



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



SEPT/OCT 2013

# NEWSLETTER

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

PACIFIC OAKS COLLEGE MOTTO

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni:

Fall is here and it's always a special time for us at the College. Not just because the weather becomes cooler and the leaves start to change, but because I get the pleasure of welcoming new and returning students to Pacific Oaks. I am delighted to report that Pacific Oaks is growing stronger every year. Our enrollment has increased over 15 percent from last year for a total of 1,150 students. This includes online students as well as on-ground students at the Pasadena campus, instructional sites, and cohorts throughout Los Angeles County.

Additionally, we have hired two new affiliate faculty members for the School of Education: Dr. Paul Rodriguez and Dr. Roberto Casas and one new faculty member for our Northern California site, Dr. Dionne Clabaugh. Jill Watson has also joined Pacific Oaks as our new Credentialing Analyst. You can read more about them in this issue.

I hope to see you at one of our upcoming alumni events:

- Saturday, November 9 – Pacific Oaks Instructional Site at the Mission College campus in Santa Clara, CA; alumni reception from 11:00 am–1:30 pm
- Thursday, November 14 – Pacific Oaks Pasadena campus – guest lecturer and Fulbright Scholar Brian Sajko; lecture and reception from 7:00–8:30 pm
- Thursday, November 21 – Alumni reception during the NAEYC conference in Washington, D.C; Embassy Suites – Capital A room; 5:00–7:30 pm

Please continue to visit the Pacific Oaks website for more alumni information.

Many of our students learn about Pacific Oaks through our alumni. We are grateful to you for sharing your PO story and continuing to serve as our ambassadors in promoting the unique educational experience Pacific Oaks has to offer. Thank you for your partnership and continued support.

Sincerely,

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



## *Inside...*

- 1 • Faculty Voice
- 2 • Alumni Voice
- 3 • Student Voice
- 4 • \$20.13 Campaign
- 5 • News from Northern California
- 6 • Employee News
- 7 • Pacific Oaks Children's School Story
- 8 • Master of Public Health Opportunity
- 9 • Employment Opportunities
- 10 • Pacific Oaks Events

### 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)

**PACIFICOAKS.EDU**

## 1 • FACULTY VOICE

Can you share one “aha” moment from one of your classroom experiences?

I often refer to our MFT program as “three years of group therapy” as we require all of our students to develop a high level of self-reflection skills and address their personal growth issues. In my Couples Therapy class recently, I asked the students to complete a 17 areas of relationship issues inventory. The discussion went quickly from an academic discussion to a number of students sharing their issues from their own relationship histories, and how to think about them from a professional perspective.

I was reminded how this was a “real world” application of the course material with the students attaching concrete meaning to the exercise, rather than abstract theory.

Watching the “light bulb go on” over the head of each student in the process is also what makes teaching for me such a meaningful process, rather than simply an intellectual academic discussion.



TREVOR DOBBS, PH.D.  
Faculty  
School of Cultural  
& Family Psychology

## 2 • ALUMNI VOICE

What was one of your most meaningful classes, and why?

**Dr. Vivian Tamkin’s African-American Psychology class during the fall 2011 semester.** She invited her mentor, Dr. Thomas Parham, to come speak to our class. He highlighted his academic and career experience serving the African-American and Latina/o communities. It was so exciting yet refreshing to sit at the feet of an African-American psychologist who is an elder in the field.

His nuggets of wisdom and sharing his perspective on the importance of “code switching” in order to connect with the people of our communities. Hearing him explain the importance of knowing not only the language of the people in our community but mastering the clinical language and its benefits was compelling and I hold on to it until this day.

He also ended his visit with the saying “it ain’t no slaveship” meaning that if our ancestors endured the traumatic experience of the Maafa\* (terrible occurrence) and survived it, our current day experiences are nothing compared to the hardships of that time. He reminded us that we come from strong-minded, strong-willed, brilliant people and we will continue to thrive and contribute to society.



PO ALUM  
PATRICIA MILLER  
Marriage and Family Therapy  
2013 Graduate

\*Maafa - African Holocaust

## 3 • STUDENT VOICE

Who is one of the people who has influenced you and why?

**While working on my undergraduate degree I was introduced to this professor named Dr. Walter Davis.** He was influential to me because Dr. Davis would take the time to sit and converse with the students outside of class, he stressed the importance of teaching everyone *how* to think, instead of *what* to think. I believe this was the first time someone encouraged me to think on my own, he also stressed the value of one’s own opinion, even if it didn’t coincide with everyone else’s. I feel he has ultimately influenced me to be an individual regardless of the circumstance. But lastly, I admire Dr. Davis because he made it his personal goal to

leave a significant impact on each student’s life. It seemed as though being a professor wasn’t just a job for him, it was a vessel to change the world one person at a time.



MONIQUE COLEMAN  
M.A. Marriage  
and Family Therapy

## 4 • \$20.13 CAMPAIGN

### Making a Difference – Why I donated to the \$20.13 Campaign

**My grandparents migrated from the Dust Bowl in Texas to California and were farm and orchard laborers.** Getting a high school education was important to them, but college was never talked about in our home as a dream or aspiration. However, at age five I knew I wanted to be a teacher and I knew that required a college education. I talked with my high school counselor and she informed me that I wasn't college material and encouraged to the point of almost forcing me to stop taking college prep classes. It was disheartening that no one encouraged me and I had no financial support.

When I met my husband he knew my dream and said, "If circumstances change, you can go back to college and do whatever you want." At age 39, circumstances changed and the dream was distant but not lost. Tremendous sacrifices were made and I earned my B.A. from our local CSU. It was not the education that I wanted and I looked for more. That is when a graduate of Pacific Oaks told me about the college and their program and guaranteed I could continue to work full-time and take classes on the weekends. I was sold, but it still took me seven years to take the plunge because I was afraid we couldn't afford for me to get a master's—where would this money come from?

My degree led me from teaching children to college teaching and advising, helping students at community colleges realize their dreams. Through my eight years of teaching at the community college, I was excited to watch my students go on to complete four-year degrees and enter M.A. programs and I never told anyone they weren't "college material." I spent the last three years teaching at Pacific Oaks, giving back to the college that transformed my life and my way of thinking. As an alum, I believe in the transformative education I received at Pacific Oaks and want others to have the opportunity if that is their dream. That is why I believe in and gave to the First Generation Scholarship Fund through the 2013 Campaign.

**I challenge you to join me and make someone else's dreams come true.**



**MARIAN BROWNING**  
*Director of Northern California Instructional Sites*  
 PO Master's Degree, Human Development, 2008 with a Specialization in Leadership Education and a Subspecialty in College Teaching/Teaching Adults

## 5 • NEWS FROM NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



**Our offices have relocated to Mission College in Santa Clara where we also have cohorts for students pursuing their M.A. or B.A. degrees.** This past August, we welcomed Mabelis Melgar to our team and

she serves as administrative support in all academic affairs. Mabelis came to Pacific Oaks with experience in academic affairs and she has been a tremendous help to the faculty and staff. She is also bilingual (Spanish/English) and that is a plus for many of our students.

This month we said hello to Dr. Dionne Clabaugh, who joins us for the full-time teaching position in the Bay Area. Dionne brings her passion for teaching and enthusiasm for supporting students' success, both academically and across the lifespan. Her research focuses on identifying and facilitating highly engaging and collaborative activities for deep learning. In addition to teaching, Dionne's responsibilities will include faculty development and contributions to Human Development program's scope and sequence to increase fidelity. Dionne brings approximately 30 years of experience in education at all levels, from

preschool through high school, including volunteer roles in parent participation schools, international travel with music performance groups, and scouting. She is very happy to join the PO family!

We are also saying goodbye to our Associate Director of Admissions, Jamie Smith, who has worked to spread the word that Pacific Oaks is here in Northern California. She has been the face and voice to our new students helping them through the application process. We currently have a job posting for this position.

My excitement for seeing the Instructional Sites go forward was birthed in me on my way home from my last Pacific Oaks class while I was finishing my master's program. As tears rolled down my face, I could only think of how more people could experience the transformative education that set my life on a new path. After five years we have successfully opened up our Bay Area site in Santa Clara. Our other active sites are Salinas and Santa Cruz. We have WASC-approved sites in Sacramento and Visalia that are scheduled to re-open in January 2014 and Chico scheduled to re-open in September 2014.

*Marian Browning,*  
*Director of Northern California Instructional Sites*

## 6 • EMPLOYEE NEWS

### Pacific Oaks College Community Welcomes New Members!



**Reggie Ramos** Reggie Ramos joined the Academic Affairs Department in August as their new administrative assistant.

Reggie received a B.A. in Sociology in 1997 from UCLA. He has since worked in higher education providing both administrative and academic support. He worked as an administrative assistant at the UCLA School of Medicine and the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies where he performed administrative and operational functions. Before coming to Pacific Oaks College, he worked for The Art Institute of California – Hollywood as the Academic Advisor – Plus Lead. In this role, Reggie provided academic counseling to both on-ground and online students, and he also coordinated the implementation of the online education program on campus.



**Jill Watson** began with PO over the summer as our Credential Coordinator. Jill has been in the education field for 24 years and has done Credentialing/Human Resources since 1993. She was the chairman for passing the first School Bond Measure Z in the high Desert in 1991, was chairman for School Bond measure V & Z in the Victor Valley area in 2009, and for three years has served as Board Member for the Spring Valley Lake Association.

In 2009, Jill earned her B.A. in Business Administration, Human Resource Management from Alameda University. She has had the opportunity to work with school districts, San Bernardino County Superintendents office, private schools, and charter schools. Jill has facilitated many workshops and trainings in her years of leadership including presenting at the Credential Counselors and Analysts of California (CCAC) conferences, as well as the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).



Prior to joining Pacific Oaks, **Dr. Roberto Casas** most recently served as the State Chair for the Administrative Services Credential and graduate degree programs for the five California campuses of Argosy University. He has been a consultant and an adjunct professor in graduate and undergraduate courses in Education and Educational Leadership for Concordia University, Irvine Cambridge College, and the University of San Diego. He has guest lectured in Chicano Studies at California State University, Los Angeles and was core faculty in the Educational Administration and Leadership Department at Chapman University (Brandman).

Dr. Casas retired from public education in 2008 after a tenure of more than 36 years. During that time, he held various school site and district office administrative positions in six school districts. He currently serves as a member of the San Bernardino County Behavioral Health Commission and as a Commissioner for the Community Services Commission for the City of Chino.



**Dr. Paul Rodriguez's** career in public education spans over 36 years from teaching high school to college undergraduate and graduate levels including chairing doctoral dissertations. His emphasis on versatility and end results in a vast variety of educational courses has increased teacher, student, and community success. He possesses an innate ability to relate to all levels within the educational profession and he firmly believes in building transformational, positive, and collaborative relationships with all people in our immediate and global society.

Dr. Casas and Dr. Rodriguez recently co-authored a comprehensive book titled:  
**“Reflective Practice of Multi-Unicultural School Leaders: Strategies and Considerations for Improving Achievement of Cross-Culturally Diverse Students.”**

## 7 • PACIFIC OAKS CHILDREN'S SCHOOL STORY

At Pacific Oaks Children's School, it's all about authentic play.



**Today's child spends a lot more time in front of the television than children did in the past.** In addition, today, children are off to do additional activities - karate, swimming, softball, soccer practice, swimming lessons...the list goes on. There is so little time left in a child's life to be immersed in authentic play - digging in the sand, playing house, or digging for treasures.

According to Nancy Carlsson-Paige, "not only do kids today have less time to play, many also have a diminished capacity to play. The powerful influences of media and marketing have undermined children's ability to create and be in control of their own play."

At Pacific Oaks, we try to avoid scripted play in the classroom. Children are discouraged from wearing clothes

with media messages on them. We explore popular topics of anti-bias, and challenge children's thinking.

Recently, we explored the topic of princes and princesses. We got a host of responses about who can or cannot be a prince. "Princes need to wear long jeans, a crown a cape and of course, a beard" and "You can't be a princess unless you have long hair, a beautiful dress, and a princess crown." By having meaningful conversations that challenge stereotypes, we move children from scripted play that sometimes encourages exclusivity to more open ended and authentic play.

As Carlsson-Paige puts it, "This is a time when societal influences are robbing children of healthy play, one of the most important vehicles they have for optimal development and learning. We educators need to step in—with the awareness and skill that is uniquely ours—to reclaim this powerful resource for children. Taking active steps to encourage imaginative and beneficial play that truly serves children's needs will not only reclaim play for them, but also give children the best foundation possible for success in school and in their lives now and in years to come."

*Adapted from Taking Back Childhood: Helping Your Kids Thrive in a Fast-Paced, Media-Saturated, Violence-Filled World. by Nancy Carlsson-Paige, Hudson Street Press, March, 2008.*

## 8 • MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH OPPORTUNITY

**The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, one of our affiliated institutions through the TCS Education System, is pleased to announce the launch of their newest degree program, the Master of Public Health.** The Master of Public Health degree will be offered entirely online beginning with the Spring 1 term of 2014, and later will be offered at their Los Angeles ground campus beginning with the Fall 1 term of 2014. The program, designed to accommodate working adults through flexibility and convenience, features a curriculum aligned with national public health education. Students will study to make a difference in the health and wellness of populations by utilizing the comprehensive knowledge and skills learned while earning their degree. Students will also be given the opportunity to select an area of interest from amongst a number of specializations including: Global Health, Psycho-Behavioral Dimensions of Public Health, or Public Health Leadership.

In addition, scholarship opportunities will be made available for students enrolled in the Master of Public Health program for the inaugural sessions beginning in 2014. Students who begin in the Spring I session beginning January 13, Spring II session beginning March 10, or Fall I session beginning September 2 will qualify.

If you would like to be a part of the initial launch class, please don't hesitate to contact The Chicago School of Professional Psychology at 800.595.6938 or go to [www.thechicagoschool.edu](http://www.thechicagoschool.edu) for further details.



## 9 • EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Tarzana Treatment Centers

#### ***MFT Intern***

Part-time, unpaid, MFT internship for Department of Mental Health, (DMH) Full Service Partnership funded program. Work with adult patients with severe mental illness and often co-occurring substance use disorders. Individual and group therapy. DMH paperwork knowledge preferred but not required. Excellent clinical supervision offered. 16-20 hours per week. Apply online: <https://jobs.tarzanatc.org>. Job #2012/10/02/01

#### ***Mental Health Therapist***

Full time position available to conduct comprehensive assessments for youth ages 0 to 18. Duties include travel to obtain case information relevant to completing the assessments. Position requires excellent writing skills, and proficiency completing DMH paperwork. Duties also include providing individual therapy and completion of all required documentation. A good driving record is required. Prior experience working with youth preferred. Position requires a Master's degree in a health services related field, and an ability to be a registered intern with the BBS (ASW/MFTI) Bilingual skills (English/Spanish) preferred. Please apply on-line. Job #2013/05/24/01

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### MAAC

#### ***Center Director***

STATUS: Full Time/Regular/45 weeks  
FLSA STATUS: Exempt  
PROGRAM: Child Development Mission, San Marcos  
EEOC JOB CATEGORY: Professional  
SALARY RANGE: Dependent on qualifications

MAAC is a multi-purpose social service agency serving various communities throughout San Diego County. Serving approximately 35,000 individuals per year, MAAC provides a spectrum of unique programs designed to assist clients by engaging them in the enhancement of their own lives through lifestyle changes.

MAAC's programs strive to improve clients' economic standing as well as their ability to access resources available to them.

MAAC's California State Preschool program provides educational and developmental services to qualifying children ages 3 to 5; parents are encouraged to participate with their children and to be involved in their children's development.

To view the Center Director full job description, please visit careers section of our website, [www.maacproject.org](http://www.maacproject.org), and send the completed application with your resume and transcripts via email to [MAACHRrecruiter@maacproject.org](mailto:MAACHRrecruiter@maacproject.org). You may also fax your documentation to (760) 471-3753.

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### Child Care Resource Center

CCRC is a private not-for-profit agency dedicated to the promotion of higher standards in child care and early education for children, parents, child care providers and the community.

#### ***Teacher Assistant***

CCRC is looking for a Teacher Assistant who can help implement educational and developmental activities in the classroom. At CCRC we believe in teamwork, having fun and achieving success. That is where you come in...we believe our Center Directors, Teachers and Administrative Staff are the cornerstone of our success and as a Teacher Assistant at CCRC, you play a key role in guaranteeing that success continues by using your skills to aid our Teachers in the classroom.

TO BE SUCCESSFUL, YOU WILL NEED:

- 24 units of Early Childhood Education/Child Development

- Must hold a California Commission on Teacher Credentialing Associate Teacher permit or higher
- Direct experience working with young children
- Bilingual (English/Spanish) capabilities desirable.
- Must have required fingerprint, Child Abuse Index, T.B. and Health clearances.
- Must hold a valid First Aid or Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certificate upon hire or within 30 days

To apply, visit our website at [www.ccrccla.org](http://www.ccrccla.org) or go to [www6.ultirecruit.com/CHI1012/jobboard/ListJobs.aspx](http://www6.ultirecruit.com/CHI1012/jobboard/ListJobs.aspx)

# 10 • PACIFIC OAKS EVENTS

## Admissions Events

Event Date	Event Time	Event Name
NOVEMBER 13	6:00–7:30PM	How to Transfer into a B.A.-completion Program at PO
NOVEMBER 23	9:00–10:00AM	Breakfast Breakout
DECEMBER 5	7:00–8:30PM	Exploring the Diverse Mental Health Needs of the African-American Family
DECEMBER 7	9:00–10:00AM	Breakfast Breakout
DECEMBER 19	4:00–6:00PM	Application Workshop & Holiday Raffle

**Location:** Pacific Oaks College

**Information sessions are intended for prospective students – please refer to the Pacific Oaks Alumni Events section for additional event listings.**

# International Education Week

NOVEMBER 11–15, 2013



**JOIN PACIFIC OAKS COLLEGE IN CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK AS WE WELCOME FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR, DR. BRIAN SAJKO.**

**A Cross-Cultural Immersion:  
Teaching Theatre and American Culture in Taiwan**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2013**

Pacific Oaks College, 45 Eureka St., Pasadena CA  
Parking Available

Guest Check In	6:30 PM
Lecture and Q & A	7–8 PM
Reception	8–8:30 PM

RSVP by Monday, November 11 to: Toni Miller, Director of Advancement, Alumni and External Relations at [tmiller@pacificoaks.edu](mailto:tmiller@pacificoaks.edu) or 626-529-8094



**Dr. Brian Sajko** spent five months in 2003 as a Fulbright Scholar where he taught Graduate Arts Administration and served as Deputy Director of the America Center at National Sun Yat-Sen University in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. He is currently the Dean of Enrollment Management at Prescott College in Arizona where he also teaches and continues to promote the Fulbright Programs as an Ambassador.



# ALUMNI EVENTS

Get Ready to Have Some Fun and  
Join Fellow Alumni at the Following Events

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2013 BAY AREA ALUMNI RECEPTION

Pacific Oaks Instructional Site @ Mission College  
3000 Mission College Blvd., Santa Clara, CA 95054  
RSVP by November 3rd to [alumni@pacificoaks.edu](mailto:alumni@pacificoaks.edu)

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2013 EAST COAST ALUMNI RECEPTION

Embassy Suites, D.C. Convention Center, Capital A Room  
900 10th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20001  
RSVP by November 15th to [alumni@pacificoaks.edu](mailto:alumni@pacificoaks.edu)  
(Visit the PO Admissions team during NAEYC Conference at Booth #619)



55 Eureka Street  
Pasadena, CA 91103

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

To ensure you are included on our mailing list,  
please email us at [alumni@pacificoaks.edu](mailto:alumni@pacificoaks.edu).

We look forward to hosting you soon!

### SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 22 • Alumni Community Service Day  
COMING SOON • Heritage Day



SEPT/OCT 2013



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