Picture a place built just for Pacific’s more than 50,000 alumni when they return to their alma mater. A place where they can gather and reminisce about their college years, show their children photographs of how they and their fellow students dressed and passed their time, and flip through memory-evoking yearbooks.

If all goes as planned, The Alex and Jeri Vereschagin Alumni House will be built in two years. And for the first time, alumni will have a place on campus they can call their own.

The 9,500-square-foot alumni house will rise two stories from the middle of South Campus Lawn, near the Atchley Clock Tower along Baxter Walkway — a major University pathway. Being in such a busy location, it will be visible to anyone strolling through South Campus, from students to administrators, to professors and campus visitors — and, most importantly, to alumni.

Randy Hayashi ’85, chair of the alumni house committee, says it is “critical to the campus to have an alumni house. We want everyone to know being alumni doesn’t mean that we just want your money. We want you to be a part of the family.”

Alumni have donated more than $3 million of the $4.5 million needed to complete their future home, which will be solely funded by Pacific graduates. The Pacific Alumni Association hopes to raise the remaining amount for the project over the next eight months. Once the money is raised, it will take about a year to construct. The goal is to have it completed for Pacific Alumni Weekend in June 2011.

Denny Stilwell ’88, president of the Pacific Alumni Association, says the alumni house will help establish lifelong affiliations with the University and prompt more graduates to return to campus.

“There’s something about a physical structure that shows a serious commitment to alumni… and alumni’s commitment to Pacific,” Stilwell says. “It conveys a sense of importance and of priority.”

The alumni house will feature the Alumni Foyer, Omega Phi Alpha Library, Alumni Association Board Room, Alumni Patio, two conference rooms and office space. Plans for the house include pre-event receptions in the 726 square-foot foyer, displays of books and artwork by Pacific graduates and former professors, and a number of historical items in the Omega Phi Alpha Library, such as decades-old yearbooks, past editions of the The Pacifican newspaper and a digital video history of Pacific titled “The Pacific Experience.”

Students especially will benefit from the alumni house. A number of events will be geared toward them, from graduate school workshops to graduation ring ceremonies and luncheons recognizing student leadership. Rickey Boyland ’79, co-chair of the Black Alumni Pacific Club, says the alumni house will serve as a fitting environment for mentoring and networking between students and alumni.

“Nothing can replace sound advice from someone who is in the profession you have chosen to go into,” Boyland says.

The alumni house will provide meeting space for the alumni board, Pacific Alumni Association and other alumni organizations, as well as for students, staff, faculty and administrators across campus. The facility’s use will even expand to the community. Supporters envision the Vereschagin Alumni House as not only a campus-wide resource but another bridge between Pacific and the outlying community — and one that will showcase the diversity and accomplishments of Pacific’s alumni.

“It will be a facility that I believe our alumni will be proud of,” says Bill Coen, executive director of the Pacific Alumni Association. “It will be their home on campus.”
How can I participate?

Leadership gift and naming opportunities are available at all levels. Naming opportunities include the Alumni Board Room, the Alumni Foyer, the Alumni Patio, gardens and fixtures such as display cases, benches and chairs.

Every donation of at least $1,000 will be recognized with a name or message of choice engraved on a 4-inch by 8-inch brick in the Alumni Plaza at the entrance of the Alumni House.

For more information or to make a donation, contact Georgette Hunefeld ’90, director of Major Gifts, at 209.946.7375 or ghunefeld@pacific.edu; or Bill Coen, executive director of the Pacific Alumni Association, at 866.575.7229 or bcoen@pacific.edu. To give online, visit www.PacificAlumni.org.

WHAT’S IN A NAME?

The variety of naming opportunities in the Alex and Jeri Vereschagin Alumni House offer a unique opportunity for Pacific fraternities, sororities, affinity groups and organizations to create a lasting legacy as well as a repository of the history of your organization or group for future generations of Pacificans.

OR...

Secure a lasting personal legacy or honor a loved one through naming opportunities throughout the facility and the exterior courtyard and patio.

Gifts may be made through a one-time donation or paid with a pledge extending up to five years. Organizations/fraternities can create a matching or challenge gift toward the naming of a room or fixture, as with the Omega Phi Alpha challenge toward naming the Alumni Library and the Black Alumni Pacific Club challenge toward naming the Executive Suites.