

FEATURE

Visual arts students and faculty went on their annual departmental retreat to Albion. Read about their weekend spent kindling their creativity on the Mendocino Coast.

P3

COMMUNITY

Celebrated pianists Lise Deschamps Ostwald and William Corbett-Jones performed a joint recital at PUC. Read about their performance and their accomplishments.

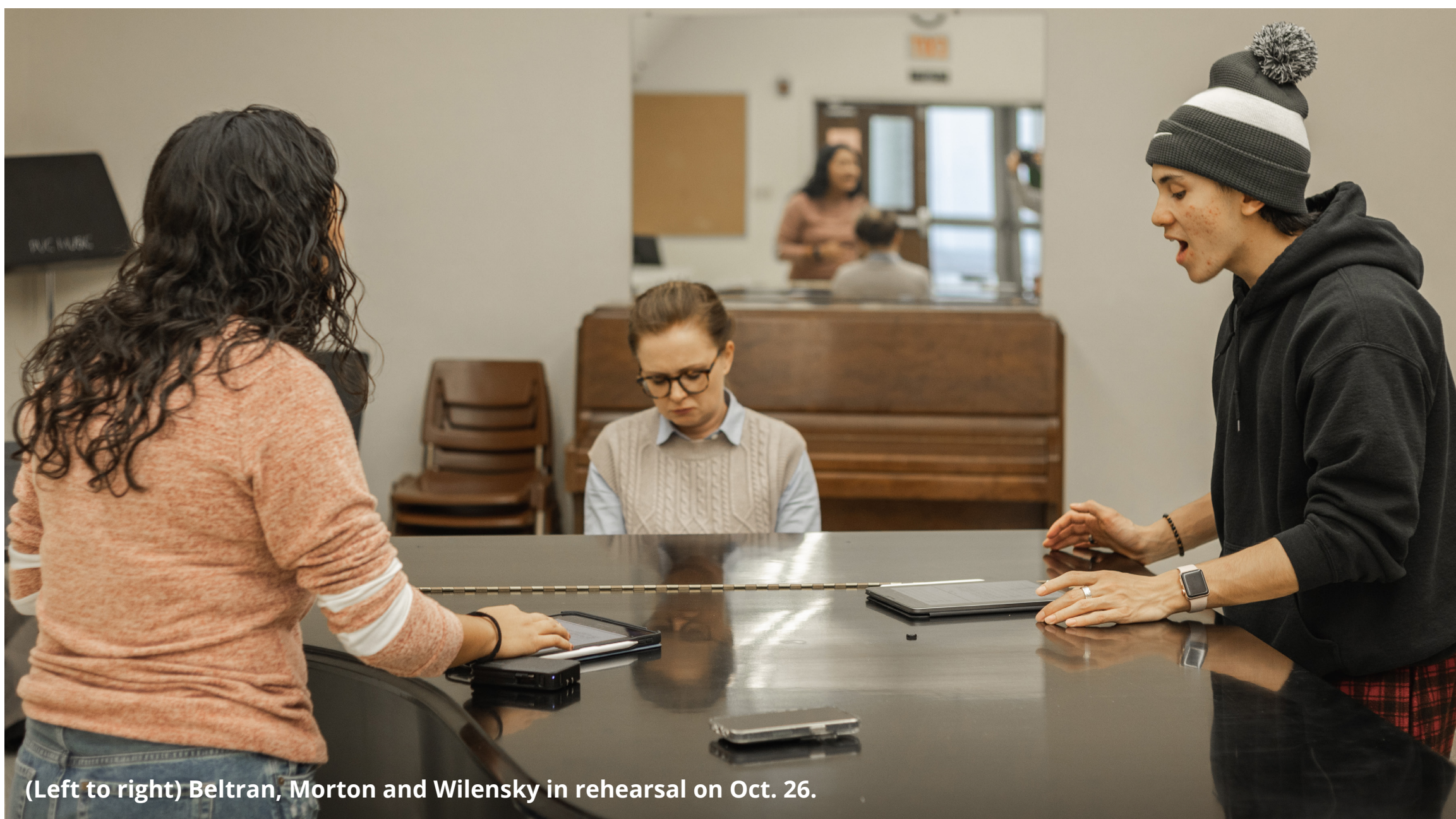
P5

CAMPUS

Hispanic Heritage Month was observed at PUC throughout October. Learn about the events hosted in honor of Hispanic cultures.

P7

Cast and Creator of “Jericho Road” Prepare for U.S. Debut



(Left to right) Beltran, Morton and Wilensky in rehearsal on Oct. 26.

By Lauren VandenHoven

This Sunday's Fall Festival attendees will have the chance to see an exclusive preview of “Jericho Road,” an original musical written and produced by Associate Academic Dean Lindsay Morton and starring PUC students Leila Beltran and Tyler Wilensky.

According to Morton, the play tells the story of “a boy and a girl who fall in love

and get married...and then he leaves her. The rest of the musical is about the lead—Leila—figuring out how to be faithful to a husband who's been unfaithful to her and to a God who seems to be absent.” Beltran plays Leila—coincidentally, the name of both the actress and the character—and Wilensky plays her husband, Jacob “Jake” Carver.

Communication department chair Tara Hargrove is directing and co-producing the musical. Nursing professor Nicolette Piaubert is also a co-producer. Music department chair Asher Raboy is serving as musical director and Eve-Anne Wilkes is the cast's vocal coach. Kaitlyn Nakanishi is the musical's chorus director and

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FROM THE EDITOR

Now that October has passed, I see some of you lining up Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You" on your playlists and adding holiday decorations to your shopping carts. But I urge you to hold off a little longer. Let's enjoy our belated autumn first and appreciate the beautiful mix of leaves still on the tree and on the ground while it lasts. According to the upcoming weather forecast, we are headed straight into Californian wintertime with days of nonstop rain.

I hope my objections to the ever-earlier Christmas season aren't interpreted as an endorsement of postponing our artful celebrations. This issue of the CC is full of them, and we anticipate the last one of this quarter will be too.

Art is all around us on this campus, and there is a lot to celebrate. Midterms season

is (mostly) over. We have almost made it to Thanksgiving break. The heat is finally on in all the buildings, something I am especially happy about with the sudden drop in temperature and increasingly cool and gloomy daytime hours.

Reflecting on what we have to look forward to, at least for me, has been a helpful way of getting through what feels like the endless slog through the midpoint of the quarter. Friendsgiving parties are fast approaching with good food and good company to offer. I am particularly looking forward to the music performances in the coming weeks.

And yes, soon enough it will be socially acceptable to play those Christmas tunes.

*Sincerely,
Madison Brogan
Editor-in-Chief*



CAMPUS



Wilensky reviews his script.

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choreographer. The leads and supporting cast are played by PUC students, along with a chorus of students and community members.

The show's three performances are scheduled for February. However, there is a twist—the show's tagline is "You choose where the story ends," meaning that depending on which show you see, the story will have a different conclusion. "Come one night and you're going to get a full show," Morton said, "but come all three nights and you'll get three different endings."

According to Morton, the idea for "Jericho Road" came about when she "fell in love with a musical called 'The Last Five Years,' by Jason Robert Brown. I listened to it so many times and found myself wondering 'How would the story have been different if they were Christian?'"

The show consists of songs Morton wrote on different occasions in her life, as well as a few written specifically for "Jericho Road," which is her fourth musical. Musicals are one of Morton's long-time passions. "I just lived and breathed them my whole life, so I kind of know how they work and how their structure works," she said. "So when I was thinking about 'The Last Five Years' and

what my response to that might be, I started pulling songs from my own life that fit the storyline, and then I wrote around it."

The musical was first performed at Avondale University in Australia, followed by performances in Sydney and Perth. Based on their success, Morton proposed that PUC take on the project. After approval from the president's cabinet and with support from the music department, she began calling for auditions. That's when she found her dream lead actors.

"The first time I heard Leila sing, she came to auditions and we'd heard some good voices, but when she started singing, the whole room stopped. It was like the whole room just got electrified hearing her voice," Morton said. "We had two really strong contenders actually for the lead female, but she just blew us away."

Beltran knew nothing about the show, but was convinced to audition by friends. After singing "Burn" from the musical "Hamilton," she immediately received a callback and was given two songs to learn. "Leading up to it I was so nervous," Beltran said. "I went to Paulin and I just kind of lived there for a little bit because I practiced and practiced and practiced."

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FEATURE

Arts Students Kindle Creativity on Annual Albion Retreat

By Audry Guzman

Visual arts students and professors left the labs and studios of Fisher Hall for their annual retreat to the Albion Field Station in Mendocino County on the weekend of Oct. 21-23. The retreat was open to all students, but primarily focused on encouraging creativity and bonding with fellow creatives.

The visual arts department faculty planned a range of activities and gave talks to inspire the students for the upcoming school year. Professors Jaymie de la Torre and Jon Carstens discussed the idea of failure, sharing a personal moment of vulnerability with the students through telling stories of their own failings. Students were then encouraged to write down things they had been holding onto—failures or otherwise—before symbolically tossing them into a fire.

On Saturday afternoon, students set off on a town-wide scavenger hunt which turned into a sightseeing opportunity. Upperclassmen were placed into groups with the freshmen divided among them,



(Left to right) Natalia Gomez, Keren Castro and Sarah Franklin pose in the wind at Glass Beach in Fort Bragg, CA.

Photo Credit: Natalia Gomez



Students, faculty and family at PUC's Albion Field Station.

Photo Credit: Brian Kyle

and the groups were encouraged to explore Mendocino and Fort Bragg to experience the mushroom-flavored ice cream, go to the beach and tour the popular local bookstores.

Upon returning from the scavenger hunt, the students participated in a tradition known as the “tamasha,” a variety show with the idea taken from the Hindi word meaning celebration. The purpose of the show was to offer all students the opportunity to demonstrate their hidden talents in a low-stakes environment. Junior fine arts major Soren Nelson demonstrated his ASMR skills with freshman Bethanee Tabura, and sophomores Marguerite McHenry and Fabiola Ixcot competed in a lip sync battle.

Overall, students were happy to get together with old friends and get to know new ones better. Senior graphic design major Joy Paulson said she created “new connections that have continued even after the trip.”

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Once she got the part, Beltran was excited to begin learning about her character, Leila. “What I really like about her is she’s not necessarily shy—she knows what she wants and she’ll go for it—but she has this hidden strength she doesn’t know she has,” Beltran said. “She knows she’s strong, but she’s a lot stronger than she thinks she is.”

“I’m still exploring her as a character and trying to connect myself to her,” Beltran continued. “It’s very easy because I feel like we’re similar, and the experiences she has I empathize with.”

After hearing Wilensky sing both for the audition and in worship services, Morton described casting him for the male lead as “an absolute no brainer.”

“I knew he had a voice, but I hadn’t heard him sing by himself. He sang ‘Words Fail’ from ‘Dear Evan Hansen’ and he acted it and I could just see Jacob,” Morton continued.

Initially Wilensky was unsure if he could manage the time commitment required for rehearsals along with his studies, but faculty and friends convinced him to sign on. The production crew also promised to give him support.

However, unlike Beltran, Wilensky finds his character a bit harder to understand, as he is in many ways the villain of the story. “Playing him is really interesting,” Wilensky says, “because this is all about a divorce and an affair, and it’s kind of really messed up. But then our guy doesn’t seem like the kind of person who would do that.” Wilensky is looking forward to the upcoming readthrough of the script which will give him a better sense of the character and how he will change as the story progresses.

To date, rehearsals have focused on singing. Morton, Beltran and Wilensky spend hours together each week practicing, bringing in supporting cast, crew and chorus members as they go along.

“They’ve been really fun, really exciting,” Wilensky said of the practices.

Beltran echoed the sentiment. “I love it. I love them,” she said. “I look forward to rehearsals. They’re like the driving force of my day, because when I can’t get my work done, I just think ‘Oh, I have rehearsals tonight, I can do this.’”

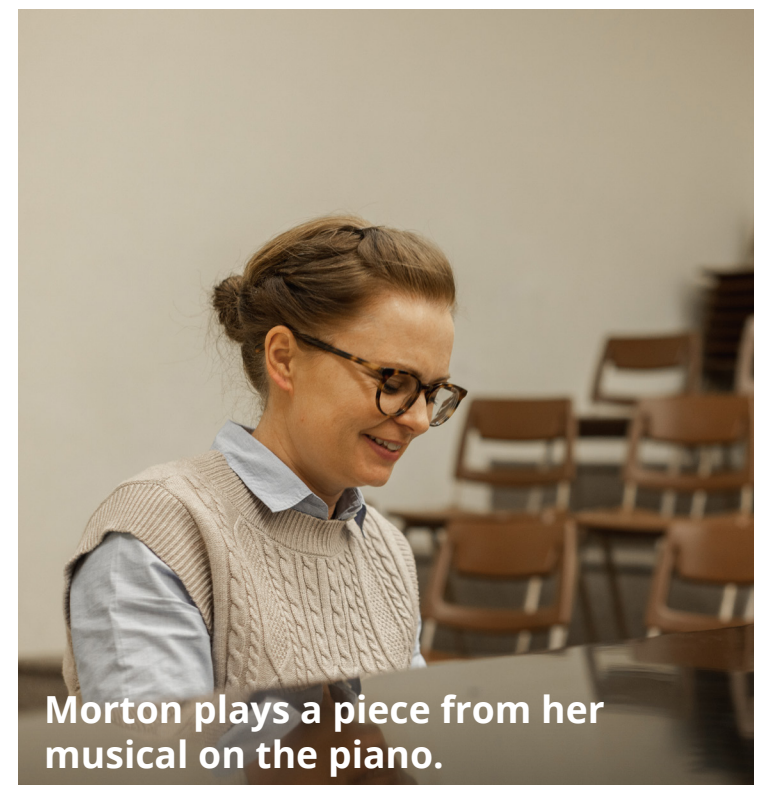
As for Morton, working with both leads is the highlight of her day. “Hearing them sing together, it sounds like they’ve been singing together forever already, which



Dr. Lindsay Morton accompanies Wilensky on the piano as he rehearses the role of Jacob Carver.



Beltran laughs during a lighthearted moment in rehearsal.



Morton plays a piece from her musical on the piano.

is phenomenal because they only just met after the auditions,” she said.

Being in a musical theatre production is a first for both Beltran and Wilensky, and they both are excited to present the full production to audiences on opening night. “I cannot wait to see how it’s staged, and I can’t wait to hear the orchestra put it together,” Beltran said. “Just to see the curtain rise up and that start—I’m so excited.”

Although Wilensky’s interest in musicals isn’t new, he as always thought of them mostly in terms of music. “I never really did musicals because it wasn’t really about acting. It was just about singing the songs because I thought they were great,” he said. “So I look forward to having it all come

together and being able to act and read the script and become my character and do it well.”

Having produced “Jericho Road” before, Morton also loves opening night, but loves watching the project take shape even more. “Each week noting the gradual confidence and seeing the story come together and seeing the cast respond to the story and step into it is for me like magic,” she said. “It’s like drawing a picture and then watching it being colored in. In the end you’ve got this thing where audiences are going to see the final product, but it’s actually the incremental steps you take to create something like this where all the joy is.” ■

COMMUNITY

Renowned Concert Pianists Perform in Paulin Hall

By Lauren Jones

Visiting pianists Lise Deschamps Ostwald and William Corbett-Jones captivated PUC students and Angwin community members during a Paulin Hall concert on Sunday, Oct. 23, with a repertoire that included Franz Schubert and Robert Schumann.

The artists' technique of playing duets with four hands on the piano's keys—a technique called piano four hands—differs from two pianists performing on separate pianos.

Developed by composers such as Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert, the technique gained popularity in the 18th century as it allowed unmarried couples to share a physical closeness otherwise considered taboo.

Deschamps Ostwald and Corbett-Jones opened the program with Franz Schubert's "Rondeau in D major, Op. 38," performed with four hands.

Deschamps Ostwald went on to perform Robert Schumann's "Symphonic Etudes, Op. 13," followed by Corbett-Jones

performing Domenico Scarlatti's "Sonata in E major" and Frederic Chopin's "Waltz, Op. 64, No. 2."

The program concluded with both artists performing "Allegro (Lebenssturme), Op. 144"—again using the four hands technique.

Both performers boast lengthy resumes and have contributed much to the field of music.

Deschamps Ostwald made her radio debut at age 10 before going on to win scholarships and prizes throughout her early life. She was awarded a grant from the Canada Arts Council at age 20 and studied in San Francisco with renowned concert pianists. According to her biography, "[Deschamps Ostwald] has given concerts, orchestra performances, and lecture-recitals across Europe," in addition to many other musical feats.

Corbett-Jones is equally accomplished. Currently a professor at San Francisco State University, he has performed worldwide with many musical ensembles and has made

several recordings and educational films. "Corbett-Jones has presented several cycles of the complete works of Mozart and Chopin as well as all the sonatas of Beethoven and Schubert," his biography reads.

Deschamps Ostwald and Corbett-Jones kept the audience engaged by offering tidbits of information about their pieces and played with passion and intensity. The duet style of their pieces was one that is not typically seen in piano concerts. Audience member Amy Trenner said, "The collaboration between the two performers being in sync...and performing beautifully with the chosen pieces was unique."

Concert-goers were invited to attend a reception in the Paulin Hall lobby immediately following the performance. Catering was provided by Bon Appetit, and guests were able to not only socialize, but also reflect on the display of talent shown by Deschamps Ostwald and Corbett-Jones.

"It was a lovely concert overall," Trenner said. "[It was] a good study break." ■

CAMPUS

Ukrainian International Student Shares His American Experience

By Lauren Jones

When Russian President Vladimir Putin declared war on its neighboring nation of Ukraine shortly before dawn on Feb. 24, 2022, many Ukrainians were forced to leave their homes, families and homeland.

Although the majority who fled found temporary refuge in Poland and other surrounding countries, over 100,000 have made their way to the United States and even PUC. One of these recent arrivals is Darii Vereshchak, a data science major from the city of Odesa.

For Vereshchak, PUC was an answer

from God. "I was at a standstill, living with strangers, no money, no loved ones... I didn't know where to go next, so I started praying about it," he said. Since Vereshchak's Ukrainian college degrees do not transfer over to the U.S., he decided to go back to school. "I applied to several colleges and prayed that God would show me clearly where to go, and then I got a positive response only from PUC," he explained. His parents were both pleased and supportive of this decision, as they also know the value of education in life.

In addition to starting over at PUC, Vereshchak is adjusting to a new environment in a new country. One of the biggest differences he noticed was the amount of diversity in the U.S. "Most of all, I noticed the difference in people," Vereshchak said. "In Ukraine, there is not such a great diversity of cultures."

In addition, Vereshchak has been able to take up new hobbies and try new things in the U.S. "Since I have been in the USA, I started trying to play tennis and billiards with my roommate," Vereshchak said. He

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FEATURE

SA RVP Ashley Castro-Rodriguez Visits Holy Sites on “Footprints” Tour

By Audry Guzman

Visiting holy sites in parts of Southeast Europe is not an experience most PUC students receive as part of the regular classroom curricula. However, sophomore theology major Ashley Castro-Rodriguez found her education brought to life when she visited the holy ground she has studied on a biblical tour called “Footprints” this fall.

The two-week guided tour, organized by the Hispanic Ministries of the Oregon Conference, focused on the ministries of Paul and his journey through Southeast Europe.

Initially scheduled to take place in 2020, the pandemic forced organizers to reschedule the tour several times. The multiple postponements and subsequent scheduling conflicts forced some of the original participants to withdraw, leaving an opening for Castro-Rodriguez to join her parents, both of whom are pastors.

Castro-Rodriguez traveled with a group of approximately 45 pastors to Italy, Greece and Turkey, touring the Vatican, Athens, and the Seven Churches of Revelation along the way. She quickly realized that seeing these places in-person gave her an understanding of the scope of Paul’s ministry that simply reading about them did not give.

One of the pastors on the trip, Dr. Enrique Baez, served as the group’s tour guide and

gave a sermon tailored to each location where he offered biblical and historical facts about the site and their spiritual significance. Castro-Rodriguez’s favorite sermon took place at the Temple of Apollo in Corinth.

In this location, Paul had asked the crowd to forget their gods and follow Jesus. At the time, the populace’s social and belief systems revolved around this building, and yet Paul asked them to give up their norms to follow Jesus Christ. For Castro-Rodriguez, standing there in person provided a new perspective on the magnitude of this request. She was able to see how the temple was not only a place of worship but also the city center, making it the physical and symbolic center of their society.

It was clear, Castro-Rodriguez said, that they faced a difficult decision, which contrasts with the freedom of choice and religion she has now. She went on to say, “It should not be that hard to put God first when our literal society is not built around another god. If I have free choice, why would I not choose God?”

Although life-changing, the trip was not a physical respite. According to Castro-Rodriguez, the amount of traveling condensed into two weeks with flights every couple days was stressful but put into perspective the efforts Paul took to spread the gospel.

Now back at PUC, Castro-Rodriguez believes that the biblical knowledge she gained has rejuvenated and filled her with “the same passion Paul had for Christ”—an enthusiasm that she hopes to pass along to others this year in her role as SA religious vice president. ■



Castro-Rodriguez pictured in front of the Colosseum in Rome.

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has also been loving the variety of fruits available, trying mango and dragonfruit for the first time.

With interests in both nature and tech, there is still much that Vereshchak wants to experience in the U.S.. “I’m a big fan of technology, so I’d like to visit Silicon Valley and see where new technology was born,” he said. “I would also like to see a rocket launch from Elon Musk.”

While Vereshchak’s relatives remain in Ukraine, he corresponds with his

grandmother every day and talks to his parents and brother once a week. “I am worried about them, as there are very few safe places in Ukraine now, and my relatives are not [in those places],” Vereshchak said.

Vereshchak does not plan on returning to Ukraine anytime soon, as his visa does not allow him to travel outside the U.S. Additionally, Vereshchak is of draft age, meaning he would likely be unable to leave Ukraine if he were to return. He occasionally watches the news to keep up

with current events in his home. “I try not to watch the news, but as I’m worried about my family, sometimes I don’t hold back,” Vereshchak said. “It takes a lot of energy, paralyzes and slowly eats you up from the inside.”

Vereshchak is one of two Ukrainian students studying at PUC this year. Both are natives of Crimea and arrived in the U.S. via Mexico. An additional eight Ukrainian students are expected to arrive at PUC during winter quarter. ■

COMMUNITY

PUC Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month



Baile folklórico dancer performs for October 20 Community.

Photo Credit: Carrie White

By Madison Brogan

The month of October saw students, faculty and staff celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month across campus.

Officially, Hispanic Heritage Month began on Sept. 15 and ended on Oct. 15,

but with the late start of the academic quarter at PUC, celebrations continued through October. The reason for it beginning mid-September is that several Latin American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua—celebrate their independence days on the 15th.

“Hispanic Heritage Month provides the opportunity for people to take a greater look into the cultural and political history of Latinos and Hispanics in the U.S.”

The Student Organization of Latinos—better known as SOL—hosted, several events honoring the month. They organized a themed vespers on Oct. 7. The Hispanic Heritage Community program on Oct. 20 had SOL officers introduce the service and club members carry in the flags of

Hispanic nations. The program also featured traditional baile folklórico performances and a sermon from Pastor Josie Asencio on Hispanic-American identity.

SOL member and SA President Alex Chuquimia shared that participating in the events hosted by the club gave him a deeper sense of connection to the month and its meaning, stating, “Hispanic Heritage Month provides the opportunity for people to take a greater look into the cultural and political history of Latinos and Hispanics in the U.S.”

In honor of the month, PUC’s Bon Appetit partnered with Sweet the Creamery Fairfield, a local Hispanic family-owned business, to sell their Churro Milkshakes along with other homemade ice cream treats and shakes. ■

FEATURE

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Fellow senior graphic design major Natalia Gomez also enjoyed the retreat and the quality time she got to spend with her fellow senior friends. Gomez noted that the retreat felt different for her than in years past because of the connections she has built over her years at PUC. Comparing it with her freshman year when she knew fewer faces, Gomez found that the good friendships she

has made during her college career made her experience at Albion that much better.

The visual arts department retreat has always been known as a fun-filled weekend where the art students are at their most creative and open, and the consensus among attendees was that this year did not disappoint. ■



View of the shoreline from Point Cabrillo in Mendocino, CA

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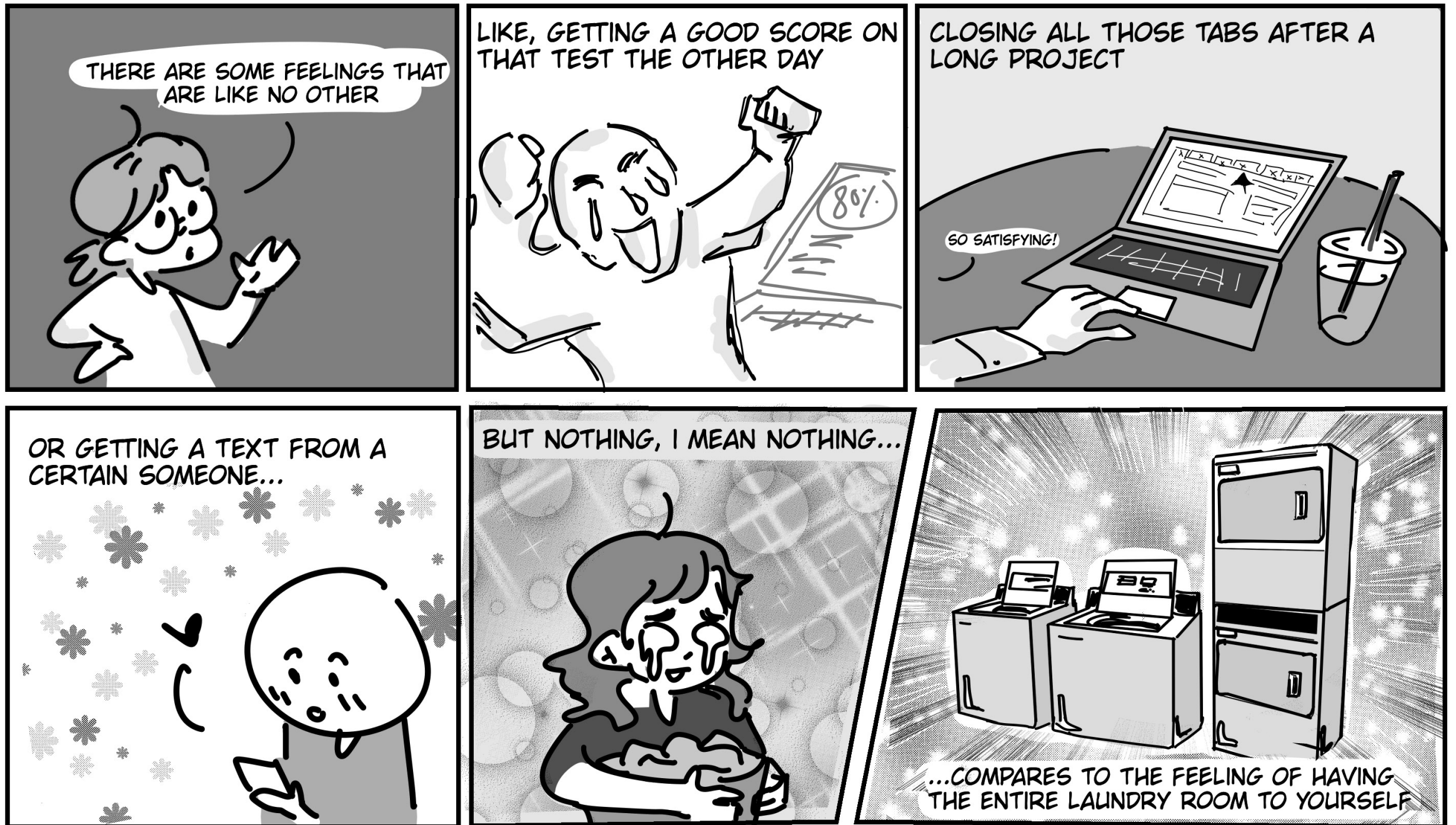
Brian Kyle

CAMPUS

NO OTHER FEELING

NO. 9

BY M.W.



END!

FIND THE ANSWER, WIN FREE COFFEE

In each issue we'll ask you a question with the answer hidden somewhere in the paper. The first to find the answer and DM us on Instagram @pucchronicle will win a free drink at the Grind!

This week's question is:

How old was Deschamps Ostwald when she made her radio debut?

NOW HIRING

The **Facilities Management Department** has several job openings and is hiring students for the following positions: auto mechanic, carpentry, custodial, dorm maintenance, electrical, farming, housekeeping, landscaping, plumbing and sign making.

Please contact this department at (707) 965-7150 to inquire about duties and hours associated with these positions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Zachery Seifert-Ponce Concert
Saturday, Nov 5.
7 p.m. in Paulin Hall

Fall Festival
Sunday, Nov. 6
6-8 p.m. in the Pacific Auditorium (Gym)

Mission Fair
Nov. 10-11 at 11 a.m. in Dining Commons Side Rooms A & B