



Being called with others  
to promote human and ecological flourishing  
**WINTER 2024**



The campus has been relatively quiet as a good number of students are studying away in many parts of the world in January and early February: from Greece to England to Puerto Rico. *On the left*, Dr. Antonios Finitis (Wild Hope Executive Director and Professor of Hebrew Bible), with the Rev. Jen Rude (University Pastor), and PLU students at the Lion's Gate of ancient Mycenae, Greece. We wish them a safe return.

MANY, MANY THANKS to our growing number of friends and colleagues who donated to the Center during Fall 2023. Center for Vocation programs are *not* supported by the PLU operating budget; thus we rely on your [amazing generosity](#) to support our Student Fellows, programs for First Year students and graduating seniors, the Staff Vocation Seminar, faculty workshops on mentoring vocation, and our emerging initiative on the vocation of leadership.

John Aakre and Cindy Michael  
Steve and Sue Appelo  
Allan and Melinda Belton  
Jonette Blakney  
Kathy Engle  
Nancy Faaren  
Terri Farrar  
Antonios Finitis  
Ralph Flick  
Jeff and Lisa Ganung  
Pak Gee  
Joanna Gregson  
Jaynee Groseth  
Lauralee Hagen  
Katrina Hay  
Sergia and Todd Hay  
Patricia Killen

Erik and Marcia Kjesbu  
Laura Majovski  
Nikki Martin  
Douglas Oakman  
David and Gail Oxford  
Joanna Royce Davis  
Rebecca Torvend Rainsberger  
Svend Ronning  
Jen Rude and Deb Derylak  
Jes Takla  
Samuel Torvend  
Marit Trelstad  
Martin Wells and Susan Briehl  
Laree Winer  
Bridget Yaden  
Neal Yakelis



**But, wait!** There's more! **The Class of 1973** celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on campus in October 2023. Four alums spoke at the first-ever Homecoming **Vocation Panel** about the ways in which their PLU education informed their vocational

journeys: John Hushagen (Seattle), Nikki Martin (Silverton, Oregon), John Nilson (Regina, Saskatchewan), and Dale Soden (Spokane). And the Class of 1973 designated the Wild Hope Center as the recipient of their **class gift**. Those who attended the Class Reunion Banquet are pictured above. We offer our HEARTFELT THANKS to these PLU alums who have contributed to the Wild Hope Center Class Gift and we look forward to more contributions from the Class of 1973:

Beth Adams  
Robert and Kathleen Benton  
David Bennett  
Karen Fynboe  
Daniel Gehrs  
Nikki Martin

Scott Peebles  
David and Karen Robbins  
Mark Salter  
Jerry Skaga  
Dale Soden  
Samuel Torvend

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The Center's **Vocation Institute**, directed by Laree Winer and Antonios Finitsis, continues to assist faculty in their work to incorporate discussion of vocation in the classroom. This project seeks to embed vocational discernment in the PLU curriculum.

The NetVUE initiative on **Reframing the University's Story** continues in 2024 with the completion of a book on PLU's educational mission, the creation of a timeline that highlights voices new to the university in the past thirty years, and a video on the values of Lutheran education for new students. In this project we focus on the **Vocation of the University**.

For more on Center events and programs: <https://www.plu.edu/vocation/>

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**UPCOMING!** Nearing retirement or newly retired? Join Dr. Samuel Torvend, Center Director of External Relations, for a conversation about **Discerning Vocation in Retirement** on **Tuesday, March 12**, at 4:00 PM on Zoom. Interested? PLU alumni should look for the invitation to register, coming from the Alumni Office. *Not an alum but want to attend?* Send an email to Dr. Torvend at [torvensa@plu.edu](mailto:torvensa@plu.edu), and type this into the Subject line: "Retirement." Your email needs to be

received **no later than Tuesday, March 5**.

**UPCOMING!** The **Wild Hope Banquet** will be held on **Wednesday, April 17**, at 5:00 PM in the Regency Room of the Anderson University Center. We look forward to another terrific evening of fine conversation around food and drink, hearing from our Wild Hope Student Fellows, and honoring this year's recipient of the Wild Hope Award: **Tono Sablan**. Mr. Sablan is PLU alumnus (2018) and Executive Director of Blue Zones Parkland-Spanaway. What are **Blue Zones**? Read about this fascinating and life-giving project that began in Costa Rica, Greece, Italy, Japan, and California (yes, we know the Golden State is not a country):



<https://parklandspanaway.bluezonesproject.com/>

Mr. Sablan will give a public presentation on the evening of April 17 concerning the amazing work of the Blue Zone project in Tacoma and throughout the world.



**UPCOMING!** Did you know that **PLU** has entered into a partnership with **Washington State University** and **MultiCare Health System**? Watch the announcement here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-SyPdQydnTI>. And

here's the website devoted to the partnership:

<https://www.plu.edu/health-innovation/>.

You can be sure that the Center will be offering events for benefactors and alumni on the **Vocation of Healing** in the near future.



**Wild Hope Student Fellows 2023-2024**

The Center for Vocation office is located in Nesvig House, at the corner of Park Avenue South and 123rd Street South, across from the Anderson University Center.

**The Wild Hope Center for Vocation**

<https://www.plu.edu/vocation/>

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