocytes during an immune response.

Andelfinger, a double major in journalism and media communication with a concentration in film studies, wrote an original screenplay called “Bottle Cap” under the mentorship of Dr. Alan Hueth. The screenplay relates the story of an ex-concentration camp worker, who, haunted by the boy he killed in the war and facing a dying marriage, befriends a terminally ill boy in the hospital. He must learn to forgive in order to live.

Altogether, 35 students completed honors projects across a wide range of academic disciplines.

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STUDENTS LIVE ON $2 A DAY TO RAISE AWARENESS OF POVERTY

From April 14-16, a group of PLNU students spent their time sleeping in cardboard shanties, boiling their drinking water, and living on just $2 a day. It was all part of the Two Dollar Challenge, an educational movement that engages students in the fight against global and domestic poverty.

The Two Dollar Challenge asks students to live on the same amount of money as millions living in poverty around the world. Participants are expected to abide by rules designed to simulate poverty, so they are not allowed to shower or bathe, may only have two sets of clothing, and can’t use their campus meal plans or accept free food from others.

This year marked PLNU’s second time participating in the Two Dollar Challenge, and more than 40 students took part. Jessica Chetsawang and Maira Flores, leaders in PLNU’s student microfinance club, spearheaded the event.

Throughout the three-day event, students collected donations for the Grameen Foundation’s recovery efforts in Haiti. The Grameen Foundation works with organizations such as Fonkoze, the largest microfinance bank in Haiti.

PLNU’s fundraising efforts also won a friendly competition with the University of San Diego, which began its own microfinance club this year with help from PLNU’s club.

Both PLNU and USD also participated in the 2010 San Diego Microfinance Summit event on April 28. The keynote speaker was Emmy Award winner Yeardley Smith, who is best known for her work as the voice of Lisa Simpson on the highly acclaimed television show “The Simpsons.” Smith is heavily involved with microfinance through the Grameen Foundation and shared about her experiences in Haiti and the significance of microfinance.

Noble has worked in a variety of nursing roles, including a hospital pediatric and adult medical-surgical nurse; a school, home, and migrant health nurse; a family nurse practitioner; and a nurse educator. She has also organized and led international work, study, and mission trips as well as service work in the local community.

Noble has taught at PLNU since 1982 with a hiatus from 1988 until 1994. She appreciates the opportunity to work in a supportive Christian university and finds it a privilege to teach and supervise students who have a heart to serve others.

PLNU Nursing Professor’s 50-year Career Honored

On March 25, PLNU’s School of Nursing celebrated the career of faculty member Deana Raley Noble, who has been a nurse for 50 years.

“IT’s unusual to find someone who has been actively engaged in nursing for so many years,” said Dr. Barb Taylor, dean of the School of Nursing.

Noble has been a nurse for 50 years.

Summer Bridge Program Helps High School Students Gear Up

From July 5-9, 60 high school juniors will live in PLNU residence halls and take communications and writing classes with PLNU professors. They will also participate in team-building exercises run by current PLNU students.

A branch of the federal government’s GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), the Summer Bridge Program aims to help low-income students receive an undergraduate education. The high school juniors will be the first in their families to attend college.

PLNU Professor Corey McKenna Wins Ford Ironman Everyday Hero Award

This award is dedicated to not only my late niece, the inspiration behind this particular journey, but to all of those individuals who want to live out their dreams and to know that anything is possible as long as you set your mind and heart to do it,” McKenna said.

As for the race itself, McKenna had an impressive showing in what he said is already being labeled the most challenging course on the U.S. Ironman circuit and one of the top five most difficult courses in the world circuit. After a 2.4-mile swim, athletes embarked on a 112-mile bike ride that included over 7,000 feet of vertical climbing—which included twice climbing a one-mile, 10-12 percent grade hill dubbed “The Wall.” After completing the bike ride, triathletes tackled the 26.2-mile run, which began with a one-mile uphill climb and included a portion that was over eight percent grade.

More than 1,990 athletes started, and 1,634 officially finished under the 17-hour cut-off time. McKenna finished in 14 hours and 4 minutes, 894th overall.

Dr. Dale Shellhamer Receives NSF Grant

PLNU chemistry professor Dr. Dale Shellhamer will receive National Science Foundation (NSF) funding for his latest research proposal. The grant is for $134,277 and covers a three-year period starting May 2010.

Shellhamer’s research, titled “Electrophilic reactions of fluorosubstituted alkenes with chlorosulfonyl isocyanate and some other electrophiles,” is an extension of his earlier research on reactions of halogen electrophiles with fluoroketanes.

This new research is significant because it provides a method to make beta-fluorolactam antibiotics.
**FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS**

**Dr. Jim Johnson**

Dr. Jim Johnson, professor in PLNU’s School of Education, presented two seminars at the 2010 International Conference on Special Education in Kyrenia, Cyprus.

The first seminar evaluated and explored new, effective ways sensory integration techniques can address sensory processing problems commonly seen in children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), including some practical and effective methods for dealing with attention, behavior, and social-functioning. The second was entitled “Connecting with 21st Century Learners Using Technologies for Enhancing Critical-Thinking Skills and Learning.” Johnson was invited to return to the conference again next year and will serve on the scientific committee for conference proposal reviews and organization.

**Dr. Juliette Singer**

On February 27, Dr. Juliette Singer, associate professor of music, sang during the christening of the USNS Charles Drew. The new cargo and ammunition ship, built by General Dynamics, was named after the doctor who developed the first blood banks.

**Dr. James Wicks**

Assistant professor of literature Dr. James Wicks recently published an article entitled “Projecting a state that does not exist: Bai Juying’s A ja zai Taihe/’Home Sweet Home’” in The Journal of Chinese Cinemas.

**Professor Lael Corbin**

Lael Corbin, assistant professor of art and design, had a solo exhibition on view through June 20 at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego at the downtown location. Corbin also designed the museum’s annual Cerca Award for the exhibition. A portion of his installation sculpture was purchased by the museum for its permanent collection.

**Professor David Adley**

David Adley, associate professor and co-chair of the Department of Art and Design, is included in an exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego titled “Here Not There: San Diego Art Now.” Running through Sept. 19, the exhibition has featured earlier this year in an exhibit titled “ACMAM: American Contemporary Movement Art Museum,” and his installation sculpture “John Henry” exhibited at the La Jolla Athenaeum and at Luís De Jesus Los Angeles through May 15. Adley is also this year’s recipient of the San Diego Art Prize in the emerging artist category.

**Dr. Dean Nelson**

Dr. Dean Nelson, professor of journalism, is continuing to receive positive feedback on his book, *God Hides in Plain Sight: How to See the Sacred in a Chaotic World*. He won first place in the Spiritual & Positive category.

**Dr. Michael Lodahl**

In March 2010, Dr. Michael Lodahl, professor of theology and world religions, was elected president of the Wesleyan Theological Society, the world’s largest association of Wesleyan/holiness scholars. The society is dedicated to reflecting upon and promoting the Wesleyan/holiness tradition. It holds annual meetings where members present academic papers, review recent books, and discuss developments within Wesleyan scholarship and in Wesleyan churches. Elected at the society’s annual meeting, presidents serve for one year after serving with a co-vice-president for two years. Dr. Lodahl will be the 48th president in the society’s history. Dr. Sam Powell, PLNU professor of theology, has served as the secretary and treasurer of the Wesleyan Theological Society since 2007.

**School of Theology and Christian Ministry Faculty**

The members of PLNU’s School of Theology and Christian Ministry played a prominent role in the production of the recently published Wesley Study Bible (Abingdon Press, 2009). Dr. Brad Kelle contributed the study notes on the Old Testament book of Judges, Dr. John Wright contributed the study notes on 1 and 2 Chronicles, and Dr. Tom Phillips contributed the notes on the Gospel of Luke. Dr. Michael Lodahl and Dr. Sam Powell also wrote theological articles on various aspects of Wesleyan theology. The Wesley Study Bible is designed to help ‘Christians in the Wesleyan tradition “experience and put into practice God’s good gift of discipleship.” It is based on the New Revised Version of the Bible and is available online and at Christian bookstores.

**NOTABLES**

**Danielle Lawson, Daniele Kelley, Jacob Wiks, and Stephan Miller**

The Fermanian School of Business announced its Entrepreneurs of the Year at a May 5 banquet attended by more than 100 entrepreneurs, mentors, students, and supporters.

Daniele Lawson, a senior business administration major, and Danielle Kelley, a sophomores accounting major, earned top honors for their plan, Premier Couture, which provides designer rental gowns at a fraction of the cost of purchasing. The aspiring entrepreneurs also planned to provide dresses for underprivileged high school girls through their “Cinderella Project.” Premier Couture earned a total of $3,000 in funding.

Sarah Motte, a business administration senior, received the Dave and Dorothy Lasser Free Enterprise Scholarship of $500 for her Believe Bar, a vitamin-enriched, freshly baked bar designed to support cancer awareness efforts. PLNU MBA students Mike Salas and Troy Dolphin received the Don Whitlock Social Entrepreneur Award, worth $200, for The Trinity Project, a social enterprise featuring artistic work of unemployed and homeless San Diegans.

As part of PLNU’s Entrepreneur Enrichment Program (EEP), the student entrepreneurs spent nearly a year preparing and working with business mentors. Each of the seven completed projects received a $500 award at the banquet.

**PLNU Names Student Entrepreneurs of the Year**
Third Annual Advanced Practice Nursing Celebration and Awards

On April 26, the School of Nursing held its third Annual Advanced Practice Nursing (APN) Celebration and Awards. The keynote speaker was Ann Mayo, DNSc, RN, CNS, professor at USD and clinical nurse specialist. Mayo has responsibilities with the California Board of Registered Nursing, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists.

Nominated by their peers, the School of Nursing gave awards in five categories to local nurses, including three PLNU alumni.

- Clinical Nurse Specialist Family Health – Janet Marty Johnson (MSN ’09), UCSD Hillcrest
- CNS Gerontology – Victory Divnagracia, VA San Diego Healthcare System
- CNS Mental Health – Natalie Gallagher (MSN ’08), Palomar Pomarodo Health
- CNS Medical/Surgical – Scott Nolan (’88), Scripps Mercy
- Nursing Education – Marilyn Dolashahi, Palomar Pomarodo Health

In May, PLNU senior Nathan Scharn earned third place in the student writer of the year category at the Evangelical Press Association’s Higher Goals Awards. His article, “Leaving on a high note: Professor reaches out in Rwanda,” is about PLNU professor Dr. Dan Nelson’s work in Rwanda and was published in Christian Examiner.

Four PLNU students were recognized for their talents on April 18 at the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Singer Auditions. Freshman Katie O’Gorman won in the junior college classical division, senior Carly Cosentino won third place in the senior college division. In the junior musical theatre division, freshman Vanessa Onstad took third place, and sophomore Blanca Esparza received honorable mention. Cosentino studies voice with Tina Sayers, and O’Gorman, Onstad, and Esparza are voice students of Dr. Juliette Singer.

“Intercollegiate speech and debate has been introduced into China through various sources over the last eight to 10 years, and it has been growing rapidly,” said Rutledge. “I have had the pleasure of teaching debate to Chinese national students both here and abroad for much of that time. For the Chinese universities, it is seen as a way to encourage their students to become more proficient in learning to speak English. For me, it is a way for our communities to share not only new and exciting cultural experiences but also to engage in political and even spiritual discussions of great importance that might not have been welcomed even in the recent past.

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■ On May 6, a number of PLNU Army ROTC cadets were honored at the annual awards ceremony in McCulloch Park. Nicholas Wright, Darrel Dyas, Jeffrey Treisch, Christopher Reid, Michelle Johnson, and Brian Holland each earned the ROTC Honors Award. Wright also earned the Cadet Scholar Award, as did Dyas, who also received the American Legion Scholastic Excellence Award. Wright and Jonathan Searle were each given the Gold Medal Athlete Award, and the Platinum Medal Award was given to Johnson, Jacob Petro, and Anthony Winestead. Johnson also received the Cadet Honors Award. Holland received the Association of the United States Army ROTC Medal Award, Dean’s List Award, and the Commandant’s Award. Holland and Blakely Pflaumer each received the Distinguished Military Graduate Award.

■ Senior Melody Karplinski won the San Diego Press Club’s $2,500 scholarship, which is awarded annually to one journalism student at a four-year university. This year, for the first time, the club also awarded an honorable mention scholarship of $1,000, which went to PLNU junior Emily Holding.

■ Three PLNU art alumni, John Zappas (’08), Lindsay Preston (’07), and Cara Heslip (’05), were accepted to Cranbrook Academy of Art, which is ranked fourth for MFA programs overall by U.S. News’ Best Graduate Schools. Both Zappas and Heslip will be attending Cranbrook in the fall, while Preston will be attending University of Michigan.

■ PLNU alumnus Wes Bruce (’07) will be included in an exhibition at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido.

■ Natalie Daugherty (’09) and Dr. G.L. Forward co-authored a paper entitled “The Harder I Work, the Behind I Get! An Exploration of the Relationship Between Communication, Religiosity and Burnout in Women Leaders at a Church-Related University.” The paper was accepted and presented at the Western States Communication Association conference, which was held in Anchorage, Alaska, in March. Their original research, conducted at PLNU, revealed a strong relationship between burnout and role expectations as well as the ameliorating effect of religion.

■ PLNU alumnus Andy Ralph (’04) was included in an exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego titled, “Here Not There: San Diego Art Now,” which runs through Sept. 19.

■ On March 27, three students from the Department of Mathematical, Information and Computer Sciences (MICS) presented posters of their research at the Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges Conference. Presentations included Erik Althuizen’s “Bringing the Gap between Hardware and Software”; Margaret Urfer’s “Intreweaving Technology Education in University Curriculum”; and Ben Mood’s “A Bayesian Decision Model to Play Rock.”

■ On April 10, five MICS students presented posters of their research at the Mathematical Association of America Conference. Presentations included Stephen Eulissier’s “Qualitative Analysis of Systems of Ordinary Differential Equations”; Marilee Rickett’s “An Analysis of Student Chapel Attendance”; Kristen LoPresti’s “Searching for Patterns in Bruin Links”; Natasha Blakely’s “A Generating Model for Predicting the Academic Success for Incoming Freshmen” and David Vandenbosch’s “Reaction Kinetics Involving Chlorosulfonic Isocyanate and Some Monosulfamidines and the History of the Relevant Differential Equations.”
PLNU students spent their Easter break joining teammates from the U.S. and Mexico for S.A.L.T. Mission Camp (formerly YouthWorks), held in Mexicali/San Luis, Mexico. S.A.L.T.’s purpose is built into its name, which stands for “Serving and Living Together.” During the camp, people from two cultures learned what it means to live as one body in Christ as they served the community.
This year, 545 undergraduate students and 245 graduate students celebrated the completion of their degrees. PLNU’s Commencement 2010 was held on May 15 in the university’s historic Greek Amphitheatre. The Commencement speakers were Dr. Mary Paul, vice president for spiritual development, and Dr. Dean Nelson, professor of journalism and writing. Paul spoke at the graduate convocation, and Nelson addressed the students participating in the two undergraduate ceremonies.

Danielle Kelley considers herself fortunate. Thanks to her scholarship support, the soon-to-be junior is an active participant in the PLNU community and is able to take full advantage of the activities and resources available on campus. Along with fellow student Danielle Lawson, she received the 2010 Student Entrepreneur of the Year Award for developing a business plan for a new venture. She is also secretary of the accounting club. In addition, as an intern with the Office of University Advancement, Danielle participates in the stewardship of donors by thanking them for their gifts.

“It is such a good feeling to thank alumni and people in the community for equipping students and investing in our future through their scholarship donations. It’s that support that has allowed me to attend PLNU,” she said.

Danielle, whose parents are both PLNU alumni, took part in Homecoming events as a youngster, and even then, she recognized what a special place PLNU is.

“I was drawn to PLNU because of the high quality of faculty and the close-knit, family atmosphere. I really think it’s what sets our campus apart. In my two years here at PLNU, I’ve grown so much. I can’t wait for what the future holds and am very grateful for what PLNU has done to prepare me for that future.”

Please invest in PLNU students, like Danielle, by giving to the University Fund for student scholarships. To find out more, call (619) 849-2302 or visit www.pointloma.edu/giving.
Two PLNU seniors were drafted during the MLB First Year Player Draft on June 8 and 9. Pitcher Chad Blauer was drafted by the Kansas City Royals in the 30th round and was the 899th player taken. Pitcher Steven Winnick was drafted by the New York Mets in the 31st round and was pick number 931.

Blauer helped 17th-ranked PLNU finish tied for third at the NAIA World Series by throwing three complete games. In the NAIA opening round championship game, Blauer fanned 16 batters against 7th-ranked British Columbia. He then struck out 11 batters in each of his World Series triumphs versus no. 14 Belhaven (Miss.) and no. 6 Oklahoma City.

In two seasons at PLNU, Blauer, who transferred from San Diego Mesa College, put together a 19-7 record and notched 158 strikeouts.

As a pitcher, Winnick went 10-3 in 16 starts for PLNU after being moved from the bullpen into the rotation. He registered a 2.92 ERA and 58 strikeouts, tying the record for 101.2 innings. He went 11-4 with six saves during his two-season stint as a Sea Lion, helping the team make two World Series appearances.

A two-way player who transferred from the University of San Diego, Winnick also hit a team-best .373 (60-for-161) to go with 38 runs scored and 22 RBI. In 2009, he batted .311 with five home runs and 27 RBI. In addition to pitching, he started at first base, outfield, and designated hitter (DH) during his time at PLNU.

Blauler and Winnick are the 25th and 26th PLNU players selected since the draft’s inception in 1965.

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Viewpoint Spring Sports Recap

Softball

Our softball team ended its season at 30-15 with a loss to Shorter in the final game of NAIA pool play on May 24. Four players were selected to the 2010 All-GSAC team: Samantha Christian in a very close NAIA championship semifinal match to Fresno Pacific in the NAIA opening round game and California Baptist in a World Series tilt. He went 11-4 with six saves during his two-season stint as a Sea Lion, helping the team make two World Series appearances.

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As a pitcher, Winnick went 10-3 in 16 starts for PLNU after being moved from the bullpen into the rotation. He registered a 2.92 ERA and 58 strikeouts, tying the record for 101.2 innings. He won two postseason contests, defeating Fresno Pacific in an NAIA opening round game and California Baptist in a World Series tilt. He went 11-4 with six saves during his two-season stint as a Sea Lion, helping the team make two World Series appearances.

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MARRIAGES

Daniel Eddy (58) and Renee Tole (57) married May 17, 2008, at Pasadena First Church of the Nazarene. They now reside in Long Beach, Calif.

Kathryn (Maggio) (80) Vaughn was named California’s Volunteer of the Year for her work with a San Diego nonprofit program called Just in Time for Foster Youth. Kathryn was Just in Time’s founding president. Her full story will appear in the next issue of the Viewpoint.

Chip Edwards (67) released a new worship music album entitled Here With You. This is David’s fourth solo album. He is an author, speaker, artist, and award-winning songwriter.

Hollie (Hunnem) (92) Carroll was named Teacher of the Year for Reagan Elementary School in Nampa, Idaho.

Brian Winningham (94) graduated from the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I., with a master’s degree in national security and strategic planning. He and his wife, Poppy, are currently living in North Carolina with their three children, Keilen, 14, Landon, 12, and Maren, 11.

Marly Michelson (M.A. ’94), professor at Southern Nazarene University, has been selected to participate in a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute with the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies for five weeks this summer. Marly was also named a fellow by the Genocide Intervention Network. Finally, Leadership Education at Duke Divinity welcomed him as one of 20 nationally selected church leaders to participate in the Foundations of Leadership Program.

Kellei Hannum (96) was named Teacher of the Year for the Nampa School District in Nampa, Idaho. She is currently teaching junior and senior English and AP courses. She is pursuing a master’s degree at Boise State.

Steven Johnson (09) and Meghann Voymar married March 7, 2009, on the Berkeley Steam Ferry Boat at the San Diego Maritime Museum. The couple resides in San Diego, where Stephen works at General Atomics San Diego in the Department of National Security and Strategic Planning. Stephen is also a tech support specialist for Dell. They live in Austin, Texas, with their cat, George Michael.

Aaron Fox (56) and Alicia Fisher (58) married April 18, 2009. The couple resides in San Diego, where Aaron works as a systems analyst for Sharp Healthcare.

Jeremy Peugh (87) and Chelsea Smith (86) married June 27, 2009, at SierraMadre Congregational Church near Pasadena. They had a backyard reception in Glendora at Chelsea’s childhood home.

Jason Adams and Amy Kuipers (98) married July 18, 2009. They are enjoying married life while Amy teaches second grade and Jason works as a software engineer.

Nathan Swift and Jennie Cato (94) married Aug. 8, 2009, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains near Fresno, Calif., and honeymooned in Kauai, Hawaii. Jennie works as an OB/GYN physician for Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Santa Clara, Calif., and Nathan is a landscape designer. They are expecting their first child in June.


Debra (Williams) Crabtree (77) and Terry Sasser (76) married Oct. 22, 2010. Their family gathering included all three children, seven grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. After the celebration, the entire family went bowling.

Arthur O. Contag (57) has been fully retired since 2000. He has fond memories of Pasadena College.

Bill Olin (69), the MidAmerica Nazarene University women’s basketball coach, announced his retirement effective at the end of the 2010 season. Coach Olin is nearing the end of his 11th year at MNU and 30th overall. He began his coaching career at PLNU, where he was 261-247 and was a three-time District Coach of the Year.

Terry Layton (68) has been named the national men’s basketball coach of Trinidad and Tobago. Terry is going to be speaking at coaching clinics in Asia, Africa, and the Americas through his Basketball Connections organization this summer. In the fall, he is looking to do more NBA scouting or to coach a national team or a high-level international pro team.

Michael Klassen, Marvin Moore, and John Watkins.
Working for DreamWorks may seem like an opportunity from Far Far Away Land, the fictional kingdom of the beloved Shrek installments, but for Jason Carter and Shelby Martin, it’s a dream come true. After graduating from PLNU with a major in mass communication with an emphasis in production, Jason started work at DreamWorks Animation in a managerial position. He was encouraged to work hard at whatever he did but to also pursue his individual interests. His “creative knack,” as he puts it, eventually landed him the position of final layout artist. As a part of DreamWorks Animation, Jason has worked on several blockbuster films, including *Ice Age*, *Kung Fu Panda*, and *Monsters vs. Aliens*. Most recently, he worked on the final installment of the Shrek series, *Shrek Forever After*. Released on May 21, he saw the first Shrek movie during his time at PLNU, so it was great “to contribute to the final Shrek film.” His job as a final layout artist for Shrek 4 included doing CG camera work, adding details to set environments, and doing stereoscopic 3-D for the film. Jason mentioned he loves all the challenges. “It always keeps me creatively challenged.”

Shelby Martin also works for DreamWorks Animation in its show development department. Shelby started at DreamWorks with a four-month, full-time internship. When faced with the end of her intern days, DreamWorks told Shelby that there weren’t any full-time positions available. “This was really hard for me to hear,” Shelby said. “I absolutely loved the company and enjoyed being there for my internship. So it came to a point for me where I just decided I wasn’t going to settle for ‘no’ and was determined to stay with DreamWorks.” Though the doors seemed to be closed, Shelby found, or rather created, a window. Her determination led her to pitch the idea for the creation of a job within the show development department. After traveling from a director then to two supervisors and finally to the producer then to two supervisors and finally to the coordinator, Shelby’s proposal landed her the newly created title of production assistant. “I landed the internship on Dec. 11 and started that Monday on Dec. 14. When this happened, I honestly couldn’t believe it! To me, this was an early Christmas gift that I felt so blessed to have received.”

Shelby notes the best part of her job is the people: “They are willing to teach and guide you and really worked for Disney, but the two leave their companies’ rivalry at the office. I can’t imagine sharing my life with anyone else; she’s an absolute blessing,” he said. Shelby Martin also works for DreamWorks Animation in its show development department. During her time in Tanzania, Lindsey has traveled to other countries, such as South Africa, Zambia, Rwanda, and Burundi, to write about the progress of one of the World Bank’s projects, results-based financing (RBF) for health, which refers to any program that transfers money or goods to either patients when they take health-related actions (such as having their children immunized) or to healthcare providers when they achieve performance targets (such as immunizing a certain percentage of children in a given area). Countries where RBF has been implemented – from Afghanistan to Haiti – evidence suggests it can increase access to and the quality of healthcare for poor people. “There are many things we – donors and developing countries both – can do now to improve the lives of poor people in poor countries. The question is whether or not we will try,” she said. - JK
Florence (Crossley) (38) Crouch passed away Aug. 30, 2009, at the age of 94. She was the wife of Rev. Charles Crouch (38) (deceased). Florence and Charles met while working on the La Sierra yearbook staff at Pasadena College. She was the mother of Evelyn Ovando (61), Esther Sluder (68), and Margie VanDerHorp (69). Her grandparents were Samuel Ovando (92), Cynthia Ovando-Knoutson (94), and Charles Ovando (97) are also graduates of PLNU.

Florence was a faithful mother and pastor’s wife known for her special talents of hospitality and entertaining. She is survived by her three daughters, eight grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

Kay Potter (60) passed away Jan. 23, 2010. She is survived by her husband, Eddie (60). Kay and Eddie met when they attended junior high together in Sparks, Nev. They waited 10 years (which included graduating from Pasadena College) before marrying. They have two sons, Greg (84) and Christopher (88), and two grandsons, Caden and Andrew (Greg’s sons, ages 8 and 5). Kay taught elementary school for 38 years. They loved to travel and have been to Australia, Tahiti, Alaska, the Caribbean, and recently finished a 15-day cruise of the Panama Canal. Kay loved the Lord with her whole heart and belonged to Pasadena First Church for more than 40 years.

Polly S. Petridis (56) passed away Feb. 3, 2010. He was born in 1933 in Mexico City and moved to California with his family at the age of 11. Polly attended Pasadena College, where he met his wife Patricia (Rowley) (89). They married July 7, 1956, just three days before he was drafted into the U.S. Army. He served in the Army for two years and was stationed in Germany. After serving in the Army, Polly completed his degree in biology and chemistry, completed his training to become a laboratory technician, and later received a commendation from the State of California for having worked continuously for 50 years as a clinical laboratory scientist.

He worked for Glendora Community Hospital, Monrovia Community Hospital, St. Luke’s Hospital, Santa Teresa Hospital, and Vista Hospital. In addition, he taught classes at Citrus Community College and Azusa Pacific University. He was a faithful, loving, and committed husband to Pat for 53 years, and a wonderful father to his three children.

Naomi Susan Farr (MA 99) passed away Feb. 12, 2010. She was born in Russell County, Va., in 1936 and grew up in Newcastle, Ind., Tucson, Ariz., and Las Vegas, Nev. He was saved at a youth camp in Prescott, Ariz., shortly before his 12th birthday and became a member of the Church of the Nazarene in 1953. He graduated from Pasadena College in 1958 and obtained a master’s in speech communication and a master’s in theology. He became fluent in Spanish and followed a call to minister to the Hispanic community. He married his beloved wife, Emily, in 1961. The couple had four children together: David, Carlos, Daniel, and Janet. After pastoring in El Paso, Tex., the family moved to Guatemala in 1965, the beginning of a life of mission work that would last for 34 years. They moved to Argentina in 1969, where Harold taught at the Nazarene Bible School. He returned to Guatemala in 1974, where he continued to serve through the Nazarene church; directed Nazarene relief efforts after the 1976 earthquake; and mentored many young ministers and church leaders in Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. Harold was diagnosed with cancer in 1996. His family moved to California for his treatment. God gave him 13 more years to impact the people he loved. Harold remained active until the end, despite his medical problems.

On May 3, 2010, after a courageous battle with cancer, Harold Ray (58) went to be with the Lord on March 15, 2010. He was born in Russell County, Va., in 1936 and grew up in Newcastle, Ind., Tucson, Ariz., and Las Vegas, Nev. He was saved at a youth camp in Prescott, Ariz., shortly before his 12th birthday and became a member of the Church of the Nazarene in 1953. He graduated from Pasadena College in 1958 and obtained a master’s in speech communication and a master’s in theology. He became fluent in Spanish and followed a call to minister to the Hispanic community. He married his beloved wife, Emily, in 1961. The couple had four children together: David, Carlos, Daniel, and Janet. After pastoring in El Paso, Tex., the family moved to Guatemala in 1965, the beginning of a life of mission work that would last for 34 years. They moved to Argentina in 1969, where Harold taught at the Nazarene Bible School. He returned to Guatemala in 1974, where he continued to serve through the Nazarene church; directed Nazarene relief efforts after the 1976 earthquake; and mentored many young ministers and church leaders in Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. Harold was diagnosed with cancer in 1996. His family moved to California for his treatment. God gave him 13 more years to impact the people he loved. Harold remained active until the end, despite his medical problems.

In 1945, Cecil and Irene decided to move to Los Angeles, where he worked toward a master’s degree in theology at USC and earned his doctorate in education in the early 1960s. During this time, he worked at Pasadena College, taking on various roles, including registrar, dean of admissions, professor in the education and sociology departments, and professor emeritus at the time of his retirement. In total, he worked at Pasadena College for over 30 years.

Cecil was a profound believer in the value of education and in the intellectual, moral, and spiritual development of people. A good-natured and purposeful man, he was devoutly loyal to his family, college, and students. He had a variety of academic interests and read widely. With his humor and wit, he told many good stories and did his best to keep himself and those around him in good spirits.

Cecil is survived by four great-grandchildren, five grandchildren, his daughter-in-law Moana, and his two sons: Richard (71), a public school principal in Alpine, Calif., and Joel (74), a psychiatrist in Pasadena.

MORE THAN JUST ANOTHER PRETTY SUNSET

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What Are We Hoping For?

by Mark Carter

S everal years ago, I encountered a short story about a little boy who lived and worked on a hillside farm with his family. Every morning, before sunrise, the lad would get up to help his father do the necessary chores of feeding the livestock before school. Afterwards, the boy would return, finish his studies, and assist his father with the evening routine. His favorite part of the day was right at sunset when he would sit on his front porch and watch as the house across the way burst into a dazzling array of brilliant colors. He would often think to himself about the extraordinary wealth of the house with the golden windows and would dream at night about living in such a place. Finally, the dreaming had become too much for the boy, so he asked his father if he could set out across the valley to see the opulent house. The father agreed. The next day, the boy packed a small lunch and set out on his hopeful journey. The crossing took him longer than expected, and by the time he arrived at the house, the sun had already set. Approaching the simple farm, he knocked on the door and inquired about the golden windows. The older couple who answered knew nothing of them; however, they offered the boy supper and invited him to stay the night. The boy agreed and received their hospitality. That night, as he lay in the guest bed, he was overcome by sadness wondering what went wrong. Early the next morning, before sunrise, the boy got up, thanked his hosts, and set out for his trip back home. As he started down the hillside, the sunrise peaked over his shoulders just as he was looking up at his house across the way. Within seconds, the windows of his home burst into a radiant kaleidoscope of colors, sparkling like diamonds. Immediately, the sadness fled from his heart, as he was overcome with joy.

As I reflect on the Viewpoint’s yearlong theme of hope, I ask myself if we fall prey to the misguided perception that the fulfillment of our expectations lies off in the distance somewhere. Do we, like the boy, sit on the proverbial front porch dreaming of a better day, only to have our expectations thwarted in the end? What are we hoping for?

There is another story that I am drawn to; it is in the final chapter of Luke’s Gospel, and it tells of two disciples who, with heads hung low, walked a lonely and downtrodden path back to a neighboring town. They, like the boy, set out on a journey – theirs lasted three years with expectations high. Rather than golden windows, they longed for the golden reign of God, the restoration of Israel. Yet, on the jubilant heels of their would-be messiah’s entrance into Jerusalem, he was arrested and executed for treason. Their hearts were filled with sadness. As they walked the rejected path, a stranger joined them and inquired about their disposition. Amazed at the wanderer’s ignorance, they told him of the horrific events of Jesus of Nazareth’s trial and crucifixion, concluding with the statement, “We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.”

Starting from the beginning, the stranger explained Israel’s history and God’s plan of salvation, illuminating their minds with the scriptures. The two disciples invited the stranger to spend the night with them. Entering their home, they sat down to share a meal together. As the stranger blessed and broke the bread, the eyes of the disciples were opened and their hearts were overcome with joy. Immediately, they returned to Jerusalem and shared their experience with the other disciples, saying, “Were not our hearts burning within us as he opened the scriptures to us?”

What are we hoping for?

May our eyes be open to the ways in which our hopes are distorted, and may our hearts burn within us, becoming a dazzling flame witnessing to the hope of the resurrected Jesus.

Mark Carter is PLNU’s director of chaplaincy ministries and the university chaplain.
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