



**PACIFIC OAKS**  
COLLEGE & CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

# Newsletter

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



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Distinguished Alumni,

On Saturday, May 6, Pacific Oaks College once again made institutional history when nearly 450 graduates walked across the stage at our 57th Annual Commencement ceremony, our largest graduating class ever. All of us – faculty, staff, and board members – were as proud as can be of their achievements and to welcome them to our alumni community.

You already know them. Many are working mothers. Others are the first in their family to attend and graduate college, and still others delayed their own college experience until after their children's needs were settled. And all of them will bring their knowledge, their hearts, and their advocacy to improve our communities as educators, therapists, human service professionals, and leaders of organizations dedicated to the public good.

We thank you. Without your generosity in providing needed scholarships, many of them would not have been able to achieve their goals. As much as we do to provide greater access and support, college affordability continues to be the greatest barrier to completion. Every bit of financial support can make the difference for a student. When it comes from someone who knows what they are going through, and who believes in them and their journey, the added encouragement is especially powerful.

Please know that your generosity is far-reaching and appreciated by the many lives you impact.

Warmly,

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

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and Children's School  
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### Don't Miss the Next Newsletter. We Need Your Email!

The alumni newsletter is moving to a completely digital platform beginning this fall. This way, you'll receive fresh and relevant PO news in a timelier fashion that's also friendlier to our environment!

To ensure we have your current email address, please visit [pacificoaks.edu/update](http://pacificoaks.edu/update) to update your information.

If you wish to continue to receive the newsletter in the mail, please call the Office of Advancement at **626.529.8091**.

**Stay Connected. Stay Informed.**

# COLLEGE AND CHILDREN'S SCHOOL ALUMNI PROFILES

## Denise Sandoval—Inspiring Educator Making a Difference



Denise Sandoval was a young working mother with four children who was struggling to get through community college. Inspired by the teaching of Janet Kelly, an alumna of Pacific Oaks College and professor at Rio Hondo College, she kept pursuing her dream of earning a college education and having a career in early childhood education. Because of Ms. Kelly's unique style, Sandoval felt validated as a minority student and aspired to treat her future students the same way. Sandoval studied hard and eventually transferred to the college where she earned her bachelor's degree in Human Development.

"It was really a hard time for me, but due to the support of Professor Kelly and my family, I was finally successful in graduating from college and continuing my career in early childhood education."

Sandoval has come full circle in meeting her educational and personal goals. For the past 16 years, she has taught early childhood education classes at Walnut High School, part of the Career and Technology Education (formerly ROP) program. It was important for her to continue the Pacific Oaks pedagogy by including collaboration, projects, reflections, research and creative presentations. She is proud that 15% to 20% of her students go on to college and study early childhood education.

Sandoval serves as a great role model to her students and children as someone who overcame challenges and achieved success. One of her daughters, Natalia Sandoval Duarte, earned her MFT with an emphasis in Latino/Latina studies at Pacific Oaks and her youngest child will be starting college in the fall, studying human development with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education.

Sandoval's advice to someone who is on the path toward a college degree, "Continuously stay on the path of learning in order to maintain your passion, respect and love for children. It is then, and only then, that you will make a difference in regards to teaching."

## Kathryn Woods—Parent and Alumna of Pacific Oaks Children's School



Kathryn Woods was a happy student in the mid-1970s. Reminiscing, she vividly remembers the uniqueness of this wonderful place that she called home. As a Pacific Oaks Children's School student, Kathryn was introverted, having a few friends and favorite teachers. Although she was withdrawn, the Pacific Oaks staff supported her personal growth by providing the freedom to feel more open and confident in the world. As fondly described by Woods, the bond between students and teachers at Pacific Oaks is unique to each child.

Her early positive experiences at the Children's School would shape her personal and career choices. Inspired by her mother and the PO value of social justice, Kathryn now works as an attorney for California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

"The philosophy of Pacific Oaks is integrated in all aspects of my personal and business lives. The Children's School teaches the students and families how to live a mindful life. Stop, pause, consider and think are just some of the many small and simple lessons that have guided me through childhood, adulthood, and now parenthood."

Woods' two daughters, Naomi and Joanna, are now building their own memories at the school. She is a passionate supporter of the Children's School, having been a parent there for the past seven years. As her youngest daughter is preparing for kindergarten, Wood knows that her children will cherish their transforming experiences at the Children's School.

## A MESSAGE FROM WARREN SATA

Alumni Association President



Dear Pacific Oaks College and Children's School Alumni:

As we enter the quick and warm summer months of this year 2017, we again congratulate our recent B.A. and M.A. degree earners and celebrate promotion for our Children's School community. As a premise to this letter, we are reminded that learning is lifelong and meaningful when we actively participate to keep it that way.

I'm pleased to announce that we'll be hosting an Alumni Networking Reception at Mijares Restaurant in Pasadena from 6-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 25. Additional information can be found in this newsletter. This event will serve as a way to informally celebrate our learners' successes, as well as provide a way for us to network, recruit new alumni association members, and hear from members of the Pacific Oaks leadership team on what's taking place at the College and Children's School.

Finally, as a collegial reminder let's strive to re-energize our personal commitments in sustaining lifelong learning for ourselves as well as members of our communities. I would also encourage you to conserve our precious natural resources in this era of necessary climate sensibility in effort to further our work in creating positive change for future generations to come.

Keep in touch with your Pacific Oaks community!

Best-respectfully,

Warren Sata, Ed.M., M.Ed.  
President, Pacific Oaks Alumni Association

## PACIFIC OAKS CHILDREN'S SCHOOL UPDATE



One of the goals of Pacific Oaks Children's School this year was to reach out to our surrounding community. During this outreach, we were introduced to Weizmann Day School in Pasadena. They have children ranging from K-8 and we were lucky enough to have their eighth grade class come visit us at the Children's School.

The eighth graders each created their own books that they brought with them to the Children's School to read to our 3- to 5-year-old students. This event was well received and the students from Weizmann spent 30 minutes reading to three different classes while the Children's School students were actively engaged in the readings.

This is hopefully the first of many such events that will be taking place here at the Children's School. We are already working on having Weizmann come back again next year and we are looking to other schools to see how we can continue to grow these types of events.

# HOW SCHOLARSHIPS FROM OUR GENEROUS DONORS ARE CHANGING THE FUTURE

## Comments from our scholarship recipients:

*"When I got home, I told my husband [I received a scholarship], and he celebrated with me by giving me a big hug, and saying how proud he was of me. I then informed my son of the great news and he was happy for me. I told him that in a few more years, I will help him apply for scholarships for college and hopefully he will get the same help I am getting...thank you, this means so very much to me."*

- Renita M., M.A. Human Development Student




*"I am really excited to continue this journey at Pacific Oaks and this scholarship is helping me in completing that goal. I am willing to continue to grow and be a positive impact to our communities through this journey. I'm appreciative of people who are supporting this loving and caring learning community that is having a ripple effect in our world."*

- Laura A., M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy Student

*"Armed with my passion for psychology and human potential, I aim to use my degree for the benefit of others. By obtaining a master's degree, I envision helping the distressed and disenfranchised population of our society, so I may help guide them towards achieving their highest potential. Thank you for awarding me this scholarship, as it has only reinforced my resolve to commit to my education and complete my dream."*

- Jimmy H., B.A. Early Childhood Education Student

## Become the Leader Moving People to Create Positive Change.

-  Develop management and leadership skills through reflection and self-discovery
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Pasadena and Online Admissions:  
[admissions@pacificoaks.edu](mailto:admissions@pacificoaks.edu)

San Jose Admissions:  
[sjpacadmissions@pacificoaks.edu](mailto:sjpacadmissions@pacificoaks.edu)

Learn more at [pacificoaks.edu](http://pacificoaks.edu) or call  
800.201.2296.



## Master of Arts

Organizational Leadership and Change  
Online and On-Campus in  
San Jose and Pasadena

## Leaders Don't Just Manage, They Inspire.

# GIVING

## SHARE YOUR PO PRIDE

Gratitude is among the many words that we hear most often about the student experience at Pacific Oaks College. We hear that your education at Pacific Oaks College was responsible for the person who you are today. Please share this gift of higher education with others and help us transform the lives of our students.

Here are some of the established scholarships funds:

- School of Human Development Scholarship
- School of Education Scholarship
- School of Cultural & Family Psychology
- Gretchen Brooke Memorial Scholarship (Northern California)
- First Generation Scholarship



The Children's School Scholarship Fund adheres to the PO values of inclusion and embracing diversity. Please help us expand our diverse student population so that we can reach to the community and offer financial assistance to deserving families.

- Children's School Scholarships

Share a gift today at:

[pacificoaks.edu/giving/donate-online](https://pacificoaks.edu/giving/donate-online)



# EVENTS



**Former Parents Visit Children's School**  
January 11, 2017



**Old Pasadena Walking Tour**  
February 25, 2017



**Alumni Day** March 11, 2017



**CAEYC Alumni Reception** March 24, 2017



**NorCal Alumni Event** March 24, 2017



**Children's School Reaches \$100,000 Annual Fund Goal** April 2017

## FACULTY UPDATES

### Isaac Carreon, Adjunct Faculty, Marriage and Family Therapy

Isaac Carreon recently published an article in collaboration with Susan L. Rarick in the International Journal of Mental Health & Psychiatry. The article "Attachment, Acculturative Stress, Social Supports, Separation and Marital Distress in Mexican and Central American Adult Immigrants Separated from Primary Caregivers as Children," focuses on one of the fastest growing ethnic minorities in the United States.



*"Pacific Oaks College was fundamental in my career and my development of cultural curiosity and competence needed to work with diverse populations in our community. Because of the social justice lessons at Pacific Oaks, I have been able to embark on a career that allows me to work with immigrant populations and help the most vulnerable. The purpose and goal of this research was a direct result of Pacific Oaks' influence on me to address the needs in the community while highlighting mental health, cultural variables, and social justice."*

To learn more, please visit: [scitechnol.com](https://scitechnol.com)

### Dr. Bree Davis, Ph.D., Associate Dean, and Dr. Rebecca Rojas, Ph.D., Core Faculty, School of Cultural and Family Psychology



In collaboration with affiliate faculty, Dr. Nancy Bothne, Ph.D., from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Dr. Bree Davis and Dr. Rebecca Rojas led a week-long training in South Africa on intergenerational trauma. The training was held at the Ekupholeni Mental Health and Trauma Centre, located just outside of Johannesburg, South Africa.

## JOIN US FOR A SUMMER ALUMNI NETWORKING EVENT MIJARES RESTAURANT IN PASADENA

**Tuesday, July 25, 2017, 6-7:30 p.m.**

RSVP by Friday, July 21 (space is limited)

[poalumninetworking.eventbrite.com](http://poalumninetworking.eventbrite.com)

- Complimentary refreshments and appetizers.
- Alumni Association Members: FREE (please bring membership card to show at the door)
- Non-members: \$12 per person (exact change or credit card please)

Visit [pacificoaks.edu/alumni](http://pacificoaks.edu/alumni) to join the Alumni Association today.



## PACIFIC OAKS COLLEGE AND CHILDREN'S SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

### Why Join?

- Free admission to networking events in Pasadena and Northern California
- See old friends and make new connections
- Keep current with programs at Pacific Oaks College and Children's School

### What are the Benefits?

- Personalized membership card
- Access to library and borrowing privileges
- Use of computer lab
- Use of Career Services at the Center for Achievement, Resources, and Enrichment (CARE) Office
- Access to E Central Credit Union

Please download the brochure at [pacificoaks.edu/about/our-community/alumni/alumni-association/](http://pacificoaks.edu/about/our-community/alumni/alumni-association/)

 Join the Alumni Association Group Facebook Page to network with other alumni professionals:  
[Facebook.com/groups/POAlumniAssoc/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/POAlumniAssoc/)

## DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE – THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER IS GOING DIGITAL!

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