

Newsletter

We have the power to create change in our world.



MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni,

What an honor it is to be the new president of an institution whose alumni are held in such high regard by our communities! I'm thrilled and humbled by the opportunity to work with you as we shape our future upon the knowledge and values we have learned from each other in our past.

One of the initiatives we have already completed together is to define the meaning of our degrees to guide development not only for our curricula, but also for pedagogy, support resources, faculty, and new programs for the college. Earlier this year I requested that a taskforce consisting of both faculty and staff members take on this challenge. Their goal was to identify the essential and unique qualities of a Pacific Oaks graduate, and to identify how their learning had influenced their future. The taskforce conducted a deeply reflective, evidence-based, iterative process that incorporated rich perspectives from across the institution, including those of our alumni. We heard from 238 of you about your preparation for professional practice and the impact of your education on your life and work. I hope you will be proud to read the powerful statements resulting from this year-long research.

A Pacific Oaks graduate...

Is able to engage authentically and effectively with widely diverse populations in a global environment;

Combines professional knowledge with a respect for the unique values and experiences of the individuals and communities with whom they work to solve problems; and

Improves the profession through actions that advocate for social equity and serve the changing needs of diverse communities.

As a measure of acceptance by our community, you might also be interested to know that our faculty has adopted these statements as the Institutional Learning Objectives for the entire college.

I hope you will continue to share your perspectives and experiences with us. Openness to diverse perspectives and new knowledge is the best way to adapt and therefore preserve the legacy of our values. I look forward to meeting you soon.

Warm regards,

Patricia A. Breen, Ph.D.
President

Inside...

- 1 Alumni Spotlight • 2 Commencement • 3 Louise Derman-Sparks
4 Ann Peppers Grant Update • 5 Employment Opportunities

1 • ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Fred J. Marcus, Esq., Joins the Pacific Oaks Board of Trustees



This May, fellow alumnus and former member of the Pacific Oaks Board of Trustees, Fred J. Marcus, Esq., was welcomed back to the Board after being unanimously voted on by fellow trustees. Fred previously served on the Board between 2004 and 2010.

Fred is a long time partner and Chairman of the Estate Planning and Charitable Planning Departments at Freeman, Freeman, and Smiley, LLP, located in Century City, California. Many of you may be familiar with his firm, as Fred has generously donated the space to serve as the location for multiple alumni receptions over the past few years.

After receiving his bachelor's in Human Development from Pacific Oaks College, Fred went on to earn his J.D. from Loyola Law School and LL.M. in Taxation from the New York University School of Law. Since then he's frequently lectured on and written about estate planning, tax exempt organizations, and charitable and business planning issues. He's been named a "Southern California Super Lawyer" from 2009 through 2014, a designation bestowed on only the top 5% of lawyers in the Los Angeles region by Law & Politics and Los Angeles magazines.

Please join us in congratulating Fred on his many achievements and give him a warm welcome back to the Pacific Oaks Board of Trustees.

Check out our new president, Dr. Pat Breen in the news!

www.pasadenanow.com/main/pacific-oaks-college-childrens-school-welcomes-its-10th-president

Pacific Oaks College & Children's School

55 Eureka Street, Pasadena, CA 91103

tel. 626.529.8091 • fax. 626.529.8102 • email. alumni@pacificoaks.edu

2 • COMMENCEMENT

On May 2, 2015, over 300 Pacific Oaks College students walked across the stage, flipped their tassels, and joined the ranks of our proud alumni who are transforming their communities and the world for the better. The 55th annual commencement ceremony was the last for **Ninth President, Dr. Ezat Parnia** who in his speech shared that he will carry with him all the stories heard of “the sacrifices you—and often, your families—have made to get here,” and how he is “proud to have led the kind of institution where you can come in as an outsider and leave as part of a family.”

Graduate Laurie Shiers' speech compared her class to a popular coming of age movie, stating “Like the kids in the Breakfast Club, some defined us in the simplest terms, with the most convenient definitions... But today, thanks to the passionate educators at Pacific Oaks, we have transcended expectations and smashed those tired stereotypes.” **Keynote speaker, Holly Elissa Bruno**, maintained the theme of surpassing labels and remaining authentic and with passion reminded the graduates that making mistakes and learning from them is “genius.” In closing, **Cheryl Greer-Jarman, faculty senate chair**, enlightened the graduates by elaborating on three concepts - “Stop the violence. Organization. Procrastination.” Professor Greer-Jarman, with this self-designed standard of practice (SOP), charged the graduates to “keep the consciousness” as they go back into their communities.



3 • LOUISE DERMAN-SPARKS



Nearly 150 Pacific Oaks students, alumni, staff, and friends of the institution filled a campus suite on Thursday, June 18th to attend a lecture presented by Pacific Oaks Faculty Emerita, Louise Derman-Sparks. Her address, "Pacific Oaks: Living its Mission and Values," chronicled her strong 30+ year commitment to diversity, inclusion, and social justice as a faculty member in the college's Human Development program.

Louise Derman-Sparks is an activist, speaker, consultant, author, and co-author most notably known for the groundbreaking *Anti-Bias Curriculum: Tools for Empowering Young Children*, published in 1989. Prior to her professorship, Derman-Sparks worked as a child advocate, early childhood educator in the Perry Preschool Project and the Ypsilanti Early Childhood Project, and directed a child care center in Los Angeles. She continues to dedicate her life to creating social change by living the values grounded in Pacific Oaks' history.

During the lecture, Derman-Sparks shared priceless memories and expounded on the challenges and achievements that are involved in upholding a pedagogy with the purpose of co-constructing strategies to eliminate racism, classism, sexism, heterosexism, and ableism. She encouraged the current faculty, staff, and students to participate in collaborative leadership, consensus building, and shared responsibility to continue to maintain the school's mission. The lecture was well received by the educators, students, and community members in attendance. Kate Voltz, School of Human Development student, stated that the lecture "inspired her to make a change in all aspects of her life."

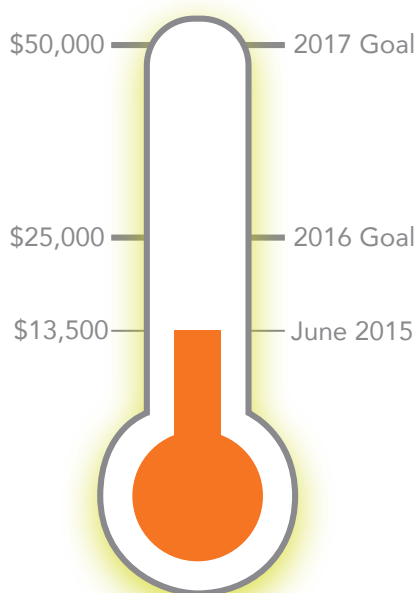
Louise Derman-Sparks' legacy and presence provides continuous motivation for the Pacific Oaks mission to persevere. As she so eloquently reminded us, "Diversity is an empty word unless we make it an action verb."



4 • ANN PEPPERS GRANT UPDATE

The Ann Peppers Foundation has awarded Pacific Oaks College a 2-year challenge grant in support of undergraduate students in need. The foundation will match every donation, dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000 through March 31, 2017.

As of June, Pacific Oaks has raised over **\$13,500** towards the first \$25,000 goal of the two-year Ann Peppers challenge grant. We hope you will consider making a donation - of any size - to this amazing fund in support of undergraduate scholarships by visiting www.pacificoaks.edu/giving and selecting the College Ann Peppers Foundation Scholarship.



Scholarships directly impact our students and they are truly appreciative of the generosity from fellow alums:

“This award will help ease my financial burden while pursuing a professional degree, and I am extremely grateful because I am unemployed and unable to purchase materials needed. Knowing there are kind, caring and generous donors helping students who are experiencing financial burdens gives me hope and the incentives to do the best by excelling and accomplishing great things as a student of Pacific Oaks College.”

Deloris R., Spring 2015 Scholarship Recipient



One of the many ways you can help the College meet the Ann Peppers challenge is by purchasing a PO Proud t-shirt. PO Proud t-shirts are available to purchase for \$10 with proceeds benefitting the Ann Peppers Scholarship Endowment. Contact the Advancement Office at 626.529.8091 for more details.



JULY 25 – AUGUST 2, 2015

Pacific Oaks is proud to support

Sara Cann - Equestrian, Australia in the **Special Olympics World Games, Los Angeles 2015**

1. **Join** the Team! Go to SUPPORT.LA2015.ORG/PACIFICOAKS
3. Don't forget to **share on**   and get your family and friends involved!
4. **Attend** the games! PO will be attending as a group on Tuesday, July 28 from 9AM to 12PM and 1:30PM to 4:30PM

For more information, please contact jacqueline.romero@pacificoaks.edu.

5 • EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

KairosPDX

Three Primary Grade Teaching Positions

KairosPDX is a non-profit organization focused on delivering excellent, equitable education to underserved children, their families and their communities. Through innovative pedagogy, community collaboration and family partnership we are closing Portland's persistent achievement gap in measurable, sustainable ways. Our mission is to eliminate the prolific racial achievement gap and cultivate confident, creative, compassionate, leaders. We do this through a three-pronged approach that includes: Kairos Learning Academy, Family Connections Programming, and an Early Learning Network.

KairosPDX is currently seeking candidates for three full-time, year-round teaching positions starting in late July, 2015.

Kairos Learning Academy was launched in 2014. It is a public charter school sponsored by Portland Public Schools, located on N. Williams Avenue in Portland. Our educational model is inquiry-based and Reggio-inspired. Our approach is multicultural, service focused and STEM infused. Small class sizes, extended school-day and year-round schooling are some of our distinguishing elements.

Please visit www.kairospdx.org/careers for detailed information on qualifications and responsibilities.

Interested candidates please submit a cover letter and resume via email to: careers@kairospdx.org. Please state "Teacher application" in the subject line. In the cover letter please briefly describe your previous teaching experience, why you are interested in this position and what strengths you will bring to the job. Resumes will be accepted until the positions are filled.

The Little School

Executive Director Position

The Little School is a nationally recognized pre-school in San Francisco with a unique relationship-based and inclusive program. The school benefits from exceptional teachers, a newly-renovated facility and strong financial support from an enthusiastic and involved school community. With a focus on the development of the whole child, The Little School believes the keys to a successful learning environment are positive relationships and a supportive community where everyone feels respected and included. The San Francisco-based school is seeking an outstanding Executive Director to lead its unique program starting in July 2016.

The new Executive Director will have the opportunity to lead a school that believes passionately in its educational approach and is well positioned for new growth and development. The new Executive Director will also have committed financial support to retain, recognize and attract top staff members, and will enjoy the benefits and strategic opportunities provided by a newly-renovated facility.

Please visit littleschool.org/about/join-our-team for detailed information on qualifications and responsibilities.

TO APPLY

Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume to Mr. Andrew Spokes at directorsearch@littleschool.org by **August 31, 2015**.



GROW WHAT YOU KNOW

Are you ready to continue your passion for lifelong learning? When you apply for a second degree at Pacific Oaks, we will waive your application fee!

Find out about our new program offerings, scholarships, and how to apply at our next information session.

Join the enrollment counselors over a light breakfast!

Saturday, August 1 • 9–10AM

45 Eureka Street, Pasadena, CA

Ready now? Reconnect with your enrollment counselor at **800.201.2296** or **admissions@pacificoaks.edu**



Save the Date

Inauguration of

*Dr. Patricia A. Breen
as the 10th President
of Pacific Oaks College
& Children's School*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2015 | 1-3PM

**CASTLE GREEN
Pasadena, CA**

Stay tuned for further information.

Pacific Oaks College
55 Eureka Street
Pasadena, CA 91103

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

To ensure you are included on our electronic mailing list, please email us at alumni@pacificoaks.edu.

We look forward to hosting you soon!



JULY 2015

Newsletter

We have the power to create change in our world.



PACIFICOAKS.EDU