

The Kaléo

SPRING 2025 | PEDRONEMINISTRYCOLLEGE

Check out this recent interview with our Vice President of Academics, Dr. JoAnna Oster, and one of our professors, Dr. Roxanna Vancea. Dr. Vancea tells us a little bit about her life and the impact Pedrone Ministry College has on its professors and students.

Dr. JoAnna Oster

So I have asked one of our dear friends and one of our most popular professors, Dr. Roxanne Vancea, to join us today. She's all the way from Romania. I want her to introduce herself. I want to go way back to the beginning and find out how you grew up and what education looked like from all the way in Romania and to where you are now.

Dr. Roxanna Vancea

Hello everybody. My name is Roxana Vencea. I am 42 years old, and it's not a secret, but in my mind I'm still 20. I grew up in Romania and I came to the United States when I was 28 years old. I got married to Pastor Florin Vencea when I was 30 and I have two boys. One is 9. His name is Joshua and another one is 7. His name is Timothy. I grew up in a small mountain region in the western part of Romania, and we went to kindergarten since I was about four, and then elementary school back there. We used to wear uniforms because it was a communist country back then. So if you wanted to go to church, it was a bit of a challenge. I remember my father, who was

an engineer in construction, told me that the people would try to shelter the churches back then. They had to move an entire church to surround it in a place where it couldn't be seen.

Dr. JoAnna Oster

How did you come to know the Lord from that experience?

Dr. Roxanna Vancea

I went to a university that was the Polytechnic. We had six girls and 20 boys in our small group of students. So I met with one of the girls that used to go to a Baptist Church. She invited me to the youth service they had there every Thursday evening. We talked about God. We talked about the Bible. We started reading the Bible together. After reading the Bible and talking about what we were reading, my heart was torn towards God, and I understood what he wanted from me. In the Orthodox Church we didn't study the Bible; we just took what the priest sang in the church and we took it for granted without thinking about it. We did what needed to be done just like small robots.



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Dr. JoAnna Oster

So, now that you have your own school and you're also a professor, what do you feel you bring to the classroom from a global perspective with your extensive background and learning tools?

Dr. Roxanna Vancea

The main thing is to be willing to learn. I say that because I have colleagues both in high school and in college who had a much more difficult situation than I had. They did their best, and you know what? We had God on our side. There were many times when situations were out of our control. We just did our best and left it in the hands of God. He did miracles. I saw it firsthand when I applied for a PhD in Romania. My colleague and I did five years at a university; then we were supposed to do 4 extra years of a Masters degree before we could start a PhD. Those were the rules we had to follow. Our professor approached us and said,

"Well, why don't we start a PhD with the two of you girls?" My friend said, "Well, let's pray for it. If it's God's will, he's gonna make a way." We prayed for it, and that year in Romania they changed the rules. When we got back home and after we had our bachelor's diploma, Romania signed a new law that allowed people who had five years of university studies to start directly with a PhD to be accepted into the PhD program without having to do 4 extra years of a Masters degree.

Dr. JoAnna Oster

It's a wonderful story and I'm very excited to see what God is going to do through you at Pedrone Ministry College. The students love you; I hear them brag about you all the time. If you haven't taken one of Doctor Vancea's classes before, when you see her name on the list, you should just jump right on that. Thank you again, Dr. Vancea, for taking time out of your day to speak with us.



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