

Dear Board Members, Chairpersons, and valued Members and Supporters;

Witam! In December 2004, I was elected as President of the Polish University Club of Los Angeles. I would first like to thank you for this honor and introduce myself to those that are unfamiliar with my history. My involvement with the organization began in 1994 when I received my first of five PUC scholarships. In 1999, I began my active support by assisting my mother, who has served as Membership and Events Chair and is currently our Historian, in compiling PUC databases, producing mailings and flyers, and publicizing events. I joined the Board as Publicity Chair in 2000 and became Historian after the untimely passing of our friend, Ms. Helena Pharris. My contributions have included producing and distributing various publicity, promoting the club at Polish church events in both Los Angeles and Yorba Linda, assisting in planning and decision-making at regular Board meetings, and collecting a lot of past documentation on the Club. Outside PUC, I graduated California State University, Los Angeles in 1998 with a Bachelors in Biology and am currently pursuing teaching credentials and a Masters in Education. I have served as President of Alpha Phi Omega and Golden Key International honors societies and Vice-President of the G.E. Honors Program and American Medical Student Association at CSULA, as well as the Polish American Historical Association.

This past December, the PUC honored me with an election to the presidency. I greatly appreciate the faith placed in me and also for electing a fresh, eager and grateful directorship to the Board. Actually, I am doubly grateful, because each PUC Director and many of our Chairpersons are former scholarship recipients. It is abundantly clear that without your assistance and support over the years none of us would be where we are today. Successful graduates, working, contributing, and caring as much as we do. On behalf of all the Board, for this support and belief in our abilities: Dziękujemy wam bardzo!

Let me mention also that in 2007, PUC will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary! This organization has great potential for another 60 years and many more to continue supporting academic excellence in Polish youth and promoting cultural awareness of our Polish heritage. We need to continue the noble work that was begun by Dr. Thomas Potasz and has been continued by great names like Bruzdowicz, Walacha, Breese, Zukowski, and Olechno-Huszczka. These wonderful people have left a legacy for us to complete. Through the contributions you give, through the time and effort you provide, through the action that you inspire and participate in, this will be possible. Please join the PUC not only as a member but as an active member. Your monetary dedication is invaluable, but if you can find the time... spread the word. Come to a meeting. Help plan an event. Sit in with the Scholarship Committee. Attend a barbeque. The smiling faces and helping hands of our friends is an invaluable part to any organization. And if nothing else, tell someone about the good that you are a part of and suggest that they become a part of it as well. We all look forward to meeting you personally and working with you to aid and promote interest in furthering education and cultural awareness among Polonia's college-age youth.

With kindest regards,

Artur A. Prejna, PUC Board President