

ViewPoint

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PACIFIC
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“MISSION: UKRAINE” HELPS BRING 10 NEW STUDENTS TO PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE

By Laura Gang

Jennifer Klingbeil read and watched the news about the war in Ukraine in February with both shock and compassion. Like many of us here in the United States, she felt moved to action, wanting to help the Ukrainian people but not sure how.

That changed after Klingbeil received a call from Kellie Lind. Lind, Pacific Union College’s vice president of advancement, was reaching out to Klingbeil to see if she knew of anyone who might have fled Ukraine. Lind wanted to offer her home as a place to stay.

Klingbeil felt like it was “a sign” since she had been thinking about PUC. She talked with Lind about her fervent desire to help Ukrainians. Perhaps they could work together.

Their idea blossomed into an initiative—Mission: Ukraine. Through the program, 10 Ukrainian students displaced by war will travel to the United States to attend Pacific Union College.

Over 70 students have already applied to this program and have gone through a rigorous selection process. The chosen group will start school here in Napa Valley this fall.

Both Ukraine and PUC are close to Klingbeil’s heart. Jennifer’s mother, Adventina Shiwotenko, was Ukrainian. Remarkably, she started the country’s first Seventh-day Adventist school in Kyiv. “Christian education was not available under Communism,” Klingbeil said, “but once the Iron Curtain came down, she was determined to make sure Ukrainian young people had the opportunity to learn Christian morals and values at school.”

Lind said PUC has a long history of service. It is integrated in the college’s curriculum and demonstrated in the large numbers of students embarking on mission trips each year.

The Mission: Ukraine project continues that tradition of service.

“The opportunity to have these courageous Ukrainian students, that have been through so much, find support and refuge on our campus will be a gift for everyone,” Lind said.

Klingbeil, who attended PUC and met her husband while going to school there, is a real estate agent for Sotheby’s in Napa. A portion of all her sales goes to Esther Ambs Worthy Student fund at PUC. A beloved teacher at the college for many years, Ambs was also the aunt of Klingbeil’s husband.

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The college will cover 50% of tuition and fees for these 10 pre-selected Ukrainian students. The organization and generous donors will fund the remaining balance.

Mission: Ukraine has many levels of sponsorship. “On the program’s website, one can download a booklet that shows all the items that can be purchased to help these students; a simple \$75 welcome bag, dorm room bedding, a bike to ride once they get to campus, all the way up to sponsoring tuition for a student for the school year,” Klingbeil said.

Those who would like to be more personally connected with a sponsored student can also apply to be a host.

The program will last 12-18 months for these students. Since the outcome of the war in Ukraine is uncertain, some students might consider continuing to finish a four-year degree within the safety of the Pacific Union College campus.

“I hope we all take this opportunity to reach out to these young people and show them our Christian love and support by welcoming them into our community and country,” Klingbeil said. “What a great learning experience it can be for us as well!” 🌱

For more about this mission and ways you can support these Ukrainian students, please visit:

puc.edu/mission-ukraine

PAULIN RECITAL HALL ‘TREASURE’ OF THE NAPA VALLEY

By Laura Gang

Since arriving at Pacific Union College in 2006, Asher Raboy has worked to build connections between the college’s music program and the Napa Valley community.

Raboy, the chair of the music department and PUC’s resident artist in music, has composed original works for students and brought diverse musicians to perform on campus.

Now, Raboy said a generous donation will help PUC further in building these community relationships.

A \$150,000 donation from the former local nonprofit, Angwin Community Ambulance, will help PUC renovate Paulin Recital Hall.

The renovation work, conducted in two phases, will include new seating and paint along with needed wall



repairs. New carpet and improvements to flooring for the stage will help improve the auditorium’s acoustics.

The hope is for the project to be completed by early 2023, in time for PUC to debut a student-led theatrical production—an original musical written and scored by Assistant Academic Dean Lindsey Morton.

To many, the work might seem simply cosmetic. But not for Raboy.

Raboy, who directed the Napa Valley Symphony for nearly two decades, talks of the project with the same passion you might find him talking about Brahms or a new symphony or choral work.

He exudes warmth, and his love for music, his students, the college, and the community are palpable when he talks about the project.

The Napa Valley Chamber Orchestra will play at the hall and the Ragazzi Boys Choir, the renowned San Francisco youth choir, has rehearsed in Paulin Recital Hall, Raboy said.

But it has been a home to more than just world-class music. The hall has hosted camp meetings, worship services and scholarly talks.

“The walls of the recital hall have heard the wisdom of great speakers at powerful lectures,” Raboy said.

The Paulin Recital Hall work, Raboy said, will restore the auditorium so PUC and the “community can experience its splendor for generations to come.”

“It truly is a treasure and a gem.” 🌱

SERVING WITH LOVE | PUC 2022 CLASS GIFT SUPPORTS ANGWIN FOOD PANTRY

By Ashley Eisele

Every graduating class has the opportunity to make an impact through their senior class gift. PUC's Class of 2022 decided they wanted their impact to be felt by the local community through a generous donation to the Angwin Food Pantry.

"The class decided to give back to the community for all that they do in support of the college," said Professor Tuwan Ussery, associate professor of social work and 2022 class sponsor. "Additionally, many of the class officers saw firsthand the need in the community through the Angwin Food Pantry and they wanted to serve community residents."

Originally organized by PUC social work students and faculty in 2009, the pantry serves anyone in the area who is facing food insecurity. The class's donation comes at a critical time as rising food costs are causing more people to look for support. The pantry has seen a recent increase in the number of individuals and families picking up fresh produce, canned food, and other household staples at the pantry's regular distributions at the PUC Church.

"It's the right thing to do at this moment and will make a difference in the lives of so many," said Milbert Mariano, PUC's vice president of academic administration and academic dean. "It really connects



with PUC's call to serve with love, and it warms my heart that this class has embodied that in their gift."

Included with the Class of 2022's donation were refrigerators and furniture that will fill urgent needs for the pantry, as well as members of the community.

"The pantry receives calls throughout the month from community residents needing food, and this donation will assist them in refrigerating dairy items and freezing meat products for those who are experiencing food insecurities between food distribution days," said Ussery. "The furniture will be donated to community residents, including fire victims." 🙌

Give today. ENSURE TOMORROW.

As PUC looks to the future, we recognize how blessed we are by such an incredible campus community. PUC is made up of talented, hardworking and dedicated faculty, staff, and administration. They are committed and guided by the same enduring

principles as our founders. We will continue to expand, adapt and innovate to reach more students, while remaining true to our commitment of providing a quality Adventist Christian education.



To give visit
puc.edu/give

ViewPoint

CONNECT

ViewPoint Connect is a newsletter designed to help alumni stay connected to activities and news from Pacific Union College. It is published twice a year between issues of ViewPoint magazine.

SAVE THE DATE!

HOMECOMING APRIL 21-22, 2023

We are thrilled to announce that PUC's Homecoming is April 21-22! We have planned an exciting event filled with meaningful programs, class reunion gatherings and opportunities to engage in-person with old friends, professors and your PUC family. puc.edu/alumni

LIFE-SAVING GENEROSITY | MONEY FOR SWIFT WATER RESCUE EQUIPMENT DONATED TO PUC

By Ashley Eisele

PUC recently received a gift of \$40,000 to purchase swift water rescue equipment, thanks to Angwin Community Ambulance (ACA), a local ambulance service that was recently dissolved.

The organization donated money that made it possible to purchase new gear for the program. The gear included wetsuits, helmets, gear bags, life jackets, and more, as well as technical rope rescue gear and rescue-specific personal protective equipment.

"Though ACA has dissolved, they still wanted to further their mission and serve the community," said Matthew Russell, assistant professor of nursing and emergency services. "The donation will allow the emergency management program to continue to provide excellent training opportunities to our majors who, in turn, will use these skill sets to serve the Angwin community."

The new equipment was put to use in early July when students attended a swift water rescue course on the south fork of the American River near Coloma, California.

Rescue courses are a requirement for emergency services students but are also available to all PUC students as general education courses. By the end of July's course, students from emergency services, emergency



management, nursing, premed, and psychology were conducting rescues in class 3 whitewater conditions using various techniques, including ropes, boats, and contact swimming.

"Students loved the new wetsuits, helmets, and personal flotation devices," said Russell. "They wore them every day in the water. They provided protection from the environment and were very professional."

Emergency management and rescue are fields that face rapid changes and require consistent innovation and creativity in the way they are taught. Quality, up-to-date equipment is a crucial part of that.

"This generosity will allow our students to receive cutting-edge rescue courses and certification," said Russell. "It increases our margin of safety and allows us the ability to show emerging rescue techniques with cutting edge equipment. Without quality gear, we could not offer these courses. We are very thankful for the generosity that has been extended to us." 🌿