

BECOMING WHO WE'RE
called
TO BE,
TOGETHER





Throughout our history, PLNU has been known as a place where deep relationships—the kind that can change life's trajectory—are formed.

I frequently hear from members of our community that their favorite aspect of PLNU is the people. Each of us—as we come, live, and learn here—discovers more

about our unique calling. Many times I see a pivot in the direction of one's call as a result of the helpful and inspiring interactions and relationships that occur throughout the university.

At PLNU, we are committed to teaching, shaping, and sending students into the world to serve and make a real difference through their lives in service and careers. And, we're committed to growing and investing in faculty, staff, alumni, and donors who fulfill vital roles in making the university a vibrant Christian learning community. It is the people of PLNU who uniquely make the university a place of learning, relationship, service, and possibility!

This year's annual report tells the story of how working together helps us to become who we are fully called to be within the body of Christ. Our faculty and staff influence students and our students, in turn, influence faculty and staff in and through the relationships across the university. Peers walk alongside each other during challenging and difficult times. Staff members meet students where they are in the daily issues of life, and students enrich the work of each of us involved in campus life and work. Friends and supporters make scholarships and educational opportunities possible that enrich the learning and relationships throughout PLNU. We each help one another live out who we are called to be even as we are following God's call in our own lives.

Thank you for being an important part of this community. Your help continues to make a difference in what becomes possible for students and for PLNU. Because of the support of alumni and friends, the work of faculty and staff, and the engagement in learning and growth among our students, PLNU is truly a transformative place where *minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith* in pursuit of God's call in the lives of all who are part of the university.

Positively,

Bob Brower
Bob Brower, Ph.D.
President

**"IT IS THE
PEOPLE OF PLNU
WHO UNIQUELY MAKE
THE UNIVERSITY
A PLACE OF *LEARNING,
RELATIONSHIP, SERVICE,
AND POSSIBILITY!*"**



VOICE LIKE A

TRUMPET

There is a difference between knowing what you are called to do and knowing how you will live out your call. Transitioning from knowing she was meant to become a youth pastor to understanding what kind of youth pastor she is meant to be has been the hallmark of junior Alexis de la Mora's time at PLNU.

Alexis, or Lexi, is the daughter of Sergio and Georgina de la Mora, co-senior pastors of Cornerstone Church, a 6,000-member congregation based in National City, San Diego, with several satellite campuses. Sergio is a widely sought-after speaker and has published a book. Growing up, Lexi and her four sisters felt an understandable pressure to represent their parents well. Living under perceived scrutiny throughout her childhood and high school years, Lexi came to PLNU knowing she wanted to do youth ministry after graduating but not really knowing who she was as her own leader.



PHOTO: DR. JOHN WRIGHT IN CONVERSATION WITH ALEXIS

“As a professor of Christian theology and Scripture, I have been entrusted by the church through the university to pass on the goodness, truthfulness, and beauty of the faith once delivered to the saints to the next generation. My work is an act of faith in the God who raised Jesus from the dead, and has not left us to ourselves but still calls all creation back to God through the Spirit—and the Spirit’s work in gifts like Lexi.

My vocation calls me to address intellectually the secularizing intellectual and political environment in which we live, not through assimilation, but witness. As students and alumni lead me deeper into that witness, I pray that perhaps the Spirit can honor my poor witness to my students to help them participate more deeply in God, from whom, through whom, and to whom are all things.”

DR. JOHN WRIGHT serves as professor of theology and Christian Scriptures and is also senior pastor at the Church of the Nazarene, Mid-City English.

“I came with a mask on,” she admitted. “I felt like I always had to act stoked and excited, always had to be talking about positive things, and not complaining about things that were hard or challenging.”

Much of the reason Lexi feared sharing her authentic self had to do with confidence. When Lexi applied to PLNU, she knew if she were accepted, she would be the first person in her family to attend a four-year university. Many of the girls in her church and at her high school weren’t considering four-year schools, and when they found out she was applying to PLNU, they were very excited for her. But Lexi construed their enthusiasm as pressure.

“There was this huge expectation,” she recalled. “If I got in, I would set the standard for my sisters, family, girls—especially Latina girls—at my church who hadn’t thought about attending a four-year university before. They were all looking up to me to do this. It was a spiritual battle for me. A lot of insecurity rose up.”

One night on a mission trip to Mexico, Lexi realized the solution to her insecurity should have been obvious. She was praying, asking God to be accepted at PLNU.

“God showed me, ‘Lexi, it’s been done. It’s in my hands.’ Suddenly, I had peace in my heart.”

It was when she returned home from that mission trip that Lexi found her acceptance letter.

Despite the peace she felt that night in Mexico, Lexi still came to PLNU without a clear vision of her own potential as a leader—insecurity clouded her view of her identity.

During Lexi’s sophomore year, she was given the opportunity to lead a discipleship group, known on campus as a d-group. D-groups are student-led growth groups held in the PLNU residence halls. Though she enjoyed leading, Lexi was quite aware that it was her first time attempting to disciple people who were her peers or even older than her. She found the effort worthwhile but draining, which is why she was deeply grateful that all d-group leaders were themselves mentored by a family group leader. Lexi’s family group was led by then-senior Kelsey Richardson (15).

Richardson quickly became a person Lexi could go to with questions, concerns, joys, and struggles. One of the ways Richardson chose to encourage her d-group leaders was to give each of them a necklace with a message. The one she chose for Lexi read, “voice like a trumpet.”

“Previously, I had often been afraid to speak up,” Lexi said. “But Kelsey encouraged me that I could be strong and confident, that I could lead the way into battle like the Battle of Jericho.”

Richardson’s leadership showed Lexi something very important about her own—she could have a voice like a trumpet to not only speak out but to speak out in ways that could change things for people, in ways that could be used for the Kingdom. The strength of her voice didn’t need to come from a forced constant happy attitude; it could come from her faith.

Lexi received a similar message from her biblical theology professor Dr. John Wright, albeit through a very different approach. She explained:

“Dr. Wright would always call me the wrong name. He’d pick a new name for me each class—Isabel, Marisa, Jessica, whatever. He would also tell me I was too nice.

Then one day, I finally said, ‘No, my name is Alexis.’

Dr. Wright answered, ‘You don’t get to tell me who you are. I get to tell you.’

Then all of a sudden it clicked, and I realized what he had been trying to teach me the whole time. After class, I thanked him, and I told him I understood that he was trying to teach me that I shouldn’t let others tell me what my identity is, that I should speak up and have a voice.”

Even though her biblical theology class ended last year, Lexi still keeps in touch with Wright and feels thankful for the message he gave her in such a memorable way.

“Beyond teaching us about the Bible, Dr. Wright taught us about our own hearts, our identity, and our relationships with God and others,” she said.

Thanks to Richardson, Wright, and her friends at PLNU, this year, Lexi is a family group leader.

“Now, I can help others in the same way I was poured into,” she said. “I can love the girls and show them how great they are and how much God loves them.”

But because of all she has learned, Lexi doesn’t just tout the good things about leading a d-group; she talks about how, even when a leader feels like she isn’t doing the best job, God can still be at work.

“I’ve discovered that I don’t have to doubt myself or please people,” Lexi said. “I can be myself and still serve and lead people. I no longer feel doubtful. I don’t have to have the right skills or the right look or the right thing to say or even the most charismatic personality. I’m finally comfortable in my own skin and can be real with people.”

The lessons Lexi has learned and the growth she has experienced are ideal to share not only with the d-group leaders she is currently mentoring but also with the youth to whom she will minister in the future as youth pastor at Cornerstone Church. They are lessons appropriate for young people to learn from a leader who truly understands and who is living out her calling as her true self. ■



LEARNING TO UNCOVER

MORE

For current senior Jesse Oleson, being at PLNU has meant diving deeper into understanding himself, his faith, and his calling.

At the surface, Jesse's story doesn't seem too unusual for a college student—changing majors a few times, working on campus to pay his way, completing an internship. But through these fairly common activities, Jesse has experienced tremendous growth as a student, person, and believer—growth that wouldn't have happened just anywhere and that wouldn't have happened without the help of two faithful encouragers he met at PLNU.



PHOTO: MELANIE WOLF MEETING WITH JESSE

“I feel deeply called to accompany others on their journeys. As a spiritual director, I’m captivated by the metaphor of a midwife, and the sacred space that exists in helping others come to realize their spiritual gifts and bearing witness.

I’ve personally grown through friendships here at PLNU as well.

Dr. Lindsey Lupo, Dr. Linda Beail, Nancy Pitts, Melissa Tucker, and Chip Pitkin are dear friends whom I’ve experienced life-giving conversations with that have impacted me spiritually. We discuss ways of learning and living out our faith, and struggle together.

As a student, it was so powerful hearing that professors and staff members were living out their faith with colleagues and friends. It was great modeling; I aspired to that and sought to live authentically, and I try to share that with my students as well.”

MELANIE WOLF is a certified spiritual director and the director/campus pastor for discipleship at PLNU. She has served in the Office of Spiritual Development for the last five years.

Originally from Huntington Beach, Calif., Jesse grew up in a small Christian Missionary Alliance church, God’s House Huntington Beach, which was pastored by his father. Jesse was already confident he wanted to attend a Christian university, and when he visited PLNU, he knew that this was where he wanted to be.

“I felt a really great confidence in the programs and variety PLNU offered, and I just felt convinced that this was where God wanted me,” Jesse said.

Jesse was perhaps especially drawn to the variety of programs at PLNU because he didn’t enter the university certain of what he wanted to do after graduating. In fact, he changed his major for the first time before school even started.

“I played sports growing up, so I had an interest in knowing more about the human body,” Jesse said. “But before school started, I was researching PLNU further and was impressed by the business faculty. A lot of my family members are in business, so I thought that might be a good fit for me. So by the time my freshman year started, I was a business marketing major.”

Jesse found his athletic outlet in the rugby club, of which he is the vice president. Meanwhile, he enjoyed his business classes and learned that his favorites were the ones that involved studying communications and writing. Realizing this, he decided to further refine his academic focus by switching

his major to managerial and organizational communication with a writing minor. He completed an internship with an advertising agency between his sophomore and junior years and figured he was on a solid path.

During his junior year, Jesse was excited to take the “Intro to Journalism” class required for his major, because, as much as he enjoyed his communications classes, he always loved his writing classes the most. However, he hadn’t really considered narrowing his educational focus to just writing because he wasn’t sure what the job prospects would be for him in that field.

That changed when Jesse started class with Dr. Dean Nelson, founder and director of PLNU’s journalism program.

“He told me, ‘You have a knack for this, and you could be successful at it if it’s something you really want to do,’” Jesse said. Nelson offered to go over Jesse’s schedule to help him figure out how to make one last major change and still graduate in four years.

“His push in that direction was the push I needed to propel me into the field,” Jesse said. “Now, I know without a doubt that I want to write, which is really great and really daunting all at the same time. But Dean recognized that this was something I probably should be doing, and that was a total God thing.”

Finding out he could harness his love of learning and writing into a journalism major with an exciting career path ahead hasn’t been the only way God has been working in Jesse’s life. During his time at PLNU, Jesse’s faith has also stretched, grown, and deepened. Nelson has been a part of that experience, too, since Jesse has been in Nelson’s Sunday school class at San Diego First Church of the Nazarene for the last year.

But there has been another key mentor who has helped Jesse grow spiritually as well. Jesse met Melanie Wolf, director/campus pastor for discipleship, when he served as a discipleship group (d-group) leader his sophomore year. During his junior year, Jesse not only led a d-group but also worked as Wolf’s intern, serving the spiritual development team and fellow student leaders along with his partner intern.

“Melanie has been a day-to-day spiritual mentor for me,” Jesse said. “As a journalist, I like to ask a lot of questions, and she has a lot of answers.”

Jesse’s questions have stemmed not only from a natural curiosity but also from being confronted with different perspectives on issues of faith for the first time.

“When your occupation and your vocation intersect, that’s a remarkable thing. To teach and write at PLNU, to engage with students who will be shaping the world to come—this is a life I could never have dreamed up on my own. But I also wouldn’t want it any other way. How does one respond to this kind of life? Gratitude. Just gratitude.”

DR. DEAN NELSON is the founder and director of PLNU’s journalism program. He hosts the annual Writer’s Symposium by the Sea, and occasionally writes for national publications, including the *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, and *Christianity Today*.

“Going into college, I had a narrow-minded view of Christianity and what faith looked like,” he said.

As the ideas he grew up with were tested for the first time, Jesse found a person he could trust and turn to in Wolf. He described her as very intelligent and well-read, which gave him confidence in the insights she offered him when he brought issues and questions to her. Wolf’s ability to discuss spiritual matters theologically, philosophically, ethically, and practically while remaining steadfast in her own faith was the example Jesse needed. He is now able to hold ideas in tension, consider others’ viewpoints, and think critically about issues with greater depth and consistency. And after experiencing all this, Jesse’s own faith is stronger than ever.

“I’ve become someone who is confident in my ability to question all aspects of my faith, so that way I can back it up,” he said. “I’ve been exposed to more ideas, but I know that my faith holds strong through that.”

In short, for Jesse, PLNU has been a place to discover more about his call, his faith, and himself. The support and encouragement he found here have prepared him to be a greater servant and leader in the future. ■



DEVELOPING A

PASSION

During his senior year of high school, with a couple of mission trips to Kenya under his belt, Josh Burgner (15) had an unformed passion he was eager to develop.

“When I was looking for a university, I was looking for a place to integrate a business education and a mission focus,” Josh said. “I found PLNU’s international development studies (IDS) major and was hooked because I knew that was what I wanted to do.”

From the first week of school, the soundness of Josh’s decision to select PLNU was confirmed. At the campus resource fair, Josh met Dr. Rob Gailey, professor of business and director of PLNU’s Center for International Development (CID). After sharing his excitement for the international development studies major and PLNU in general, Josh found an instant mentor in Gailey.



PHOTO: DR. KEITH PEDERSEN LEADING MUSIC STUDENTS

“My life has been greatly blessed, and my own spiritual walk encouraged, by many wonderful students like Josh whom I have had the privilege to make music and praise God with over the years. This calling—to serve God through serving students—has been a defining passion of my life made only deeper by the experiences we have shared: performing, rehearsing, and sharing our love for God through music together.”

DR. KEITH PEDERSEN, professor of music and conductor of the PLNU choir, teaches choral music, voice, music education, and music history at PLNU.

Shortly thereafter, Gailey gave Josh the opportunity to attend an international development conference in Baltimore on his behalf. By Josh’s second semester at PLNU, he was working at the CID. Through that position and his classes, Josh realized that he wanted to approach international poverty alleviation with an entrepreneurial mindset.

“Rob Gailey has been my boss, club advisor, mentor, colleague, and professor,” Josh said. “We interacted five days a week. He challenged me with questions and conversations that were academic, ethical, and spiritual.”

Gailey’s deep investment in Josh played a major role in shaping and nuancing Josh’s passion.

“I had a broad idea of what I wanted to do, and he helped take that and really mold it. He showed me what good development work looks like and how I can do it,” Josh explained. “I learned options in addition to being a traditional missionary and had the chance to discover what interests me and how I can live that out.”

Josh’s new, focused plan involved gaining experience at a nonprofit organization in San Diego after graduation before seeking to spend at least a few years working overseas. It was through his first two mission trips to Kenya with his home church, Eastside Christian, that Josh developed a passion for helping individuals who are living in poverty. As he learned how he might put that passion to work during his time at

PLNU, he returned to Kenya twice more—in 2012 with his church and in 2014 with his church’s partner organization, Christian Missionary Fellowship International (CMFI), which, in turn, partners with a local Kenyan organization called Missions of Hope International. On the 2014 trip, Josh was able to put what he was learning as an IDS major into practice, completing a two-month internship in microfinance.

Josh’s desire to live among the people he serves for at least part of his career was spurred on not only by what he learned from Gailey and experienced in Kenya but also by what he saw modeled by two other significant people in his life at PLNU.

“I was a resident assistant (R.A.) for three years, which really opened me up to more than just transactional business relationships but also the personal side of relationships,” Josh said. “My senior year, I worked under Chip Pitkin, a great resident director (R.D.) who really showed me how to live in the community you work in and genuinely care for those individuals.”

In addition to learning from his R.D., Josh benefited from the deep investment Dr. Keith Pedersen made in his life through Point Loma Singers. Josh came to PLNU without singing experience, but when Pedersen invited him to join the choir, he decided to give it a try. He ended up staying for all four years.

“I was really impacted by Dr. Pedersen’s care for people and genuine interest in people’s lives over the long term. Even though I was not a music student, he gave me a chance and opened me up to a new area of expression of emotion and life through music. I knew that whatever I might be going through, Dr. Pedersen would invest in me and genuinely care about what was going on in my life.”

It was through the relationships Josh formed, classes he took, and opportunities he had at PLNU that Josh landed his current position as operations and programs associate at the nonprofit organization Mission Edge. Josh first met his current manager in his economics and microfinance class, and Josh’s PLNU connections brought Mission Edge’s open position to his attention after graduation.

Mission Edge provides fiscal sponsorship, a practice by which groups or individuals that don’t have their own 501(c)3 status

may operate under Mission Edge’s EIN to receive donations and effectively work in the community as a nonprofit. Mission Edge also provides support to existing nonprofits and social enterprises.

As operations and programs associate, Josh works on the fiscal sponsorship side of the organization, supporting the programs manager. Together, they sponsor over 20 projects with various needs, brainstorming operational issues, answering inquiries, and providing advice. Josh also coordinates office operations under the COO.

“My parents always exemplified a humble gratitude for the blessings bestowed upon them. Leona, my mother, a lifelong Nazarene, always had an appreciation for missionaries—their sacrifice and efforts never went unnoticed by her.

Lee and Leona Arce established their scholarship in an effort to promote a financial blessing for those interested in ministries at home and abroad. This scholarship is an extension of my mother’s never-ceasing prayer to bring the word of Christ to the world. I strongly believe our family scholarship expresses the importance of a Christian university education and expands upon the foundation of Christ’s church throughout the world.”

MONA LEE ARCE donates to PLNU through the Lee and Leona Arce Scholarship to continue honoring her parents and benefiting students interested in ministry.

Josh attributes not only finding his position but also succeeding in it to his time at PLNU.

“I am forever a student and a learner because of my experience at PLNU,” he said. “It was there that I developed a real passion for an education, both academic and spiritual. I want to forever be learning new things.”

Though Gailey, Pitkin, and Pedersen played especially powerful roles in Josh’s growth at PLNU, Josh is aware that he has many others to whom he can be grateful as well—including many people he has never met.

“It’s because of the scholarships that I received that I was able to graduate debt-free which allows me to do the work I want to do,” he said. “I want the people who give to know they are why I will always give, too.” ■

THE HIGHLIGHTS

PLNU, FACULTY & STUDENTS

PLNU HIGHLIGHTS

PLNU received high marks in *The Economist's* first-ever college rankings. Coming in ninth among other California colleges and universities, PLNU placed in the 96th percentile nationally.

On Sept. 28, 2015, journalists from the Middle East and Northern Africa visited PLNU to speak with students studying journalism about the challenges of the profession in their countries. PLNU was the only university visited by these 15 journalists during their three-week stay in the U.S. This event was part of the San Diego Diplomacy Council's (SDDC) program to have guest journalists participate in the journalism program at PLNU. The SDDC is funded in part by the U.S. State Department.

PLNU was named by three leading sources in college rankings for U.S. veterans and active military. For the first time ever, both Military Advanced Education & Transition, and Victory Media listed PLNU as a top school in their 2015 December and November annual publications, respectively. Most notable, however, is PLNU's 15th place ranking in Best Colleges for Veterans by the *U.S. News and World Report* college ranking guide for 2016.

On Nov. 20, 2015, a vision 20 years in the making became reality with the dedication of Sator Hall and Latter Hall on PLNU's San Diego campus. PLNU faculty, students, alumni, donors, community leaders, and the Board of Trustees joined President Brower in celebrating the significance of this addition to the university. The dedication marked PLNU's commitment to both current and future students, faculty, and the San Diego region as an institution

known for excellence in academic preparation, wholeness in personal development, and faithfulness to mission.

On Feb. 26, 2016, PLNU hosted its first ever TEDx event on campus. This daylong conference featured five faculty members from across campus. The event received promising feedback from a wide variety of audiences, including stories of student lives impacted, inquiries from alumni and friends of the university wanting to know more about the work taking place on campus, recommendations for future speaking engagements, congratulations from colleagues across the country, and even affirmation from complete strangers around the globe.

Feb. 16-19, 2016, PLNU hosted its 21st annual Writer's Symposium by the Sea featuring four guest authors: sports writer Dick Enberg, young adult fiction writer Robin Jones Gunn, poet Nikki Giovanni, and memoirist and blogger Sarah Bessey.

In March, the PLNU debate team won first place for the 2015-16 year-end team sweepstakes in the National Parliamentary Debate Association National Championship for Parliamentary Debate, held at California State University, Long Beach. PLNU has won this honor four other times in the past 14 years, this year outranking 199 colleges and universities that compete in this format of intercollegiate debate, the largest in the country.

On April 19, 2016, bestselling author Richard Louv spoke at PLNU. This event served as the national book launch for his work of nonfiction, *Vitamin N: The Essential Guide to a Nature-rich Life*.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

On Sept. 26, 2015, a three-year study on gang-involved sex trafficking, funded by the Department of Justice, was released. The groundbreaking study, "Measuring the Nature and Extent of Gang Involvement in Sex Trafficking in San Diego," was co-led by Dr. Jamie Gates, professor of cultural anthropology, in partnership with Dr. Ami C. Carpenter, USD Kroc School of Peace Studies professor. The results of this study consist of data gathered and analyzed from hundreds of current and former gang members, schools, law enforcement agencies, and victim service agencies.

Steve Cosentino, associate professor of accounting, received the 2015 Christian Business Faculty Association (CBFA) Teaching Award. The award was created by the CBFA to "recognize Christian business faculty members who emulate the character, engagement, and calling of Christ [in] the work and ministry of transformational education."

Professor of political science, Dr. Lindsey Lupo's book on race riots, *Flak-catchers: One Hundred Years of Riot*

***Commission Politics in America*, was referenced in the executive summary of the Ferguson Commission Report.** Released in 2015, the report was titled *Forward Through Ferguson: A Path Toward Racial Equality*.

Dr. Katie Manning, associate professor of writing, won the 2016 Main Street Rag Poetry Book Award—which includes a cash prize, 50 author copies, and publication—for her full-length poetry manuscript, *Tasty Other*.

In January 2016, Dr. Samuel M. Powell, professor of philosophy and religion, published a new book. *The Impassioned Life: Reason and Emotion in the Christian Tradition* explores theology's need to rethink the nature of emotions and their relation to human reason.

Daniel Davis, professor of sociology, won a \$20,000 research grant from the Kauffman Foundation. His research, titled "Incubated: How Academic Capitalism Impacts Student Entrepreneurs," uses multiple methods in taking a look at the rise of university-sponsored business incubators.



PHOTO: DR. DEAN NELSON INTERVIEWING POET NIKKI GIOVANNI AT THE 21ST ANNUAL WRITER'S SYMPOSIUM BY THE SEA



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

At the 2015 banquet for the San Diego chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, PLNU journalism students received 10 awards—more than the combined number of accolades won by five other local universities. The students were recognized for their print and online efforts for *The Point* newspaper and Lomabeat.com.

Kevin Kawamoto, senior cross-disciplinary major, was named the southern regional vice president for the Student California Teachers Association (SCTA) for the 2015-16 year. This role has a wide range of responsibilities ranging from being the face of all Southern California SCTA chapters at California Teachers Association state council meetings to helping develop SCTA chapters on Southern California college campuses.

Senior voice majors Kiana Bell and Anthony Whitson-Martini spent the summer as resident artists performing in *La Boheme*, *Carousel*, and *How to Succeed in Business at the Utah Festival of Opera & Musical Theatre*. This is the second year that PLNU students have performed in highly coveted roles at the prestigious festival.

This past Lenten season, from Feb. 10 to April 2, PLNU students took part in a fundraising effort called Selma Strong, the fifth annual Lent Giving Campaign managed by International Ministries. The campaign raised \$10,000 from the PLNU community to go toward a remodel of the weight room at Southside High School in Selma, Ala.

In March, senior Jacci O'Keefe was selected for a Fulbright Student Award to serve for nine months in India as a cultural ambassador to the U.S. and as part of Fulbright's English Teaching Assistantship, through which she will teach English at a high school in Mumbai.

In March, PLNU's surf team won the NSSA Interscholastic State Title at Church Beach San Clemente. Four students made it into the finals: senior Jack Boyes placed second; senior Jeremy Carter placed third; and freshman Kirk Weisenger and senior Sara Locke placed sixth in their respective heats.

PHOTO: CURRENT STUDENT DARSHA PIGFORD MOMENTS AFTER SURF TEAM WINS NSSA INTERSCHOLASTIC STATE TITLE

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16 FINANCIALS

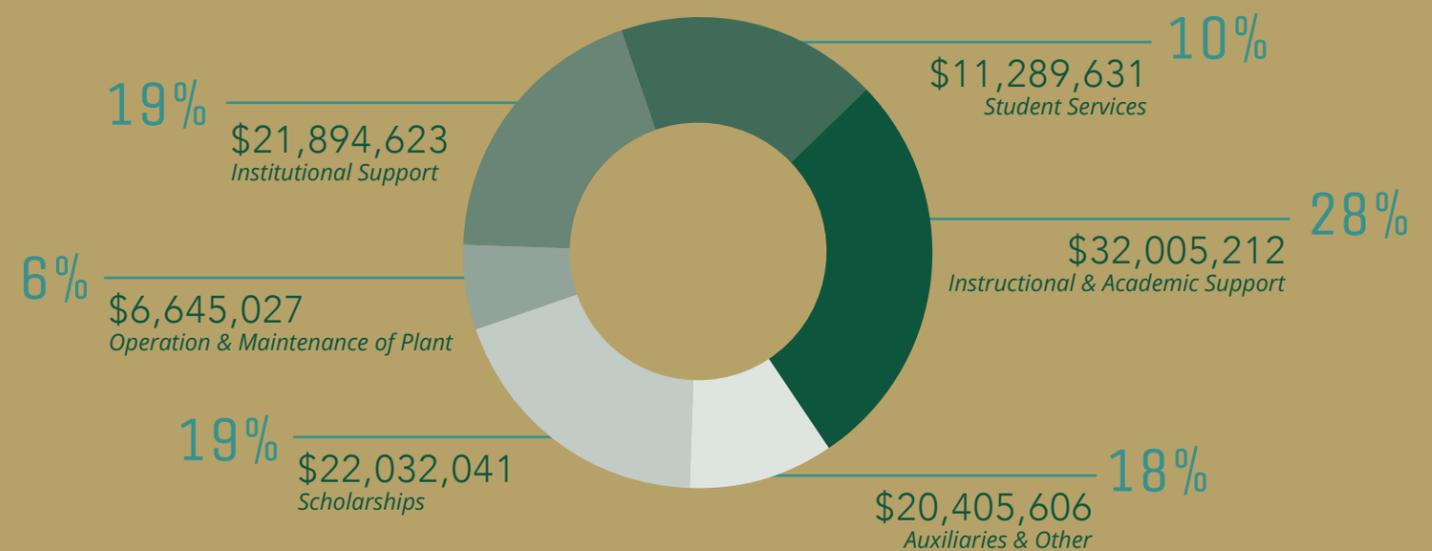
TOTAL GIFTS RECEIVED \$6,145,452

\$1,990,703 32% Unrestricted and Church Gifts

\$3,003,057 49% Designated Gifts

\$1,151,692 19% Endowed Gifts

OPERATING EXPENSES \$114,272,140



OPERATING REVENUES \$118,630,030



\$96,541,355
Tuition & Fees



\$20,097,972
Auxiliaries & Other



\$1,990,703
Unrestricted & Church Gifts

"The first person I met at PLNU was Dr. Cecil Miller, the registrar, in 1957. The tuition was financially out of reach for me, but Dr. Miller told me he had access to some scholarship money, which ultimately allowed me to attend the university.

Since my childhood, I was taught that God was a god of fear—not love. But when I started at PLNU, I noticed everyone singing and praying to a loving and caring God. Several weeks in, I realized that I did not know this Savior they were praying to. This realization was the lowest point in my life, and I was hungry to learn more.

On Oct. 24, 1957, Dr. Russell DeLong extended an invitation to come forward to the altar during a revival chapel service. Halfway to the altar, the Holy Spirit spoke directly to me. I fell on my knees and accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior.

I remember speaking to Dr. Miller the next week about where my scholarship came from. He said, 'John, many students like yourself have experienced life-changing moments when they realized that in addition to an education, they have a higher calling for their lives—a purpose and direction. After graduating, they wanted to share with new Christians the newfound joy and peace that you found last week.'

As I grew spiritually, I realized I had an obligation to continue what these very caring and loving Christians started.

Our heavenly Father has continued to bless my family. I started small by funding a scholarship in the name of Dr. Cecil Miller. We established a second one in the name of Dr. Robert and Carolyn Scott, our former pastor and his wife. God continues to bless us and we have been fortunate to fund other gifts as well. I have been in the investment business now for 55 years, and I find much joy in giving back to Point Loma Nazarene University."

JOHN RICHARD JACKSON (62) continues to donate to PLNU to bless students exhibiting service to the Lord, the Church of the Nazarene, and to others.

A photograph of three young adults sitting on concrete steps in front of a large, white, domed building with arched windows. The man on the left has a beard and glasses, wearing a grey plaid shirt and jeans. The woman in the middle is wearing a brown t-shirt and black boots. The man on the right is wearing a blue button-down shirt and black pants. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows palm trees and a clear sky.

If you have any questions about this report or want to discuss how to support the future of PLNU students, please contact the Office of University Advancement. Thank you for your support and for being an integral part of PLNU.

(619) 849-2302 | giving@pointloma.edu | pointloma.edu/giving

MISSION

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

VISION

Point Loma Nazarene University will be a nationally prominent Christian university and a leading Wesleyan voice in higher education and the church—known for excellence in academic preparation, wholeness in personal development, and faithfulness to mission.

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