



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



MAY 2015

# NEWSLETTER

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are now five months into celebrating our rich 70-year history as an institution. I want to share more with you from the historical document mentioned in the previous newsletter. Since in April we hosted our annual Evangeline Burgess Lecture featuring Dr. Michael Thompson, photos from which can be found further in this issue, I'd like to focus especially on the Burgess Legacy and its impact on Pacific Oaks College & Children's School.

Evangeline Burgess was the Director of the Children's School from 1949, and the first President of Pacific Oaks from 1959 until her untimely passing in 1965. "Her foresight and sensitive leadership" in both roles has played a critical part in the evolution of Pacific Oaks as a well-established institution of higher education.

The annual Evangeline Burgess Memorial Lecture, a highly regarded event, was initially established by Marianne Wolman in 1968 to commemorate Evangeline, and to honor her invaluable contributions to Pacific Oaks. Milton Senn, M.D., former director of the Yale Child Study Center and accomplished author delivered the inaugural lecture.

The Burgess House, which still stands on the grounds of Pacific Oaks Children's School, was dedicated to Evangeline in 1969 during the presidency of Robert LaCrosse, Pacific Oaks' fourth President. Her legacy continues through her daughter, Priscilla Gamb, who is a former Board member and long-time supporter of Pacific Oaks.

This year's annual Evangeline Burgess Lecture featuring Dr. Michael Thompson, not only continues to acknowledge our 70th anniversary, but is our way of paying homage to Evangeline Burgess and her deeply rooted legacy with Pacific Oaks College & Children's School.

Since this is the last time you will hear from me as the President of Pacific Oaks College & Children's School, I want to share a few thoughts with you. My life has been enriched as a result of my engagement with Pacific Oaks beyond my wildest imagination. I have learned from faculty and students and through life lessons that being humble is a virtue. Your stories have inspired me to do more in the field of education. Let me leave you with a quote from John Dewey, "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." I urge you to take what you learned from Pacific Oaks and share your knowledge with others. Continue to push the boundaries of social justice and early childhood education. If you take the time to reflect on your experiences, you will never truly stop learning.

Warmly,

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



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**Pacific Oaks College & Children's School**

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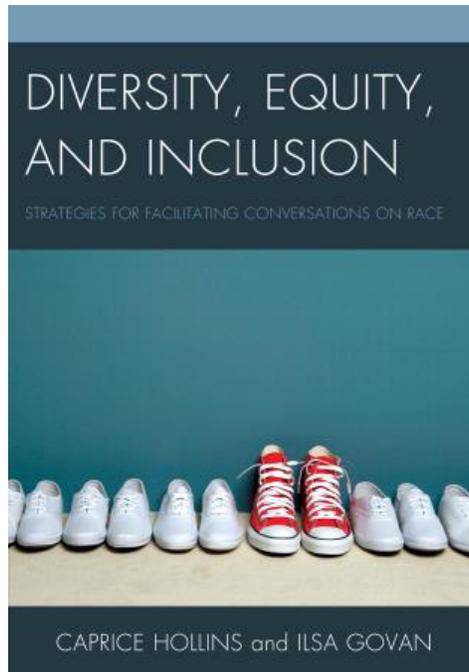
email. [alumni@pacificoaks.edu](mailto:alumni@pacificoaks.edu)

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

## 1 • PO ALUMNI PUBLISHES NEW BOOK

**Ilsa Govan graduated from Pacific Oaks College in 2005 with a Masters in Bicultural Human Development.** She credits her writing inspiration to the Pacific Oaks teachers that encouraged Ilsa to think critically about issues of equity and race. This was the first time she had seen culturally responsive education in practice, rather than just a topic discussed.

That experience was foundational to Ilsa's career path as she was hired by Dr. Caprice Hollins shortly after graduating from P.O. to work as an Equity and Race Specialist for Seattle Public Schools. Dr. Hollins and Ilsa went on to co-found Cultures Connecting ([CulturesConnecting.com](http://CulturesConnecting.com)), a small business that provides facilitation and consulting around issues of equity and social justice.

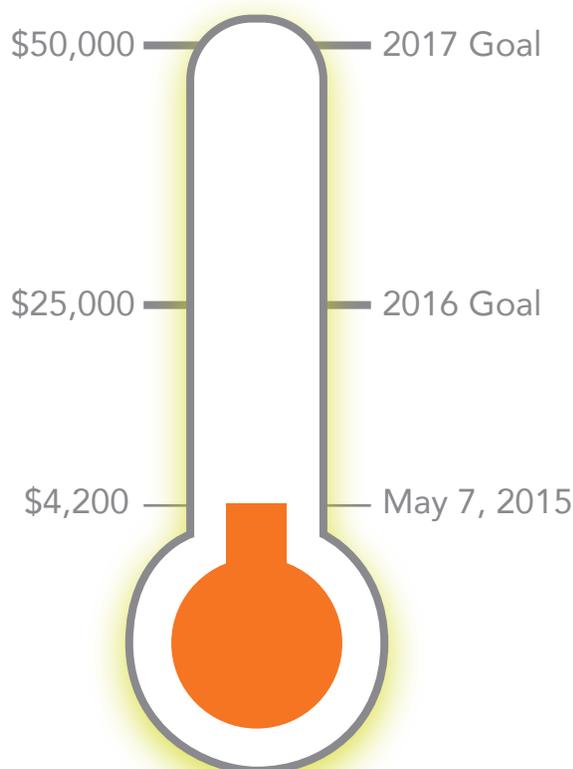


Ilsa Govan and Dr. Caprice Hollins recently published a book together titled *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Strategies for Facilitating Conversations on Race*. Facilitating conversations about race often involves tension, as both the facilitators and participants bring emotional experiences and their deeply held values and beliefs into the room. This book guides facilitators through a process of becoming comfortable with the discomfort in leading conversations about racism, privilege, and power. It walks readers through creating a foundation where participants feel brave enough to share their stories and perspectives. Readers will learn how the dynamics of race show up in cross cultural spaces, including the unique challenges faced by facilitators of color and white facilitators. In addition, it explores how to identify and counter white privilege in the dialogue between participants.



“Our mission with this book and our work is that all people recognize their role as change agents in ending oppression. I can’t overstate how important my experiences at Pacific Oaks and my connection with local professors and alumni have been in shaping my journey,” *stated Ilsa.*

## 2 • PACIFIC OAKS RECEIVES ANN PEPPERS GRANT



**We are excited to announce that in March 2015 we received news that the proposal we submitted to the Ann Peppers Foundation for a \$50,000 challenge grant in support of scholarship funding for undergraduate students was approved!** What this means is we'll have two years to raise \$50,000 specifically allocated to undergraduate scholarships in order to receive the full matching amount.

The countdown has begun! The challenge launched on April 1, and since then we've raised \$4,200 of the first year goal of \$25,000. We'll continue to keep you updated on our progress and share additional opportunities with you on how you can help our team reach that goal; a goal which ultimately serves our students and will help them achieve their dreams of obtaining a degree from Pacific Oaks.

As part of our Pacific Oaks family, we hope you will consider making a donation – of any size – to this amazing fund in support of undergraduate scholarships. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to help support future fellow alumni achieve their educational aspirations by visiting [www.pacificoaks.edu/giving](http://www.pacificoaks.edu/giving) and donating to the College Ann Peppers Foundation Scholarship.

## 3 • COLLEGE ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

**Our goal for this year's College Annual Fund was to raise \$100,000.** As of May 2015, we have raised close to \$68,000. The gifts are instrumental for the work Pacific Oaks is doing to help shape our students' futures through the transformative education they receive at our college.

We're proud to share that 100% of the staff at the Children's School and 61% of the staff at the College have participated in this year's various giving campaigns. The members of our President's Cabinet all made contributions to the institution, meaning we have 100% participation from them as well.

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*We want to thank all of the generous donors who've helped us raise those funds, and remind you that it's not too late to make a donation by visiting [www.pacificoaks.edu/giving](http://www.pacificoaks.edu/giving).*

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### 3 • PACIFIC OAKS HONORS RENATTA COOPER

On Thursday, March 12, 2015, Pacific Oaks College & Children's School President Ezat Parnia and Provost Pat Breen along with honorary event hosts Maureen Carlson and Laura Triester recognized longtime PUSD Board of Education member, Renatta Cooper. They were joined by Judy Chu, U.S. Representative 27th Congressional District, Jacque Robinson, Vice Mayor of Pasadena, Bruce Boyden, City of Compton Commissioner, Rita Hadjimanoukian, Pasadena Field Deputy - LA County Board of Supervisors, and Brian McDonald, PUSD Superintendent to celebrate Renatta for the many accomplishments and impact she's made in her field.

"It is my privilege to congratulate Renatta on her accomplishments, and to applaud her for her many undertakings, the incredible impact she's made in her field, and her uncanny ability to 'live out loud,' " said President Parnia.

First elected in 2007, Renatta served as board president on the Board of Education of the Pasadena Unified School District from 2011-2014. This past December she decided to not seek a third term. Renatta has become known in the area as a leader in the field of early childhood education and has been affiliated with Pacific Oaks for more than 25 years. At Pacific Oaks, she helped to develop the Hixon Institute for Early Childhood, developed a Saturday Infant/Toddler program, served as a College faculty member, and assisted in developing the 2014-17 Strategic Plan for the College.



"I was delighted when Renatta was elected to the PUSD Board of Education. I knew she would bring her passion and commitment to the work of the board, and she did, without ever losing focus on her primary goals," said Maureen Carlson, Honorary Event Host.

At this joyous event, Renatta received multiple recognitions including a Certificate of Recognition from the CA Assembly, Certificate of Recognition from the CA Senate, Certificate of Recognition from the CA Congress, Certificate of Congressional Recognition from Congresswoman Judy Chu, and a LA County Certificate of Commendation from Supervisor Antonovich's Office.

"Renatta's devotion to the cause of creating wonderful educational experiences for every young person in our community continues to be an inspiration to us all."  
- Patrick Conyers, Executive Director of the Pasadena Educational Foundation.



# 4 • 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL ALUMNI COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY



## COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY



### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

On March 21, a group of alumni, their families, and staff gathered at the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society for Pacific Oaks' 2nd Annual Alumni Community Service Day.

The group was welcomed by Joe and Carla, two shelter volunteers who provided a history of the Humane Society and instructions for the day's work. The group split up and promptly got to work in the needed areas. A handy lot of volunteers cleared out overgrown weeds, dried leaves, and cleared out kennels. Another group stuffed thank you letters to adopters and donors as well as assembled "going home" bags for those dogs and cats who've found their forever homes. Lastly the volunteers helped bathe and groom a few of the smaller pups, which is where our Provost, Pat Breen fell in love with Frankie! Pacific Oaks looks forward to continuing the relationship with the San Gabriel Valley Human Society, and doing this again in the future.

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

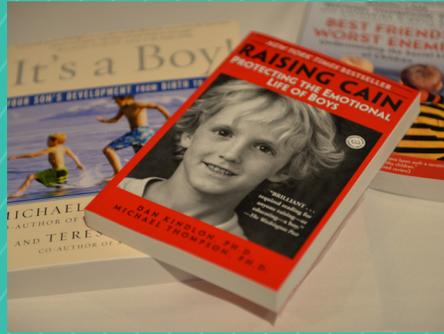
The Bay Area Instructional Site's Community Service Day project benefited the Inclusion Collaborative, a non-profit dedicated to providing every Santa Clara County child with a quality learning environment. This is accomplished by focusing on inclusion of children with special needs in child care, preschool programs, and the community through advocacy and awareness. Twelve alums and ten current students graduating this semester joined staff from the instructional site to pack information for their annual conference. The alums present were from our Salinas, Scotts Valley, and Santa Cruz Instructional sites.

Following the completion of the project the alums shared what "Life is Like After Graduating." It was very uplifting and encouraging to our soon-to-be alums.

## 5 • BURGESS LECTURE SERIES

On April 14 Pacific Oaks welcomed Dr. Michael Thompson, author, consultant, and psychologist specializing in children and families, as our speaker for the annual Evangeline Burgess Lecture Series. Over 200 guests including Children's School teachers and parents, College alumni, faculty, staff, and members of the Pasadena community filled the seats for Dr. Thompson's presentation on "Raising Cain: The Nature of Boys."

Following the lecture, guests were able to purchase some of Dr. Thompson's books which included *Raising Cain*, *It's A Boy*, *Best Friends, Worst Enemies*, and *Mom, They're Teasing Me*. He then graciously signed copies of his books and took pictures with the guests.



## 6 • EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### WORLD CITY CENTER

#### Preschool and Cultural Enrichment Center

The World City Center, a dynamic Reggio-inspired, dual-language preschool located in the historic West Adams area of Los Angeles, is looking for a qualified Lead Dual-language Preschool Teacher and a Teacher's Aide. At World City Center, it is our goal to encourage a love of learning in children by thoughtfully designing and implementing developmentally appropriate,

child-led activities that encourage children to ask questions, to ponder, to experiment, to dissect and to explore their world on a daily basis. We utilize constructivist theory and best practices from progressive curriculums like Reggio Emilia, Montessori and Waldorf, to inform our curriculum decisions and to guide our practice.

#### Lead Dual-Language Preschool Teacher

Hours: 7:30am-4:30pm

**Qualifications:**

- Must be fully bilingual (Spanish and English)
- Experience in a Reggio-inspired environment a plus
- BA in ECE or CDA required

To apply please send your cover letter and resume to [jobs@wcc-la.com](mailto:jobs@wcc-la.com) with "Lead Dual-Language Preschool Teacher" in the subject line.

#### Teacher's Aide

Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm

**Qualifications:**

- Bilingual (Spanish/English) required
- Experience in a Reggio-inspired environment a plus
- Applicants must have 6 or more postsecondary semester units in early childhood education

To apply please send your cover letter and resume to [jobs@wcc-la.com](mailto:jobs@wcc-la.com) with "Teacher's Aide" in the subject line.

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### SIMCHA PRESCHOOL

#### Preschool Teacher

Simcha Preschool has an excellent career opportunity for an experienced, professional, nurturing, early childhood preschool teacher. Join their dynamic team of dedicated teachers in a stellar N.A.E.Y.C. accredited preschool. They were voted 2015 Good Times Best Childcare in Santa Cruz County. Simcha Preschool, at Temple Beth El Jewish Community Center, has a long tradition of offering a developmentally appropriate, play-based, emergent, anti-bias curriculum. Teaming with families and staff alike is a core value in their program.

Prospective candidates need an A.A. or B.A. in Early Childhood Education, and at least two years of preschool teaching experience, ideally in an accredited program. This is a co-teaching, permanent full-time position. After a three month probationary period, benefits include 12 PTO days per year, seven legal holidays and an additional paid three weeks off, excellent medical and dental benefits and a 403 B Retirement.

Please send resume and cover letter to:  
[simchadirector@tbeaptos.org](mailto:simchadirector@tbeaptos.org)

# YOU'RE INVITED

## Pacific Oaks: *Living its Mission and Values*

A lecture presented by Pacific Oaks  
Faculty Emerita

*Louise Derman-Sparks*

**THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2015 | 6:30PM**

**PACIFIC OAKS COLLEGE  
45 Eureka Street, Suite B  
Pasadena, CA 91103**

RSVP: [Pacificoaks.edu/Events/2015/Sparks](http://Pacificoaks.edu/Events/2015/Sparks)

For further information, please contact the  
Office of Advancement at 626.529.8091.

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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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