



**PACIFIC OAKS**<sup>SM</sup>  
COLLEGE  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



FEBRUARY 2015

# NEWSLETTER

*We have the power to create change in our world.*



**70**  EST. 1945  
**YEARS**  
**PACIFIC OAKS**  
COLLEGE & CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

PACIFIC OAKS COLLEGE &  
CHILDREN'S SCHOOL  
TURNS **70** ON **OCTOBER 1, 2015.**

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**PACIFIC OAKS COLLEGE & CHILDREN'S SCHOOL**  
55 Eureka Street, Pasadena, CA 91103  
TEL 626.529.8091 | FAX 626.529.8102  
EMAIL [alumni@pacificoaks.edu](mailto:alumni@pacificoaks.edu)

[PACIFICOAKS.EDU](http://PACIFICOAKS.EDU)

## 1 • MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Alumni,

This year marks the 70th year anniversary since Pacific Oaks Children's School first opened its doors on October 1, 1945 to 65 children, ages two to four. Pacific Oaks was the vision of seven Quaker families of a school that incorporated diversity and emphasized the importance of each child's creative ideas that came to life just three short months after the property deed was purchased from Whittier College.

A former member of the Pacific Oaks Board of Trustees shared a draft historical document from August of 1995, the year of the School's 50th anniversary, and from it I would like to share some of our beloved institution's earliest history.

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“As the [World] War [II] dragged on some members of the more liberal-minded Orange Grove Monthly Meeting taught at Pacific Ackworth and helped relocate refugees as staff of The Friends Center in Pasadena. The women of the group had originally banded together for mutual support because their husbands were conscientious objectors sequestered in work camps. Six of these member families eventually created a joint fund to finance their utopian vision for peace beginning with early childhood education and continuing for adults. They share the conviction that ‘in a changing world education must be lifelong.’”

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These six families would soon be joined by Edwin and Molly Morgenroth, whose leadership proved to be invaluable in moving the utopian vision forward. The School's first few years of existence truly exemplified a diverse population by way of staff, parents, and children; an unheard of precedent during those times. The early emphasis on anti-bias, equality, community and peace are still values practiced at Pacific Oaks in present day.

The College initially offered upper division courses through UCLA Extension for five years before receiving Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation in 1959. In their statement they noted,

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“The strength of the program lies in certain intrinsic values chief among which is the development of an understanding of human relationships. The Friend's philosophy of worth of individual personalities pervades the whole School. The development of a fine sense of self-direction and sensitivity toward the values in human relationships was evident in these students.”

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I'm honored that Pacific Oaks continues to value individuals and recognize the strengths they contribute to our community. Our foundation is strong and deeply rooted in both the Pasadena and early childhood education communities and much of that foundational strength can be attributed to the work each of you do every day in practicing what you learned at Pacific Oaks. Such strong roots will only continue to grow and strengthen for many, many years and generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. Parnia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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

## 2 • A TRIBUTE TO GRETCHEN BROOKE

May 5, 1936 to December 13, 2014



Dear Pacific Oaks Community,

It is with deep sadness that I share with you that in December we lost a very dedicated member of the Pacific Oaks Community, Gretchen Brooke. Gretchen was a member of our core faculty who helped launch our programs in Northern California. Although she retired before I joined Pacific Oaks, I had the opportunity to meet with her on several occasions as she and her husband, John Brooke, would often drive from Northern California to attend our events. Each time I saw her she would encourage me to work harder to restore the mission and reputation of Pacific Oaks College and Children's School; an institution she cherished dearly.

Losing a loved one is never easy, so I would ask that you please join me in sending positive thoughts to Gretchen's family as they cope with the loss of such a remarkable woman.

Ezat Parnia, Ph.D.  
President  
Pacific Oaks College & Children's School

Gretchen was my mentor. She taught me about compassion and justice. She helped me to know I was a good writer. When PO started in Northern California, I remember taking classes in her living room. Gretchen was so passionate about the program and its mission. I am ever so filled with gratitude that Gretchen was a part of my life. The seeds she planted took root and I pass them to all the children's lives I touch including my own child. Gretchen's light lives on.

In peace,  
*Julia Harris*  
*B.A. Human Development, Class of '99*

Gretchen Brooke was my first contact with anyone from Pacific Oaks. I was referred to Pacific Oaks by an alum in the Bay Area and met Gretchen at an information session. Soon I was a student and she was my advisor. I had many classes with Gretchen and she always had a smile to share with words of encouragement. Soon after I became the Director of Northern California Instructional Sites she was in San Jose and told me that we needed to talk. She was very supportive of all things Northern California and shared her words of wisdom. I consider her a legend in the Pacific Oaks family and her presence will be missed. She will live on in the hearts of those she touched and to future generations as we use her example to reach others.

Marian Browning  
*M.A. Human Development, Director of Northern California Instructional Sites*

### 3 • ALUMNI, STUDENT & FACULTY VOICES

**What is the best book you have read for personal enrichment during the last six months, and what did you enjoy about it?**

#### Alumni Voice



I am so appreciative that my book club chose to read *The Rosie Project*, by Graeme Simsion. As soon as the sequel, *The Rosie Effect*, was published this past December, I pounced on purchasing a copy and settled immediately into a marathon reading.

Recently, I had the pleasure of meeting the author. I was not surprised to find that Simsion has had a great deal of support from the ASD community in regards to the accuracy of his depiction of this character. Simsion said that he wanted to write the book in first-person, from the perspective of the protagonist "from the inside, looking out." His mission was accomplished handsomely.

Not only were both of these books extremely entertaining, but they also allowed me a window into the mind of an individual with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). I appreciate how the author wrote about his protagonist in a way that made all of his behaviors relatable. This personality was of particular interest to me because I have several friends, acquaintances, and students with ASD.

I am sure to enjoy the afterglow from reading *The Rosie Project* and *The Rosie Effect* for quite a long while. These books now hold a special place on my bookshelf.

Jenny Mauldin Wiltse  
M.A., *Human Development*, 2014

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#### Student Voice



I think of myself as an avid reader. My favorite kind of day is one in which the sun is shining and I can sit under the canopy of a tree while reading a book. Regrettably, over the past six months, my work and family commitments, along with many required readings for my classes at Pacific Oaks, have reduced

this idyll to little more than a pleasant memory. In fact, when I was asked to contribute to this edition of *Voices* I realized I had read only one book for personal enrichment during that time! Happily, it is a book that deserves to be shared.

female oppression including intergenerational prostitution, sexual trafficking, and deaths from childbirth are shocking and difficult to read. However, Kristof and WuDunn share examples of local women reclaiming their power by bringing about change, albeit on a small scale, in their villages, towns, and cities.

*In Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* (2010). Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn take an unflinching look at the oppression of women in many of the world's developing countries. It cannot be described as enjoyable reading material and indeed the graphic and grim details of the many real experiences of

For me, this book brought my awareness of female oppression to a heightened level and left me wanting to get involved. While this was first published in 2010, it is a timely read given the many stories of female oppression that have peppered recent headlines, such as Boko Haram's kidnapping of Nigerian schoolgirls. If you have not read this incredible book I urge you to pick up a copy, become aware, and get involved.

Lorraine Farquharson  
Bachelor's in *Human Development with specialization in Early Childhood Education*  
2015 Candidate

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#### Faculty Voice



To enrich my life I quilt, garden, do yoga, and play clarinet in a local band. I read to more fully enjoy the activities I love to do. For me, such reading is enriching because these activities sustain and nurture my creativity and sense of self. This is what work-life

balance is about for me. I feel deeply satisfied during and after these activities. I don't receive magazines or find books; rather, I recognize a question I have, then look for blogs with new ideas that I can apply. I read to be happier while teaching, quilting, gardening, doing yoga, or rehearsing.

Some of the new ideas I've used are: designing integrated writing activities to promote students' reflective and critical thinking (using Smarthinking articles); practicing yoga postures before and after gardening to mitigate back injury pain; organizing my sewing area and then whittling down my stash of cloth by making table runners and small quilts, and reading about clarinet playing and my favorite professional clarinetists.

Dionne Clabaugh, Ed.D.  
Faculty, School of Human Development  
Northern California Instructional Sites

## 4 • 2ND ANNUAL PACIFIC OAKS COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY



### COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY

**Saturday, March 21, 2015**

#### Southern California

**San Gabriel Valley Humane Society**  
851 E. Grand Avenue, San Gabriel, 91776  
Street parking

**8:30AM** Check-in on site; receive t-shirt and enjoy coffee, juice and bagels

**9:00AM** "Walk-Path" project with Cindy or Joe (shelter reps)  
The Walk-Path project will entail clearing out debris and brush from the route the dogs take on their Sunday walks. Please bring work gloves.

OR

"Office Project" will entail stuffing and mailing thank you letters to adopters and donors, assembling "Going Home" bags for dogs getting adopted and "preparing "Poopy bags" for Sunday walks."

**11:30AM** Group photo

**RSVP by March 18 to Brittney Middleton, Office of Advancement and Alumni Relations at [alumni@pacificoaks.edu](mailto:alumni@pacificoaks.edu) or 626-529-8095.**

Please bring one item from the "wish list" of donations the shelter is always in need of:

**FOOD:**

**Cat Food:** Purina Cat Chow Dry Food – 30lb Bags  
Purina Friskies Wet Food – Case of 24 cans

**Kitten Food:** Purina Kitten Dry Food – 30lb Bags  
Fancy Feast Kitten Wet Food – 24 cans

**Dog Food:** Natural Balance or  
Purina Beneful Dry Food – 50lb Bags

**Puppy Food:** Purina Puppy Dry Food – 25lb Bags

**SUPPLIES:**

- 50 Pound-Litter bag
- New and Used Towels (In good condition, please)
- Fleece Blankets or Fabric (without stuffing)
- Tide Laundry Detergent
- Clorox Bleach
- Hand Sanitizer – Purell Sanitizers
- Paper Towels
- Copy and Printer Paper

#### Northern California



**Bay Area Instructional Site**  
3000 Mission College Blvd, Room MT6  
Santa Clara, CA 95054

**RSVP by March 18 to Mabelis Melgar at [omelgar@pacificoaks.edu](mailto:omelgar@pacificoaks.edu) or 408.855.5353**

The Inclusion Collaborative leads the effort to provide every Santa Clara County child with a quality learning environment. Its focus is the successful inclusion of children with special needs in child care, preschool programs and the community through education, advocacy and awareness.

**8:30AM** Check-in; coffee, juice and bagels available

**9:00AM** Pacific Oaks Alumni volunteers will be putting materials together for their outreach to Santa Clara County.

**11:30AM** Group photo



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

## 2015 EVANGELINE BURGESS MEMORIAL LECTURE

*featuring* DR. MICHAEL THOMPSON

**Tuesday, April 14, 2015 • 7PM**

**Pacific Oaks College • 45 Eureka St., Suite B • 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.



MICHAEL THOMPSON, PH.D. is a consultant, author and psychologist specializing in children and families. He is the supervising psychologist for the Belmont Hill School and has worked in more than five hundred schools across the United States, as well as in international schools in Central America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

Dr. Thompson's most recent book was *Homesick and Happy: How Time Away From Parents Can Help a Child Grow*, published in 2012. He and co-author, Dan Kindlon, wrote the New York Times best-selling book, *Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys* (Ballantine Books, 1999). About *Best Friends, Worst Enemies* the Publishers Weekly review declared, "Not since Dr. Spock and Penelope Leach has there been such a sensitive and practical guide to raising healthy children." *The Pressured Child: Helping Your Child Achieve Success in School and in Life* (with Teresa Barker, Ballantine, 2004) was written to help parents understand the complex journey of children through school, from Kindergarten through senior year.

A dedicated speaker and traveler, Dr. Thompson has appeared on The Today Show, The Oprah Winfrey Show, ABC 20/20, CBS 60 Minutes, The Early Show and Good Morning America. He has been a guest on NPR's "Morning Edition" with Susan Stamberg, "Talk of the Nation" with Ray Suarez and the Diane Rhem Show. He wrote, narrated, and hosted a two-hour PBS documentary entitled "Raising Cain" that was broadcast nationally in 2006. Dr. Thompson is a past member of the board of the American Camping Association and is on the Advisory Board of Parent Magazine.

Complimentary admission • Reception immediately following lecture

RSVP by Wednesday, April 8 at [Pacificoaks.edu/events/2015/Burgess](http://Pacificoaks.edu/events/2015/Burgess)

For future alumni events  
make sure to follow us



## 6 • PACIFIC OAKS COLLEGE ANNUAL FUND



**This year's College Annual Fund has a goal of \$100,000. As of January 2015, we have raised almost \$86,000. As part of this year's Annual Fund, we have launched an Employee Giving Campaign, Proud to Work at PO, Proud to Support PO.**

As of January 2015, 100 percent of staff at the Children's School has participated and 46 percent of staff at the College has participated.

Gifts to the Annual Fund can be restricted to any number of priority projects for funding, such as the First Generation Scholarship Fund and Faculty Special Projects. These gifts are instrumental for PO to continue being able to best support our students, such as offering small classes and scholarships, and ensuring our faculty have the tools they need to change lives through the transformative education provided by PO. As a part of the PO family, we hope you will consider making a donation—of any size—to the Annual Fund by visiting [www.pacificoaks.edu/Giving](http://www.pacificoaks.edu/Giving).

***If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the Office of Advancement at 626-529-8091 or [POCAvancment@pacificoaks.edu](mailto:POCAvancment@pacificoaks.edu).***

## 7 • EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### HopSkipDrive

Work with kids, set your own schedule, make great money. We're looking for excellent drivers who love kids and want to join the HopSkipDrive team.

Requirements:

- 25+ years of age
- 5+ years childcare experience (being a parent counts)
- Must have your own car, 2005 or newer model
- Proof of insurance

- Clean background check
- Clean driving record
- References

We conduct interviews, do ride-alongs, and perform a comprehensive background check for every HopSkipDriver. You'll be expected to adhere to all HopSkipRules and take great care of the kids you drive. This is a job you have to do with love! Sign up today at [www.hopskipdrive.com/driver-sign-up](http://www.hopskipdrive.com/driver-sign-up).

### Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment

***Home Visitor Teacher***

***Location: 1055 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1701 and Client Homes***

The PACE Early Head Start (EHS) and Head Start Program provides high quality, holistic services to pregnant women and children ages 0-3 and 3-5 from economically disadvantaged families.

The EHS and HS Home Visitor provides appropriate child development activities to pregnant women and infants, toddlers, and their families. The role of the EHS Home

Visitor is to form a partnership with parents to develop and implement positive early childhood experiences for their children.

**Please apply online: <http://pacela.org/about-us/job-opportunities>**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**FEBRUARY 21-22, 2015**

## **Pacific Oaks' Language Institute**

For more information visit [pacificoaks.edu/Language\\_Institute](http://pacificoaks.edu/Language_Institute)

**MARCH 4 – 7, 2015**

## **CAEYC Annual Conference**

**Sacramento, CA**

Visit us at Booth #525 and stay tuned for the Alumni Reception date during the conference.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2015**

## **"What is Anti-bias Curriculum"**

**Panel Discussion**

**Pacific Oaks College, Pasadena, CA**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2015**

## **Alumni Community Service Day**

See inside for more details.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2015**

## **Burgess Lecture**

**featuring Dr. Michael Thompson**

See inside for more details.

Pacific Oaks College  
55 Eureka Street  
Pasadena, CA 91103

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To ensure you are included on our electronic mailing list, please email us at [alumni@pacificoaks.edu](mailto:alumni@pacificoaks.edu).

We look forward to hosting you soon!



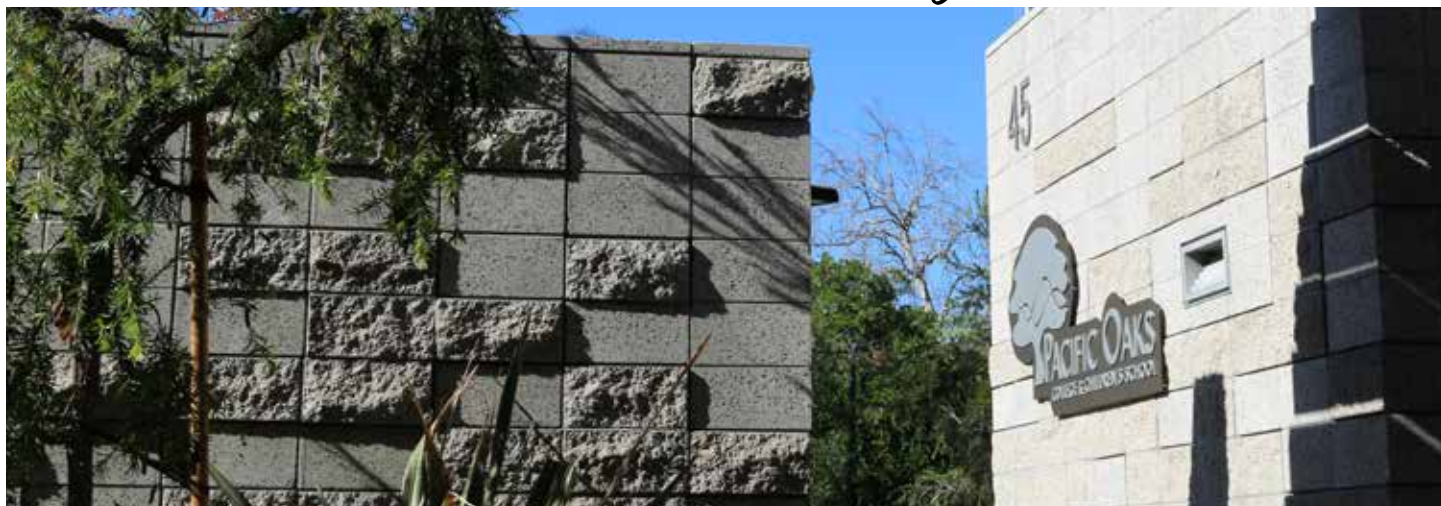
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