



PACIFIC OAKSSM
COLLEGE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



JAN/FEB 2014

NEWSLETTER

We have the power to create change in our world.

PACIFIC OAKS COLLEGE MOTTO

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni:

As we move forward in the new year, I want to take a moment to share some updates with you:

- We have a new Trustee at the College – Judge Judy Chirlin – who is a long-term resident of Los Angeles and an advocate of social justice. In addition to her distinguished law career, she also founded the Western Justice Center in Pasadena, which is a leading non-profit organization of conflict resolution and problem-solving. You will be able to read more about Judy and her background in this issue.
- After a national search, we have hired a new executive director for the Children’s School – Dr. Pam McComas. Dr. McComas has an extensive background and experience in early childhood education, and we look forward to welcoming her on March 3. We have included a story about Pam in this issue.
- For the first time, we are hosting an Alumni Community Service Day simultaneously in Southern California and Northern California on March 22. We will partner with the Oakland Community Garden in Pasadena and the Resource Area for Teaching (RAFT) organization in San Jose. This is a new tradition at PO and we look forward to having alumni participate. Please see the article on how you can sign-up to join us.
- Our Pasadena campus, instructional sites and cohort locations have seen an increase in enrollment of about 52 percent since spring 2011. Enrollment in our online programs has increased 323 percent, from 79 to 255 students. This substantial growth across all modalities has contributed to our overall financial health.
- I am delighted to share with you that after four years of a budget deficit, we have had two consecutive years of surpluses in our budget. Pacific Oaks generated the first operating surplus in five years in 2012-13, and is projected to generate a surplus in the current year as well.

I want to thank our alumni for your continued support of Pacific Oaks College and Children’s School. Our alumni are our best referrals to others who want to have the unique educational experience PO has to offer.

With gratitude,

Ezat Parnia, Ph.D., President
Pacific Oaks College and Children’s School



Inside...

- Los Angeles Alumni Reception
- Congratulations
- First Generation Students
- Community Service Day
- Burgess Lecture Series
- Children’s School News
- College News
- Grand Open House
- New Team Members
- Welcome to Our New Trustee
- Admissions Events

PACIFIC OAKS COLLEGE & CHILDREN’S SCHOOL

55 Eureka Street, Pasadena, CA 91103
TEL 626.529.8091 | FAX 626.529.8102
EMAIL alumni@pacificoaks.edu

PACIFICOAKS.EDU

1 • LOS ANGELES ALUMNI RECEPTION

Pacific Oaks Los Angeles Alumni Event hosted by PO Alumnus



Pacific Oaks alumnus and former Trustee Fred Marcus hosted the Los Angeles alumni reception for a second year in his law office in Century City. The views of the city from the conference room were as beautiful as the stories that PO alumni shared throughout the evening. It was delightful to hear alumni from a variety of years, ages, and majors share their PO story. The common thread of each one was how Pacific Oaks College transformed their thinking and their lives.

Faculty member Rebecca Rojas shared updates from the School of Cultural and Family Psychology. President Ezat Parnia shared updates about the College, the increased enrollment, and commitment to the student experience with the new Suite B addition. Toni Miller, Director of Advancement and Alumni Relations, shared how alumni are supporting the college with the \$20.13/\$20.14 campaign, and how the First Generation survey has been concluded, verifying that approximately two-thirds of PO's student population are First Generation students.

Please check the PO web site and social media for future alumni events.

2 • CONGRATULATIONS TO DEBORAH NAVAREZ

The Pacific Oaks College community would like to congratulate one of our current students Deborah Navarez who has been awarded the CAMFT Ronald Lunceford Scholarship.

This scholarship honors the memory of Ronald D. Lunceford by providing financial assistance to a person from an under-represented ethnic population for admission into an M.A., M.S., or Ph.D. program which will qualify for licensure as a marriage and family therapist.

DEBORAH WRITES TO HER ADVISOR, ISAAC CARREON....

"I am so happy and wanted to share with you that I was just awarded the CAMFT Ronald Lunceford Scholarship. Yeah! I will be awarded this state scholarship at the CAMFT Conference in Indian Wells, CA this May."

3 • FIRST GENERATION STUDENTS @ PO

At Pacific Oaks, we celebrate the differences among each other as opportunities to learn and grow. In keeping with our values of equality and inclusion, we seek to attract a diverse group of students who will thrive in this learning environment.

Students who are the first generation in their families to attend college make up over 60 percent of Pacific Oaks students. We actively seek out and embrace our first generation students and support them fully, from scholarship opportunities to convenient instructional sites.

WHAT DOES A FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT LOOK LIKE?

- First in their family to attend college
- Role model for family members and younger siblings

WHAT DOES A FIRST GENERATION STUDENT BRING TO THE CLASSROOM?

- Diversity
- Independence
- A strong work ethic
- A desire to give back

Were you a first-generation student? Would you like to be included in a brochure about students just like you, first in their families to go to college? We have two options for your image to be included:

- 1) Provide an image of your own. Image must be high resolution with a file size of at least 4MB. Email the image to: alumni@pacificoaks.edu
- 2) Come to the college and let us capture your photo on: **Friday, March 28, 2014**
Time: 9AM or 12PM

4 • PACIFIC OAKS COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY

Saturday, March 22, 2014

Southern California location:

Oakland Community Garden
Pasadena, CA 91101
Located at the corner of Oakland and Maple, one block east of Los Robles. Street parking.

Please bring gardening gloves and wear a hat.

8:30AM Check-in on site; coffee, juice, and bagels.

9:00AM Gardening projects begin with host Steve Morgan and PO volunteers.

11:30AM Group photo; depart community garden location.

12:00PM Pacific Oaks Flag Ceremony and lunch immediately to follow on the main campus; 45 Eureka St., Pasadena, 91103.

RSVP by March 19:

Toni Miller, Director of Alumni Relations
E: tmiller@pacificoaks.edu, T: 626-529-8094



Northern California location:

Resource Area for Teaching (RAFT)
1355 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95131
Parking lot on site.

The Northern California team will be helping to assemble educational packets for this non-profit that serves 10,000 educators and 825,000 young people yearly.

Two shifts are open to sign up for:

9:00AM – 12:00PM Coffee, juice, and bagels

1:00PM – 4:00PM Refreshments

RSVP by March 19:

Mabelis Melgar, Northern California Coordinator,
E: omelgar@pacificoaks.edu, T: 408-855-5353.

Look for the PO banner to check-in and receive your community service day t-shirt and wristbands.

Please RSVP so we know how many alumni to expect; we look forward to seeing you soon!

5 • BURGESS LECTURE SERIES

Dr. Ezat Parnia, President of Pacific Oaks College & Children's School, cordially invites you to attend the

2014 Evangeline Burgess Lecture Featuring Dr. Daniel Siegel

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2014 | 7:00 PM

Location: Pasadena, CA

The **Burgess Lecture series** is named in honor of Dr. Evangeline Burgess, who served as the first president of Pacific Oaks College in 1959. Dr. Burgess had a clear vision of the role that early childhood education would play in the ensuing years. Pacific Oaks College was founded because she recognized the need for well-educated teachers for young children. The first lecture was delivered in 1968 by scholar Milton J.E. Senn of Yale University, and the tradition continues.

*Book signing & reception following
Complimentary admission*

RSVP by Friday, April 11
E: tmiller@pacificoaks.edu | T: 626.529.8094



Dr. Daniel Siegel is a clinical professor of psychiatry at the UCLA School of Medicine and founding co-director of the Mindful Awareness Research Center. Dr. Siegel is the author of numerous articles, chapters, and the internationally acclaimed texts, *The Developing Mind: How Relationships and the Brain Interact to Shape Who We Are*, *The Whole-Brain Child*, and *Parenting from the Inside Out*. His latest book, *The NY Times Bestseller, Brainstorm: The Power and Purpose of the Teenage Brain*, explores how brain development impacts teenagers' behavior and relationships.

6 • PACIFIC OAKS CHILDREN'S SCHOOL NEWS

Pacific Oaks Children's School Welcomes a New Executive Director

On February 5, 2014, President Parnia announced the appointment of Dr. Pam McComas as the Executive Director of the Pacific Oaks Children's School.

Dr. McComas is an experienced school administrator, college instructor, special education, and preschool/elementary classroom teacher. Her early childhood experiences include being the Head of the Beginning School in Oregon where she was responsible for all aspects of early education including supervising teachers, curriculum, program development, parent relations and education, budgeting and logistics. Most recently she was Director of the Elementary Division at Chadwick School, Palos Verdes Peninsula, California.

Over her career she has many experiences to her credits including two start-up schools and a school redefining its strategy. In each instance she brought best practices of education to the programs with a continuous respect for the ethos of the culture in that community. In constructing the new visions she built solid relationships with parents and staff while honoring and respecting the past.

Dr. McComas has a Ph.D. in Early Childhood Education, an M.S. in both Special Education and Counseling, and a B.A. in English. She has presented at conferences specifically addressing early childhood assessment and development. Dr. McComas will commence her Executive Director position on March 3, 2014.

7 • COLLEGE NEWS

We have expanded!



Pacific Oaks is always thinking of ways to improve the student experience. With that in mind, the institution has invested in renovating Suite B, a 9,000 square foot area on the current campus to move key student services all in one place to better serve our students. The CARE office, Student Services, and Finance teams have already moved into the new wing, and the Registrar's office team will be settled in their new offices by the end of March.

Once all teams have been moved to the new space, their current offices will be converted to more classrooms and a faculty lounge.

Our current students and faculty are now enjoying the use of four additional classrooms, a student lounge with fully equipped kitchen, an outdoor atrium, and two additional computer labs.

Each of the computer labs has four work stations with desktops.

The new classrooms are equipped with Eno Smart Boards providing the most-up-to-date technology to our students and faculty. The four classrooms are divided by partitions that open up providing a large multipurpose room for lectures and functions.



8 • GRAND OPEN HOUSE

Save the Date

Join Dr. Ezat Parnia, Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard, the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, Trustees, faculty, teachers, staff, students, alumni and donors as we welcome our community to the expanded campus

4:30 PM Guest check-in
5:00 PM Ribbon-cutting ceremony and special guests
5:30 PM Reception and raffle prizes; campus tours
7:00 PM Event concludes

LOCATION:
55 Eureka Street,
Pasadena, CA 91103

For more information, contact Toni Miller, Director of Advancement, Alumni and External Relations
E: tmiller@pacificoaks.edu | T: 626.529.8094

9 • NEW MEMBERS OF THE PACIFIC OAKS TEAM

Pacific Oaks College Community Welcomes New Members!



ISAAC CARREON, M.A., LMFT joined Pacific Oaks as an Affiliate Faculty in the School of Cultural and Family Psychology this January. Isaac brings considerable experience to our MFT programs as both a licensed clinician, an adjunct faculty member and as a clinical supervisor in the field of mental health. He has served as an adjunct faculty member in the MFT traditional Program and the Latina Family Studies Specialization here since 2011. Isaac is studying for his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Walden University. His dissertation topic is "Personality Development of Motherless Sons Due to Death or Separation: Attachment Implications."

Isaac has served as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Chronic Care Coordinator at Kaiser Permanente, co-pioneered the CareMore's Mental Health Program, and collaborated with the Probation Department and DCFS in association with Penny Lane Centers. He has supervised interns and taught several of the core courses for MFT. We are proud to announce that Isaac is a 2004 graduate of our M.A., MFT with a Specialization in Latina Family Studies program.

DR. DONALD GRANT joins Pacific Oaks as our new Coordinator of Clinical Training in the School of Cultural and Family Psychology. He brings a wealth of experience to our programs as the coordinator and already has a favorable reputation amongst our AAFS students as an MFT adjunct Faculty Member.

Donald is a Clinical Psychologist, who earned his doctorate, Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from the School of Professional Psychology (now known as Alliant) in June 2007. He comes to us with vast experience in the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health's Child, Youth & Family Administrations as the Child Welfare Coordinator. He has served as the Director of Pepperdine's Urban Fellowship program which provides training and field placement for selected students in the Graduate School of Education and Psychology. Dr. Grant has managed a team of interagency staff coordinating the services of LA Homeless Services Authority, Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) and DPSS. Already, Donald is actively working with students and faculty to ensure a seamless transition for all students in need of advising and clinical training supervision.



MARIEL RAMIREZ has just joined the admissions team as a Senior Admissions Representative for Northern California/Instructional Sites. Mariel comes to us from Family Child Education Services with Santa Clara Unified School District, where she served as a Site Director.

In 2011, Mariel earned her M.A. in Educational Leadership in Early Care and Education from Mills College. She also holds a B.S. in Child and Adolescent Studies with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education from California State University. Mariel has presented workshops on early childhood at the California Association for Education of Young Children (CAEYC) and has been a guest speaker on the topic at San Jose City College.

DR. THERESA GREENE joins the Pacific Oaks family as Director of Online with a wealth of experience, great knowledge, and credentials. Dr. Greene holds a B.A. in Education, Child Development; a M.A. in Education Administration and Policy from California State University, Sacramento; and a Doctorate in Education, Organizational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

She has over 17 years of college teaching in classroom, hybrid, and online formats in universities in the United States, Europe and Asia. Her experience includes responsibility for approving and forecasting budgets yearly for ECE programs. Working in early childhood and school age programs with the United States Air Force has given Dr. Greene expertise in international early childhood development programs. She has developed and taught classes in early childhood education, education leadership, curriculum and instruction, business, management and education law. Dr. Greene has built and taught courses, trained students and faculty to master eLearning platforms such as Blackboard, WebCT, eCollege, Moodle, Canvas, WebTyco, Epic, and Prometheus, among others. Dr. Greene has participated on teams to establish and maintain accreditation standards for online programs.

10 • WELCOME TO OUR NEW TRUSTEE



Pacific Oaks College and Children’s School announced this January that it has named Judge Judith C. Chirlin (re’l’d) to its Board of Trustees. Judge Chirlin was appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court in 1985. She is a graduate of The George Washington University (B.A. in Political Science), Rutgers University (M.A. in Politics from the Eagleton Institute of Politics) and the USC Law School (JD).

“We are delighted that Judge Chirlin has agreed to serve on our Board of Trustees,” said Pacific Oaks College President Ezat Parnia, Ph.D. “Her extensive experience and efforts to significantly increase diversity in judicial appointments throughout the state of California will be a tremendous asset here at Pacific Oaks as we enter 2014 and continue our work of providing a transformative education specifically tailored to adults and non-traditional students.”

Judge Chirlin has been involved in numerous efforts to improve the legal system and the administration of justice in California, throughout the nation and around the world. In 1984 she designed and has since participated in seminars called “So You Want to be a Judge” for women’s, minority, and other bar associations throughout the state. The seminars have been widely recognized as having demystified the process of judicial appointments in California and resulted in significantly increased diversity in judicial appointments throughout the state.

Judge Chirlin has served on numerous state and national committees and boards, including past Chair of the Board of the American Judicature Society, the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, and the International Association of Women Judges. She also served as Vice Chair of the California Gender Bias Task Force and as a member of a Blue Ribbon Panel Investigating the Problems of Women in Prison. She recently concluded a three year term as a member of the Board of the American Bar Association’s Center for Rule of Law Initiatives, is vice-chair of a Blue Ribbon Panel appointed by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to investigate and report on safety and security at LAX and is a member of the Strategic Evaluation Committee appointed by the current Chief Justice of California to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the functioning of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Since retiring from the Los Angeles Superior Court in 2009, Judge Chirlin works in private dispute resolution. She started a non-profit foundation to support justice system improvement projects that enhance the rule of law. In 2011, she became Executive Director of the Western Justice Center in Pasadena, California, which designs and promulgates programs to foster alternative dispute resolution in the courts and peaceful resolution of conflicts in schools and communities.

11 • ADMISSIONS EVENTS

Pass this information along to those in your life who may be interested in the same transformative experience at PO that you had.

Event Date	Event Time	Event Name
TUESDAY, MARCH 4	7:00–8:30PM	Discover the Reflective Learning Process
SATURDAY, MARCH 29	9:00–10:00AM	Prospective Student Informational Breakfast
SATURDAY, APRIL 12	9:00–10:00AM	Prospective Student Informational Breakfast
THURSDAY, APRIL 17	7:00–8:30PM	Early Childhood Education: Find out why POC has a strong reputation for its ground-breaking curriculum
SATURDAY, APRIL 26	9:00–10:00AM	Prospective Student Informational Breakfast

Location: Pacific Oaks College

Information sessions are intended for prospective students – please refer to the Pacific Oaks Alumni Events section for additional event listings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2014
ALUMNI COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY
SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
Further details included inside.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2014
PASADENA ALUMNI RECEPTION
More details to follow.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2014
BURGESS LECTURE SERIES
WITH DR. DANIEL SIEGEL
Further details included inside.

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2014
54TH COMMENCEMENT
More details to follow.

TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2014
GRAND OPEN HOUSE
Further details included inside.



55 Eureka Street
Pasadena, CA 91103

Non-Profit Org
US Postage Paid
Pasadena, CA
Permit # 619

To ensure you are included on our email list,
please send your current email address to:
alumni@pacificoaks.edu.

We look forward to hosting you soon!



PACIFIC OAKSSM
COLLEGE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



JAN/FEB 2014

NEWSLETTER

We have the power to create change in our world.

PACIFIC OAKS COLLEGE MOTTO



PACIFICOAKS.EDU