

49er Athletic Club Hosts Annual Jewels Of Night Event

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Anywhere from 800 to 1,000 people are expected to gather once again for a night of fundraising to benefit California State University, Long Beach's athletics during the annual Jewels of the Night celebration.

Hosted by the 49er Athletic Club, the event will feature an auction, dinner, dancing, a cigar lounge and more this Saturday night, May 16. Money raised will support student-athlete scholarships and such expenses as traveling. Organizers hope to raise \$170,000.

"Fundraisers like these are essential for us to be able to compete," said Wayne Stickney, development coordinator for the 49er Athletic Club, a division of Long Beach State Athletics. "...It's very important because our athletes actually work on setting up the event and are there throughout the night, and they can see how we support them."

More than 50 area eateries will provide catering for the event, which also will include live entertainment, a cigar lounge hosted by Big Daddy's Cigars of Naples and silent and live auctions, with such items up for bid as a trip for two to Australia and four tickets to next year's Bowl Championship Series national football game. Pat West will receive the Diamond Award that night for her support of Long Beach State athletics dating back to 1989.

"We hope that everybody who walks through the doors that night enjoys the best party in Long Beach," Stickney said.

Tickets cost \$100 per person in advance and \$150 at the door. VIP access, which includes entry into a VIP lounge and live auction, costs \$25 extra. Dress is casual beachwear.

Jewels of the Night will begin with a silent auction from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 16, at CSULB's Walter Pyramid, near the Carpenter Performing Arts Center, at 6200 E. Atherton St. Dinner and music will begin at 7:30 p.m. For details, call 985-4662 or visit www.longbeachstate.com/jewelsofthenight.