

Newsletter

We have the power to create change in our world.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni,

You may remember that the current strategic plan for Pacific Oaks College calls for the preservation of our heritage, establishing ourselves as a leader in culture-centered education, improving the student experience, and responding proactively to changes in our environment. Every year we reconsider our progress toward these goals, and we identify priorities for the upcoming year that will bring us closer to the achievement of our strategic goals. This year, greater engagement and communication with our alumni and development of our philanthropic community are priorities. As such, I am very pleased to introduce to you Ms. Debbi Cordano, CFRE, our new Director of Advancement. Her expertise in outreach and fundraising are key to our ability to reconnect with our cultural values, develop innovative programming, and provide the level and quality of co-curricular support that our non-traditional students seek.

Debbi began her career as a teacher and has extensive experience in fundraising at hospitals and universities. You'll learn more about her as you read through the newsletter. She and I have been working closely together to research and refine our funding priorities since she joined the institution in April. Already, these include:

- Increasing scholarships for students at both the College and Children's School to increase access to a Pacific Oaks education and to build a richly diverse educational environment for both.
- Expanding our college readiness initiatives to help new students prepare for their return to college with needed support in academic writing, time management, and library research.
- Maintaining the architectural integrity of our beautiful Children's School buildings and campus as we renovate and update our facilities.
- Establishing an endowed chair for Innovation in Early Childhood Education to continue Pacific Oaks' tradition of courageous, creative, and socially responsible curricula for our changing environments.

An additional priority to help fulfill our goal of "preserving the PO heritage," is to seek greater engagement with our alumni. From the alumni survey we conducted last year, we learned how you bring the "Pacific Oaks way," that is the values and the knowledge that you developed at Pacific Oaks, to your professional work. We learned about the impact you are making in your communities. And, we learned that many of you would be willing to share your knowledge and passion with our current students so that they will be even more inspired and prepared for our changing, challenging, and complex future. As you read through this newsletter and learn more about the work being done by fellow alumni, as well as within the institution, I hope you will be moved to join us in our efforts to strengthen Pacific Oaks.

Warm Regards,



Patricia A. Breen, Ph.D.
President, Pacific Oaks College & Children's School

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**Pacific Oaks College
and Children's School**
Office of Advancement
55 Eureka Street
Pasadena, CA 91103
tel 626.529.8091
alumni@pacificoaks.edu

COLLEGE ALUMNA HIGHLIGHT

Lucy Clark: the Epitome of a Pacific Oaks College Graduate Invested in Social Justice

Lucy Clark grew up in the 1940s and 1950s in West Texas. She was a bright, inquisitive teen who was encouraged by her biology teacher to pursue math and science as a career. Dreaming large for her was becoming a physician. Excited about achieving her goal of helping others, she asked for a recommendation to medical school, and was told by her trusted pre-med chair to forget about getting a medical degree because men needed to be in this profession as they were the breadwinners of the family. She was instead encouraged to enroll in secondary education classes. She tried a few, became bored and was not interested in teaching.

Fate took an interesting turn. Still wanting to follow a career in science, Clark took a job as a researcher at a hospital in Dallas. On November 23, 1963, she waved to President and Mrs. Kennedy as their motorcade drove near her work site. Twenty minutes after she saw the President, he was assassinated.

Later, Clark married a medical student who accepted an internship at LA County-USC Hospital. Once his internship was completed, the couple moved to Minnesota where her husband had a fellowship at the Mayo Clinic. Clark needed to help support her family and needed a job very quickly. She saw an ad in the newspaper for a teacher's aide at a nursery school and decided that her previous babysitting experience might convince the interviewers that she was qualified. She was not, but got the job at this school, one that had been used by Dr. Spock as a child study center. It was an eye-opening and captivating experience to see alternative ways people raised children.

Discouraged by the harsh Minnesota winters, they moved back to Los Angeles. She loved teaching children, but knew she needed to learn more about early childhood education. She planned on taking classes at USC or UCLA. However, her Minnesota colleagues told her the best place on the west coast to learn about teaching young children was at Pacific Oaks College.

She enrolled at the College in 1969, which at the time was on the same site as the Children's School. After taking her first class in Human Development, she fell in love with the faculty, students, and social justice perspective. This was the first time that she had the opportunity to investigate how her upbringing affected her personal development. She did lots of soul searching and this experience at the College

changed her life plans. Her life would take many twists and turns, but she finally graduated in 1977 with a Master's in Human Development.

While Clark was at the College, her husband was a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War and was imprisoned at the Presidio in San Francisco for his refusal to serve. During this time, she became part of the peace movements in Los Angeles and San Francisco. She was thankful for the uplifting support received at her Quaker school!

By 1974, Clark was divorced and looking for a new start, something interesting and helpful to do. Other Pacific Oaks College graduates pointed her to a job directing a childcare center for the United Farm Workers in Delano, California. The children of Delores Huerta (Pacific Oaks 2016 Commencement speaker) and Richard Chavez, both leaders of the farm workers' movement, were some of her students. Living within and learning from a culture different than her own was another important life enhancing experience.

After a career that started as a teacher's aide in nursery schools and ended as a professor of Early Childhood Education, Clark retired in 2000 from Bakersfield College. Besides encouraging human development content from her students, she tried to promote their personal growth, modeled after her mentors at Pacific Oaks. One of her fondest memories with her college students was writing letters of recommendation for them to study at Pacific Oaks College.

Now living in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, Clark remains a tireless worker for those populations that need a strong voice. She visits asylum-seekers at a Bakersfield private prison (detention center) who are waiting for hearings regarding entrance into the United States. She calls herself an environmentalist, writing letters, speaking at city and county hearings, trying to improve conditions for those living in the worst air in the nation, including herself. As an amateur botanist, she also reads and comments on documents relating to the Sequoia National Forest, hoping to ensure that the forest can be enjoyed by future generations of both critters and plants as well as humans.

Clark says that she will always be grateful to Pacific Oaks College for opening her eyes to her own potential, and that of all others.

CHILDREN'S SCHOOL ALUMNA HIGHLIGHT

Quinn Hunter McGonagle, Pacific Oaks Children's School Alumna



As an alumna of the Children's School, what would you describe as some of your best memories there?

Even though it was just over thirty years ago that I attended Pacific Oaks Children's School as a youngster, I still have many vivid memories I cherish to this day. Mostly, I remember riding a tricycle up and down Shady Lane and being surrounded by friends and caring teachers while playing outdoors in the sand and at the painting easel.

And now you're a teacher at the School! Tell us a little about your background and what brought you back to the Children's School.

As young as 10-years-old, I have fond memories of "volunteering" in my younger sister's Children's School classroom. I remember deeply admiring the gentle way her teachers handled minor conflicts between children, and how they engaged the children in fun and playful learning experiences; I really got the sense, even at that young age, that these teachers really loved the work they did. It wasn't until undergraduate college at UC Santa Cruz that I really discovered my own love for teaching in a school setting. I graduated college and came straight back to Pacific Oaks and worked as a teacher in many different yards throughout campus, as well as became the school-wide art teacher. I went on to Erikson Institute, a graduate school in child development, and once again, upon graduating came straight back to PO!

What excites you about rejoining the Children's School community?

The children, their families, my wonderful co-teachers, as well as the beautiful, sprawling natural campus. My roots are so deep in the Children's School that the sense of community I feel goes beyond merely being a teacher here: I know how it feels to be a child here, free to express your true feelings and ideas; I understand on a profound level why play and social interactions are so critical for developing young minds; and I will even experience the feeling of being a parent in this wonderful community when my daughter attends Pacific Oaks in the Fall!

You also teach at Pacific Oaks College. How does your style or approach change based on the very distinct student populations you teach at the College and Children's School?

Being that the Children's School has its roots in progressive education, I like to apply similar theories of education to my work with students at Pacific Oaks College. I find value in not only lecturing, but engaging students in deep and meaningful dialogue in which these adult learners develop the ability to speak openly and intellectually about how the course content relates to their real life work in the human development field.

What is the most satisfying part of your job?

It is truly a pleasure coming to work each day. I find so much joy in seeing such happy and engaged children, teachers and parents. If I had to be more specific, the most satisfying part of my job is engaging in casual conversations over a family-style meal and having spontaneous dance parties in the classroom!

Do you have any advice for individuals working in early childhood education/higher education or looking to get into these fields?

What are you waiting for?! When you work in the early childhood education field there is no room for boredom or stagnation; every single day brings new and refreshing challenges that in turn brings about inspiration.

ACTIVITIES

Commencement

On May 7, Pacific Oaks College held its 56th Commencement Ceremony at the Pasadena Civic Center. Renowned civil rights activist, Dolores Huerta, addressed an audience of over 400 graduates and their families in a stirring bilingual speech about respect, democracy and justice. The packed auditorium buzzed with excitement as Huerta led the graduates in a final chant of "Yes, we can!" The ceremony concluded with final remarks from Pacific Oaks Professor Cheryl Greer-Jarman. "We can't be satisfied with just knowledge and information," she stated, "for it's education that really changes the world."



From left to right: Dean Chung, Valerie Coachman-Moore, Dr. Patricia A. Breen, Dr. Albert J. Morell, Dolores Huerta, Dorothy Farris, Dr. Joe Layng, Dr. Michael Horowitz

To listen to Dolores Huerta's full commencement address, please visit: <https://youtu.be/WdFZ7jyxno>

Alumni Reception

On April 1, 2016, Pacific Oaks College held its annual Alumni Reception at the Sheraton Pasadena. Dr. Patricia A. Breen, President of Pacific Oaks, welcomed attendees and introduced a variety of speakers including newly appointed COO, Melanie Sauer, and associate deans, Dr. Theresa Greene and Dr. Bree Davis. With over 60 alumni in attendance, the evening was both an informative and social event that provided guests with networking opportunities as well as a forum to exchange news about their alma mater. The Piazza Ballroom, with its stunning skylights, sophisticated lampshade chandeliers and high ceiling provided the perfect backdrop to a very special evening.



Burgess Lecture



On Tuesday, April 5, 2016, Pacific Oaks held the annual Evangeline Burgess Memorial Lecture at our campus in Pasadena. Welcomed by nearly 200 community members inclusive of students, alumni, families from the Children's School, faculty, staff and community partners, this year's keynote speaker, Dr. Yong Zhao gave a powerful presentation on "American Education in the Age of Globalization."

The evening began with a warm welcome from Pacific Oaks President, Dr. Patricia A. Breen, who commented that the selection for this year's speaker involved an extensive nomination process with feedback provided by faculty and teachers. Dr. Zhao was chosen for his renowned work in the field of education, particularly on the impact globalization and technology are making in schools today. To learn more about Dr. Yong Zhao's work, please visit: <http://zhaolearning.com>



INTRODUCTION TO ADVANCEMENT TEAM



Life is never dull for the Advancement Team of Debbi Cordano, Director of Advancement, and Manasa Prabhakar, Development Associate, fundraisers for Pacific Oaks College and Children's School.

There is no typical daily routine but many responsibilities that have tight deadlines. One day may involve visiting donors and prospects at their homes or offices. Cultivating and solicitation activities may extend beyond the business day where the staff is in charge of receptions and events to celebrate the many successes of the College and Children's School. Cordano and Prabhakar take on many roles which include writing copy for newsletters, applying for grants from public and private corporations and foundations and creating annual fund appeals to support targeted priorities.

If you would like to be involved as a volunteer or make a contribution, please contact:

Debbi Cordano
dcordano@pacificoaks.edu
626 529-8093

Manasa Prabhakar
mprabhakar@pacificoaks.edu
626 529-8094

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR GIFT TO THE ANN PEPPERS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FOR UNDERGRADUATES?

Our undergraduate students need your support. To donate, please visit: <https://giving.pacificoaks.edu/>

GIVING

When I write a check to Pacific Oaks College or the Children's School, where does my money go?

You get many requests throughout the year for donations to many charities. Pacific Oaks College and Children's School is honored to count you as alumni and friends. Both entities have many projects that need funding and are most worthy of your consideration and support.

Here are our immediate priorities:



- ☂ **Scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students from the Schools of Human Development, Education, Cultural and Family Psychology**
- ☂ **Financial assistance for first generation students at the College**
- ☂ **Unrestricted funding for College that would support:**
 - o Writing Center to help tutor students with writing deficiencies
 - o Development and promotion of recruiting military veterans for the Cultural and Family Psychology Trauma Specialization Veteran Cohorts
 - o Pasadena Parenting Education Initiative that is in support of the Pasadena Council for the Young Child that would make it possible for the College and Children's School to contribute its expertise in educating parents, students and alumni passionate about educational equality and childhood development.
- ☂ **Unrestricted funding for the Children's School that would support:**
 - o Scholarships for the students and families
 - o Restoration and renovation of Children's School
 - o Endowed Chair, Director of Innovation and Teaching to work with teachers on developing new curriculum to stimulate and energize the learning environment. This person would also work with community partners, sharing best practices with organizations with similar programs.

Please help the College and Children's School prosper and continue to grow by completing the remit form and returning your gift of any size using the enclosed remit envelope.

For further questions, please contact:

Debbi Cordano
dcordano@pacificoaks.edu
 626-529-8093

or
 Manasa Prabhakar
mprabhakar@pacificoaks.edu
 626-529-8094

YES, I SUPPORT PACIFIC OAKS COLLEGE AND CHILDREN'S SCHOOL!

I authorize my name to appear on any official/public recognition for Pacific Oaks College and Children's School as:

Name (please print): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____ Tel: _____ Email: _____

I/we wish to donate anonymously

Today's Date (Month/Day/Year): _____

I WISH TO MAKE A GIFT OF:

- \$100 \$500 \$2,500 \$10,000
 \$250 \$1,000 \$5,000 Other \$ _____

PLEASE APPLY MY GIFT TO THE FOLLOWING FUND(S):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ann Peppers Foundation Scholarship Endowment (Undergraduate) \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> School of Cultural & Family Psychology Scholarships \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School of Human Development Scholarships \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> First Generation Scholarships \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School of Education Scholarships \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> College Unrestricted \$ _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's School Unrestricted \$ _____ |

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- I will contribute online at <https://giving.pacificoaks.edu/>
 Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ payable to Pacific Oaks College and Children's School
 I am using my credit card to make this gift/pledge of \$ _____
 Visa MasterCard
 Discover American Express

Name on the Card: _____

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code (CVV): _____

Signature of Cardholder: _____

MAKE A PLEDGE:

- Enclosed is my initial check pledge payment of \$ _____ against my total pledge of \$ _____
The balance will be paid over the next 12 months, starting Month/Year _____
 Monthly Quarterly
- Please charge \$ _____ to my credit card* as the initial payment against my total pledge of \$ _____
The balance will be paid over the next 12 months, starting Month/Year _____
 Monthly Quarterly

*Please fill out credit card information in "Payment Options" section above

MY ORGANIZATION/EMPLOYER WILL MATCH MY GIFT:

Company Name: _____

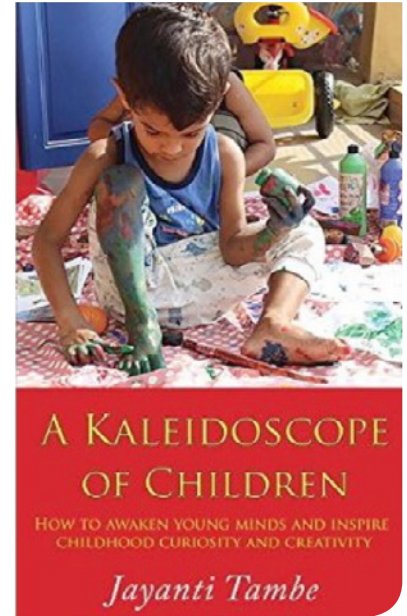
- Matching form enclosed or completed online at my company's website

ALUMNI UPDATES

Jayanti Tambe, Class of 2007, M.A. Human Development

Jayanti Tambe is the Executive Director of Early Learning at UCLA and author of *A Kaleidoscope of Children: How to Awaken Young Minds and Inspire Childhood Curiosity and Creativity*. Tambe has also served as Executive Director of Pacific Oaks Children's School, a core faculty member in the School of Education at Pacific Oaks College, and Director of the Rainbow School and Pepper Tree School at Stanford University.

It was as a young child in Calcutta that Tambe first recognized the powerful impact educators could have on children. During this time, she volunteered at Mother Teresa's home and observed how tenderly the famous humanitarian engaged with children. The experience resonated with Tambe and deeply influenced her career in the field of early childhood education.



Launched in January 2016, Tambe's book, *A Kaleidoscope of Children: How to Awaken Young Minds and Inspire Childhood Curiosity and Creativity*, was inspired by her experience as a Pacific Oaks "Teach with Africa" Fellow in South Africa. Along with Fellow Todd Hioki, Tambe had the opportunity to visit many classrooms and work closely with the teachers and children in the rural village where she was stationed. Her book outlines how children develop, with a particular focus on the children in South Africa with whom she had the privilege to work.

Tambe earned both her M.A. and B.A. in Human Development from Pacific Oaks College.

Byron Flitsch, Class of 2015, M.A. Education with Preliminary Multiple Subject Teaching Credential



When did you decide to become a teacher, and why did you choose this field?

Writing is and will always be one of my passions, but it wasn't until I was teaching an after school program in Chicago that I realized that there was an element of classroom and academic life that intrigued me. It suddenly clicked that there may have been more to me than just writing and then teaching on the side, and that maybe it was time to flip those two passions. The funny thing is that I always played "School" in my basement as a kid. I had a chalkboard and two desks set up. I would make my brother do old worksheets I'd taken from my teacher's recycle pile. I'd play this game for hours.

It took a lot of soul searching (about 15 years!) to really find my spot in teaching. I guess I was worried that being a teacher meant I was giving up on myself and my passions but, instead, this job has only highlighted and motivated me to continue pressing on with my own personal dreams and endeavors. Plus, kids are THE BEST cheerleaders and fan club.

What personal strengths do you find particularly helpful in your teaching?

One strength I've been told I have is the ability to connect with all types of people and personalities. As a writer, I love telling my stories in the hope to connect to others. There is this universal thread that humans share and often that thread is invisible and we think of ourselves as independent pieces of fabric instead of a woven quilt. Connection is crucial in teaching and in life.

What do you think is the greatest challenge facing students today?

I fear students are facing social biases, racial intolerances, and inequities. While this isn't every school and every district, I think the biggest issue is that students are being placed in environments where they are expected to thrive while the aforementioned issues are not being addressed by the staff, teachers, and parents. Students then feel disconnect between their identities and their academic expectations. The separation of these issues from academic expectations makes students feel like learning is a one-sided expectation that only offers academic growth — not personal growth.

You were recently named Vroman's Bookstore 2015-2016 Teacher of the Year. What led to this recognition and has anything changed for you since then?

I was nominated by a student of mine who wrote an amazing essay about how I've offered her both academic and personal support throughout the year. The contest was held for all students in Pasadena and LA County and the judges chose her essay because of its well written and beautiful honesty.

I can't tell you how honored I am to have a crystal apple with my name and "Teacher of the Year" engraved on it in my first year of teaching. I know I have a lot to learn and many ways to evolve as an educator but it has affirmed my decision to take a new path in life.

Why did you choose to attend Pacific Oaks College and how did this decision impact your life?

Pacific Oaks' belief in anti-bias and social awareness education inspired me to take the plunge in my teaching interests. I'm from Chicago and moved to California only recently. I didn't know much about local private institutions. When it was time to go back to school I knew that I wanted a master's degree in order to pursue a Ph.D. in the future. I started to research programs where I felt most connected to the curriculum. I loved Pacific Oaks' approach to education I've been so lucky to have some great mentorship at the school. Professor Carrie Johnson has offered me such insightful wisdom throughout my transition and even to this day. I would not be where I am without her support and guidance!

FACULTY UPDATES

Rebecca Rojas, School of Cultural & Family Psychology



Pacific Oaks College is participating in an exciting on-line, study abroad graduate course that involves five campuses in The Chicago School Educational System. An online course titled Immigration in Context: Examination of Germany will be offered in the fall 2016 semester from October 17 through December 21. This course is a multi-campus, multi- and inter-discipline approach to learning that will study issues related to immigration. The last ten days of the course will be held in Berlin.

Dr. Rebecca Rojas, core faculty in the School of Cultural & Family Psychology, is the lead faculty for Pacific Oaks College. She will teach a one-week module that will examine the acculturation process and the impact immigration has on children and families. She will also accompany students to Berlin.

Yolanda Carlos, School of Education

As core faculty in the School of Education, one of Yolanda Carlos' responsibilities includes the development of program specializations. She is currently working on finalizing the STEAM Specialization that will be offered at Pacific Oaks College this fall.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math are the subject areas that create the acronym STEAM. This Specialization will supply the framework necessary for early childhood educators to provide learning experiences for children through investigation and developmentally appropriate curricula that engage 21st Century skills. Early childhood professionals adding the STEAM Specialization to their education will be on the cutting edge of providing quality curriculum, lessons and activities to any program to enhance and develop learning for children in the core subject areas through the lens of the Arts.

Carlos is also preparing to submit a 'call for presentation' for the 6th Annual Early Childhood STEM Conference to be held on February 3-4, 2017, at the Pasadena Hilton.



Transitional Kindergarten

This Specialization is offered both at Pacific Oaks College's main Pasadena Campus and the San Jose Campus.

For more information, please visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/hdn7xrs>

or

<http://tinyurl.com/gmajta9>

The Transitional Kindergarten Specialization is in response to the newly passed law based on Transitional Kindergarten Senate Bill 837, stating that a credentialed (or preliminary credentialed) teacher must have 24 units of early childhood education/development to teach transitional kindergarten in a California school district. This on-campus and online coursework is designed for credentialed teachers who wish to acquire up to 24 upper division child development units to meet eligibility to teach Transitional Kindergarten classes. Enrollment in courses requires a valid preliminary or clear Multiple Subject or Single Subject California Teaching Credential. All courses are delivered fully on-line with key knowledge, skills and strategies necessary to implement Developmentally Appropriate Practices effectively in a transitional Kindergarten classroom. Transitional Kindergarten Specialization courses are designed around the California Learning System, and Foundations and Framework.



Save the dates!

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION KICKOFF

45 EUREKA ST
PASADENA, CA 91103

SEPTEMBER 23, 2016
6 PM

[https://sanjosegrandopening-po.
eventbrite.com](https://sanjosegrandopening-po.eventbrite.com)

SAN JOSE GRAND OPENING AND ALUMNI RECEPTION

1245 S WINCHESTER BLVD
SAN JOSE, CA 95128

SEPTEMBER 29, 2016
6 PM

RSVP:

[https://alumniassociationkickoff.
eventbrite.com](https://alumniassociationkickoff.eventbrite.com)

For further information, please contact
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SUMMER 2016

Newsletter

We have the power to create change in our world.

