



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

# NEWSLETTER

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni:

As we enjoy the balmy days of summer I want to take a moment to share some updates with you.

We are introducing new programs at the College for the 2014-2015 academic year. Pacific Oaks College's School of Cultural & Family Psychology has added a new Trauma Studies specialization in the MFT program in response to the demand for trauma therapy specialists. As the number of veterans returning from the war front suffering from injuries – both physical and mental – has increased and also in response to the rise in violence in American society, the College has committed to educate our students with the necessary skill set to help address the trauma crisis and support families. Additionally, we have created the Childhood Trauma specialization within the School of Education to help better serve children and families who've experienced or are currently in distressing situations.

Through our student survey last year we learned that two-thirds of Pacific Oaks College students are first generation students, meaning they are the first in their families to graduate from a postsecondary school. In order to address the needs of these students, Pacific Oaks College is placing more emphasis on raising funds to support First Generation Scholarships. If you would like to support this effort, please visit [www.pacificoaks.edu/giving](http://www.pacificoaks.edu/giving).

We will be hosting several alumni events throughout the year, starting with the Pasadena kick-off reception on Thursday, September 4. It's our pleasure to provide you the opportunity to visit with fellow alumni and share additional Pacific Oaks updates with you. We look forward to hosting you and hearing about your successes.

With our largest class graduating this past May, we are now preparing to welcome both new and returning students to Pacific Oaks this fall. Many of our students heard about Pacific Oaks and the unique educational experience we offer through our alumni. Thank you for being our ambassadors.

I also want to thank you for your continued support of Pacific Oaks. It is clear that our alumni are innovative change agents, making our community, our nation and our world a much better and thoughtful place for all.

With gratitude,

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



## *Inside...*

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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)

# 1 • ALUMNI NEWS

## ROBIN BEVAN, 2014 PO ALUM, WINS PASADENA CHALK FEST AWARD



**Robin Bevan** received her B.A. in Human Development at Pacific Oaks College in 2014 and is currently the Pacific Oaks Children's School Art Teacher. During a sunny weekend in late June, Robin participated in Pasadena's annual Chalk Festival.



Robin's artwork was called "The Duchess Takes a Selfie," and was based on a 16th century painting by Quentin Matsys, which is said to be a satirical commentary on the folly of vanity. "By adding the iphone, I thought to make my own commentary on the 'selfie' trend of modern day," stated Robin.

**"The Duchess Takes a Selfie"**  
**won** for Most Humorous!



## LISA SARKISSIAN, 2009 PO ALUM, OPENS AMERICAN ACADEMY IN PALESTINE



### **Celebrating the First Year of American Academy Nablus – Palestine**

May 28, 2014 did not exactly go how I had planned it, but that is something that I have grown accustomed to the past year of living and working in Palestine. After graduating from Pacific Oaks with my MA in Human Development, I opened an Armenian Bilingual Preschool in 2000 as a fun project to fulfill my passion, pursuit and dedication toward creating educational institutions that incorporate the methodologies and theories I had learned. That was easy in Glendale, CA and when I was asked to help with a project of opening a bilingual preschool in "Israel" I thought what a great opportunity, so I agreed.

Helping turned into being responsible for the school. The location is actually in West Bank, which I did not do my homework on prior to coming here so everything was hands-on learning. Palestinians are some of the nicest people I have ever met and as someone who speaks three languages fluently and has a little knowledge of four others – Arabic however, is not one of them but communication and understanding is deeper by kind actions. Living here has been the adventure of a life time. Opening the first American Academy from preschool to fifth grade with 186 children has been the opportunity of a lifetime. There were countless hurdles but there is now a school that will be expanding and growing that is based on Pacific Oaks College pedagogy.

So today as I sat and watched the wonderful performances like a drama play done in English, a feeling of accomplishment of what these children have learned replaced the admittedly selfish disappointment that the US Consulate and representatives from the Armenian community in Jerusalem were not able to come out and present me with President Obama's Call to Service Award that Dr. Ray Striler nominated me for based on my dedication to education. The biggest reward for me was to realize the impact American Academy has and to be part of that.

My day ended close to midnight with a call from Dr. ReGena Booze, my mentor and someone who has helped shape me into being the person and educator I am today. If you are a preschool or elementary teacher who really wants to be able to make a difference in the world and knows the Pacific Oaks way, please contact me about teaching opportunities and being part of my team for the upcoming year. The school website is [americanacademynablus.org](http://americanacademynablus.org) and there is a link to our facebook page to see more about the school. [My direct contact is usaeducation@att.net](mailto:usaeducation@att.net) and I would love to hear from fellow alums!

## 2 • VOICES

### WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE SUMMER TRADITIONS?

#### *Faculty Voice*

Each summer I look forward to the most ridiculous and fun festivals I can find in California. My friends and I love to make the drive out there and enjoy in the uniqueness each one has to offer - coming up on our schedule is the Lobster Rumble, Bacon Fest in Long Beach, The OC Fair, and the Ghirardelli Chocolate Festival in San Francisco!



**MARY ASHDJIAN-KANDILIAN,**  
M.ED.  
*Associate Director and  
Credentials Coordinator  
School of Education*

#### *Student Voice*

My favorite summer tradition is enjoying outside screenings of old movies. Every summer you can find movie screenings at the beach, park, or even cemetery in the Los Angeles area. This summer I watched *The Addams Family* at the Hollywood cemetery. It was a great way to enjoy warm summer nights, good company, and one of my favorite movies. I know what you're probably thinking, "what? You spent money to sit outside at a cemetery and watch a movie that I can watch on Netflix for free?" The answer is, "Yes. Yes, I did." And I enjoyed every minute of it. The whole experience is what made it so enjoyable: packing like you're going camping, sitting in a long line on the grass like it's a music festival, and most importantly bringing all the food/drinks your heart desires. They even have a photo booth and a DJ spinning music while you wait for the movie to start. My favorite part (besides the food and the movie

itself) was watching the sunset and the moon appear. Once the movie started, I was filled with warmth and nostalgia: the feeling of every great summer tradition.



**CHAZ DENNIS**  
*M.A. Marriage & Family  
Therapy, African-American  
Family Studies*

#### *Alumni Voice*

One of my favorite summer traditions is attending the Friday night jazz at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) with my friends and family. It's the most amazing venue...incredible music, great food, and there are hundreds of new friends to meet from every corner of Los Angeles.

Oh yeah, and it's free!



**GARY HUFF**  
Pacific Oaks College Alum  
B.A. Human Development  
2012

## 3 • ALUMNI RECEPTION



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

# ALUMNI RECEPTION

**Thursday, September 4, 2014 | 5:30-7:30PM**

El Cholo Restaurant - Main Patio  
260 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena, CA  
*Complimentary parking included.*

### GUEST SPEAKERS

Dr. Ezat Parnia, President, Pacific Oaks College & Children's School  
Connie Destito, LCSW, Associate Dean, School of Cultural & Family Psychology  
Dr. Tim Sundeen, Associate Dean, School of Human Development  
Dr. Roberto Casas, Associate Dean, School of Education  
Toni Miller, Director, Advancement and Alumni Relations

*Faculty updates & raffle prizes too!*

**RSVP by August 29:**

[pacificoaks.edu/events/2014/alumni\\_reception](http://pacificoaks.edu/events/2014/alumni_reception)

For more information, contact Brittney Middleton  
at [bmiddleton@pacificoaks.edu](mailto:bmiddleton@pacificoaks.edu) or 626.529.8095.

## 4• COLLEGE NEWS

### Pacific Oaks College Community Welcomes New Staff Members!



**Aaron Bryant** joined the PO community as the Director of Admissions this past March. Aaron came to us with several years of admissions management experience. Most recently he served as the Assistant Director for Enrollment on the Torrance Campus of Redlands University.

Aaron earned his Master of Business Administration in 2009 from the University of Redlands and his Bachelor of Science in 2007 also from the University of Redlands.

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**Sara Primozich** also joined PO this past March as Senior Admissions Counselor. Within this role Sara interacts daily with prospective students. She counsels them on what programs we offer that may be the best fit and then positions them to have a successful start to their educational journey.

Sara received her Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Communication with a minor in Advertising and is currently pursuing her Master of Education with a concentration in Higher Education at Northeastern University.

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**Brittney Middleton** officially joined the Office of Advancement as the Operations Coordinator on June 1, 2014 after working in a temporary capacity over the last year. Brittney's focus is managing the College & Children's School donor database records, gift processing, invoicing, and planning events.

In 2010, Brittney earned her Bachelor of Science in Sport & Entertainment Management from the University of South Carolina.

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**Tyson Fant** was a welcomed addition to the admissions team in late spring. Tyson has worked as an admissions representative for higher education institutions since 2011, beginning at Everest College and most recently Argosy University in Los Angeles.

In 2006, Tyson received his Bachelor of Science in Political Sciences from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia.

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**Nicole Karayan** joined the admissions team on March 3, 2014 as Senior Admissions Counselor. Nicole spent many years as a successful admissions counselor and team leader at the University of Phoenix in Pasadena.

Nicole holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and is currently working on her Master of Business Administration at the University of Phoenix.

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## Pacific Oaks Celebrates Grand Open House

On June 17, 2014 the Pacific Oaks College campus was officially unveiled to old friends and new at the Grand Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

The a cappella group The MoonRays kicked off the ceremony with a doo-wop medley. President Ezat Parnia then welcomed everyone to the entrance of 45 Eureka and shared some of Pacific Oaks' history and vision for the future. Dr. Michael Horowitz, Pacific Oaks Trustee and President and CEO of TCS Education System, spoke about the example of Pacific Oaks students serving as change agents in the communities that they work in representing the fields of education, human development and family services.

Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard shared remarks about the deep history and social justice mission of Pacific Oaks College & Children's School. He commented on the partnership the city has with Pacific Oaks for education and training and the positive impact PO has made throughout the Pasadena community. Paul Little, President of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, thanked Pacific Oaks for its work in supporting the value of teachers and the unique role they have in building communities and lifelong learners.

Following the ceremony, attendees including faculty, staff, students, alumni, Children's School families, donors, trustees and members of the Pasadena community enjoyed a festive reception and visited

displays from various departments of the College and Children's School to learn more about the unique educational experience Pacific Oaks has to offer.



President Ezat Parnia presents Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard with a certificate of appreciation.



Provost Pat Breen presents Paul Little, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce President with a certificate of appreciation.



Provost Pat Breen, President Ezat Parnia, Mayor Bill Bogaard, and member of the Pacific Oaks Board of Trustees Dr. Michael Horowitz cutting the ribbon in the entrance to 45 Eureka of Pacific Oaks College.

## Pacific Oaks Children's School Alumni Picnic - Sunday, June 22, 2014



The annual tradition continues! Alumni families of Pacific Oaks Children's School gathered together on a beautiful June Sunday to visit and play, and share stories on the familiar campus of their preschool years. Welcomed by new Executive Director Dr. Pam McComas, a picnic lunch and ice cream sundaes were enjoyed by all, including Children's School parent alumnus, Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard.



## 5 • 2 - 0 - 1 - 4 ANNUAL FUND

### Giving Back to Pacific Oaks College

Our alumni often tell us that receiving their education from Pacific Oaks was a transformational experience. The culture-centered based learning, small class sizes, and personal exchanges from faculty and fellow students are what make a Pacific Oaks education an authentic, rewarding experience.

In this spirit of gratitude and inspiration, we invite recent graduates and alumni to make a donation to Pacific Oaks in an increment of "2014" during this calendar year. Whether it's \$20.14, \$201.40, \$2,014 or more, your gift will help us positively impact the lives of our current and future students and faculty for years to come.

Your "2014" donation can be designated to benefit:

- Faculty projects
- Scholarships for First Generation Students
- Textbook fund



#### **Faculty Projects**

Examples of faculty projects include funding conferences and associated travel expenses for faculty and their presenting students to attend; academic research and technology that enhances the ways in which our faculty delivers instruction to students; a new faculty lounge, and other special requests as needed.

#### **Scholarships**

First Generation students comprise two-thirds of the Pacific Oaks College student body. Supporting students whose parents have not attended college enables these individuals to blaze a new trail of success in their families and communities.

#### **Textbooks**

The cost of textbooks continues to rise. Students have on average three textbooks to purchase per class. Support for this category will help offset these student expenses.

To get started, visit [pacificoaks.edu/giving](http://pacificoaks.edu/giving) to make a gift and designate the project you would like to support.

**Thank you for supporting Pacific Oaks College!**

**For further information**, please contact Toni Miller, Director of Advancement and Alumni Relations at 626.529.8094 or [tmiller@pacificoaks.edu](mailto:tmiller@pacificoaks.edu).

*NOTE: Donors who give \$1,000 or more become a member of the Pacific Oaks Associates. Benefits of the membership include receiving an invitation to the annual Associates Reception hosted by the President of Pacific Oaks, among other benefits.*

## 6 • ALUMNI COLLEGE EMAIL

### Changes to Pacific Oaks Gmail Account

Recently Pacific Oaks College made changes to its Gmail email system. The password you use to access your Pacific Oaks Gmail account may no longer work. If that is the case please contact our Service Desk at 800-747-8367 (available 24/7) to reset your password. If you registered your password previously you may use the "Password Reset" functionality described below.

#### Accessing from POC Alumni page:

Upon accessing your email from the POC alumni page (<http://pacificoaks.edu/alumni>) you will be prompted to login with the following screen. Please proceed to enter your credentials (MyPacificOaks Student Gateway, Intuit or wireless username and password) or the new credentials provided by the Service Desk. You will be directed to your email after successful sign-in.

#### Access from Gmail.com:

Upon accessing your email from the Google sign in page, you will need to enter your credentials and will be redirected to the sign-in screen to log in again. We recommend bookmarking the following link for quick access for the future.  
<http://mail.google.com/a/po.pacificoaks.edu>

#### Password Reset & Technical Support:

You can continue to either call the Service Desk to reset your password or use the online "Password Reset" through the current solution. As a reminder, please register your information so you can reset your password online in the future.

Current Students » Password Reset

### Password Reset

#### Registration

To activate self-service Password Reset, you **MUST** first register your Username.

[Register Your Username](#)

**Please note:**

- You will need to know your current password to register.
- If you **don't know your current password**, please contact the [Service Desk \(24/7\)](#) at **800-747-8367** or **312-467-8600** to reset your password.

#### Password Reset

Reset your password 24/7. You **MUST** first have registered your Username.

[Reset Your Password](#)

**Please note:**

Your new password should:

- Be at least eight (8) characters long
- Contain characters from at least three (3) of the four (4) following groups:
  - Uppercase characters (A through Z)
  - Lowercase characters (a through z)
  - Numerals (0 through 9)
  - Non-alphabetic characters (such as !, \$, #, %)
- Not be one of your three (3) previous passwords
- Not contain your Username or full name

#### Access from Mobile Device:

Alumni who wish to access their PO email from their mobile phone or device should install the Gmail Mobile App or update the password of their PO email account that may be currently setup on their device.

*We hope you will participate in using your Pacific Oaks Gmail account so we may continue to update you about news such as new degree specializations, alumni events, job postings and provide you the alumni newsletters, President's reports, and alumni magazine. We look forward to hearing from you.*

For technical support, please  
 contact the Service Desk at  
**800-747-8367.**

## 7 • ADMISSIONS EVENTS

We are grateful to our alumni for serving as our ambassadors and sharing the unique, culture centered educational experience Pacific Oaks has to offer. Your family and friends have seen the impact that PO has made on your life. We have several events throughout the semester for people who are considering attending Pacific Oaks College and have included a schedule below.

Our fall semester begins on September 1, 2014 and the spring semester will begin on January 5, 2015. We would be honored if you would extend an invitation to those in your life that would be interested in getting the same life changing experience you did while pursuing your educational goals.

Event Date	Event Time	Event Name
AUGUST 19	6:00–7:30PM	How to Finance Your Education
AUGUST 23	9:00–10:00AM	Information Session: Learn about our NEW Trauma Studies in Early Childhood Specialization
SEPTEMBER 6	9:00–10:00AM	Prospective Student Informational Breakfast
SEPTEMBER 11	6:30–8:00PM Bay Area instructional site	Information Session for Northern California 3000 Mission College Blvd., Santa Clara, CA
SEPTEMBER 16	6:00–7:30PM	Information Session: What you can do with a degree in Human Development
SEPTEMBER 22	6:30–8:00PM Bay Area instructional site	Information Session for Northern California 3000 Mission College Blvd., Santa Clara, CA
SEPTEMBER 27	9:00–10:00AM	Prospective Student Informational Breakfast

**Location:** Pacific Oaks College, 45 Eureka Street, Pasadena, CA 91103 (unless otherwise noted)

Visit [pacificoaks.edu/admissions](http://pacificoaks.edu/admissions) for a full list of information sessions.

## 8 • EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Foundation for Early Childhood Education Inc.

#### *Assistant Director for Health Services and Safety*

Foundation for Early Childhood Education, Inc. is a human service organization committed to promoting the growth and development of our children, families, and staff. They provide an environment which fosters respect and understanding of all individuals and their cultural backgrounds.

Assistant Director for Health Services & Safety qualifications:

**EDUCATION:**

Bachelor's degree from accredited college or university with a major in nutrition, public health, health administration, public administration, or related field.

**EXPERIENCE:**

Minimum 6 years of professional, supervisory, and

management experience within Head Start, California State Preschool, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and/or Community Care Licensing.

**SUPERVISION:**

Supervises the corporation's Health Coordinator, Food Program Coordinator, Compliance Coordinator, and Facilities Supervisor.

See website for employment application at [www.foundationheadstart.org](http://www.foundationheadstart.org).

Please email employment application and resume to [HR@foundationheadstart.org](mailto:HR@foundationheadstart.org).

## Lennox School District - California

### *State Preschool Program Site Supervisor of Single and Double Sites*

The Lennox State Preschool Site Supervisor is responsible for supporting the education, supervision and management of children between three and five years of age who are attending the State Preschool Program. The program operates 185 days a year with a morning and an afternoon session of up to 24 students in each class (3-5 classes per site). The Site Supervisor is responsible for the overall implementation and operation of the preschool program under the direction of the Director of State Preschool. The person selected for this position must have a professional background in the field of early childhood education and development.

This position reports to and is evaluated by the Director of State Preschool. The work year consists of 191 days (Preschool Calendar) (contingent upon availability of funds). Salary range: \$2,246 - \$2,725 (benefited position)

Apply on Edjoin.org:

- Cover letter indicating qualifications & reasons for applying
- Resume
- Three current letters of recommendation
- Copies of appropriate credential(s)/transcripts and certificates (CPR, TB, etc.)

For full job description please visit [www.lennox.k12.ca.us/](http://www.lennox.k12.ca.us/)

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## Professional Child Development Associates (PCDA)

### *Child Development Interventionist*

Professional Child Development Associates is a non-profit organization that offers a range of multidisciplinary screening, evaluation, therapy, and specialized services for children, birth through 21 years of age, and their families, when there are any concerns or problems in development, behavior, or social relationships at home, school, or in the community.

Utilizing a DIR/Floortime® relationship based approach, PCDA is an innovator in multidisciplinary team services and training that recognize the importance of supporting the 'whole child' and special relationships with parents, siblings, other caregivers, and friends.

Qualifications/Benefits

- Bachelor's required
- Second language bonus
- Ongoing training
- Interdisciplinary team
- Work in-home and communities
- Part-time or full-time positions available
- Benefits for full-time employees
- Travel and mileage reimbursement
- \$15 - \$18 per hour starting

To apply for this position, please submit your resume and cover letter to [employment@pcdateam.org](mailto:employment@pcdateam.org).

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## Joyful Beginnings

### *Preschool Director/Head Teacher*

Joyful Beginnings is a Christian Preschool licensed to serve children 2-6 years of age. Through a play-based learning environment, our program is designed to support children in all major areas of development; social, emotional, physical and cognitive. Our school has been serving children for over 20 years, is located in Lafayette and is situated within our Church campus. We currently operate a morning program with extended afternoon care and the possibility of future expansion.

The Preschool Director/Head Teacher is responsible for the leadership of the overall Preschool program and is expected to be an active part of the teaching staff working with children each morning. This position is a member of the church staff

and works collaboratively with an oversight Council.

Experience needed:

- Preschool teaching experience at all age levels.
- Prior Director or Assistant Director experience preferred.
- Meet Early Childhood Education requirements for California Community Care Licensing.

For full job description, visit [www.eastbaypreschools.com/employment-joyful-beginnings.html](http://www.eastbaypreschools.com/employment-joyful-beginnings.html).

To apply, please respond to Karen Schroter - [karen.schroter@yahoo.com](mailto:karen.schroter@yahoo.com) - with your name and contact information, resume and cover letter. We will contact you with the documentation required to further the application process.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2014**

PASADENA ALUMNI RECEPTION

*Details included in this issue.*

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2014**

"WHAT IS PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION?"

PANEL DISCUSSION

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2014**

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2014**

CULTURAL & FAMILY PSYCHOLOGY

SPEAKER SERIES WITH DR. ANDREW KAMI

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2014**

LATINA/O FAMILY STUDIES PROGRAM

15TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2014**

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE CHILD

*More details to follow on the events above.*



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](mailto:alumni@pacificoaks.edu).

We look forward to hosting you soon!



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

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

   **AUGUST 2014**

# NEWSLETTER

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



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