



PACIFIC OAKSSM
COLLEGE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



SPRING 2016

Newsletter

We have the power to create change in our world.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni,

Pacific Oaks College continues to grow in many ways. This fall our student body exceeded 1,200, inclusive of those who attend our Pasadena campus, our online students, and students who participate in our off-campus locations. We have 16 core faculty, four associate deans, and a newly appointed Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Terry Ratcliff. This spring we successfully launched a new program in our School of Human Development, a master's in Organizational Leadership and Change, and by the fall of 2016 we'll be launching two new specializations for the ECE programs in the School of Education, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) and Transitional Kindergarten.

Ranging from Visalia to Chico, Pacific Oaks College has had a presence in northern California since 1982 through our instructional sites. I'm proud to share that after many months of work and preparation we received approval from WSCUC for branch campus status at our new site in San Jose earlier this year in January. Along with the establishment of our new campus comes many advantages, including additional support and resources for our students, the opportunity to offer off-site cohorts within a 25-mile radius of the campus, and the ability to form more permanent ties within the various surrounding communities. We are thrilled to have our new Campus Dean, Dr. Marcia Bankirer join our community. You'll be able to read more about her later in the issue.

Indian children's rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Kailash Satyarthi once said, "Economic growth and human development need to go hand in hand. Human values need to be advocated vigorously." Over 6,000 strong, you and your fellow alums continue to be the institution's biggest advocates for social justice and equity in your communities. As we continue to grow and expand our programs, we continue to increase the number of alumni in the fields of education, social activism, human development, and marriage and family therapy, amongst others. We continue to share our mission and create a better future for the next generation.

I hope to see many of you at the upcoming Pasadena Alumni Reception on April 1, where you'll have the opportunity to hear more about our growth and meet with some of the newest members of our faculty and academic leadership.

With gratitude,

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

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1 • WELCOME TO PACIFIC OAKS COLLEGE



Terry Ratcliff, Dean of Academic Affairs

It is our pleasure to introduce to you PO's new Dean of Academic Affairs, Terry Ratcliff, Ed.D. Dr. Ratcliff comes to us from the University of Idaho where he served as the Executive Director of Distance and Extended Education, and prior to then, Whitworth University where he served as the Dean of the School of Continuing Studies. His experience in higher education spans from developing and implementing strategic plans, to facilitating online program development, while maintaining a position as an adjunct faculty member throughout his time in these various leadership roles.

Much of Dr. Ratcliff's work in higher education has been focused on working with adult learners and helping non-traditional students achieve their educational goals. He's presented at a number of conferences over the years, with the topic of his latest presentation being, "Recruiting and Retaining Adult Learners" at the Noel-Levitz Consulting Services Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Dr. Ratcliff earned his Ed.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, and a master's of education with concentrations in community college and student affairs administration from Arizona State University.



Marcia Bankirer, San Jose Campus Dean

This February, Pacific Oaks welcomed Marcia Bankirer, Ph.D., as our San Jose Campus Dean. She joined us from the Denver School of Nursing where she served as President for almost five years. Throughout her career, Dr. Bankirer has been at the forefront of using media and technology to engage students. Her extended learning initiatives, including the development of alternative and off-campus degree programs, earned her senior leadership positions as President at Argosy University (at both their Chicago then Denver campuses), Vice Provost at Central Michigan University, and Academic Vice President at Jones International University. Dr. Bankirer's writing on the topics of distance learning and the importance of technology in continuing education has been published in several journals of higher education. She also has expertise in accreditation as well as competency-based learning, which she utilized and further developed in her role as Senior Academic Officer during the implementation of the Western Governors University. She earned her Ph.D. in Adult and Higher Education Administration from the University of Wyoming and her M.Ed. in Adult and Continuing Education from Colorado State University.

Raised in eastern Pennsylvania, Dr. Bankirer is the youngest of five children. Her mother was a teacher and her father a businessman, both of whom she credits with her successes in the field of higher education administration. Dr. Bankirer has a love of animals, fountain pens, reading, and travel.

“The whole caring, giving, and touching people's lives is what drew me to Pacific Oaks. I grew up with Quaker roots and I went to a Friends school during my primary years. Social justice and social action are both very appealing to me.”

2 • PACIFIC OAKS ALUMNI AUTHORS



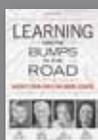
Julie Powers
Parent Engagement in Early Learning
 M.A. Human Development, class of 1989



Gaye Gronlund
Individualized Child-Focused Curriculum: A Differentiated Approach
 M.A. Human Development with a specialization in Leadership in Education & Human Services and Early Childhood Education, class of 1992



Marlyn James
Early Learning Standards and Staff Development: Best Practices in the Face of Change
 M.A. Human Development, class of 1994



Janet Gonzalez-Mena
Learning from the Bumps in the Road: Insights from Early Childhood Leaders
 M.A. Human Development, class of 1976



Susan Stacey
Pedagogical Documentation in Early Childhood: Sharing Children's Learning and Teachers' Thinking
 M.A. Human Development with a specialization in Early Childhood Education, class of 2005



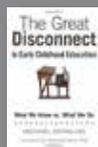
Deb Curtis and Margie Carter
Learning Together with Young Children: A Curriculum Framework for Reflective Teachers
 Deb Curtis graduated with an M.A. in Human Development with a specialization in Leadership in Education & Human Services, class of 1995; Margie Carter graduated with an M.A. in Human Development with specializations in Leadership in Education & Human Services and ECE in 1991



Debbie Lebo and Wendy Cividanes
Reflecting in Communities of Practice: A Workbook for Early Childhood Educators
 Both Debbie and Wendy graduated with an M.A. in Human Development in 2007



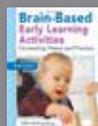
Louise Derman-Sparks and John Nimmo
Leading Anti-Bias Early Childhood Programs: A Guide for Change (Early Childhood Education)
 John received an M.A. in Human Development in 1988



Michael Gramling
The Great Disconnect in Early Childhood Education: What We Know Vs. What We Do
 M.A. in Human Development with a specialization in Leadership in Education & Human Services: Administration/Supervision, class of 2000



Dave Riley
Social & Emotional Development: Connecting Science and Practice in Early Childhood Settings and Intellectual Development: Connecting Science and Practice in Early Childhood Settings
 M.A. in Human Development, class of 1979



Nikki Darling-Kuria
Brain-Based Early Learning Activities: Connecting Theory and Practice
 M.A. in Human Development, class of 2010



Deborah Falasco
Teaching Twos and Threes: A Comprehensive Curriculum
 M.A. Human Development, class of 2008



Janis Keyser
From Parents to Partners: Building a Family-Centered Early Childhood Program
 M.A. in Human Development, class of 1996



Stacey York
Roots & Wings: Affirming Culture in Early Childhood Programs
 M.A. in Human Development, class of 1988



Julie Bisson
Celebrate!: An Anti-Bias Guide to Enjoying Holidays in Early Childhood Programs
 M.A. in Human Development with specializations in Child Care and Leadership in Education & Human Services, class of 1992



Shoghagat Sharon Aroian
Crossing the Euphrates
 M.A. in Human Development with a specialization in Marriage, Family and Child Counseling, class of 1986



Jayanti Tambe
A Kaleidoscope of Children
 Jayanti earned her B.A. in Human Development in 2005 and continued to receive her M.A. in Human Development in 2007

3 • ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Ben Page, Class of 2015, M.A. Human Development



While working towards the completion of his master's in Human Development at Pacific Oaks, Ben Page was envisioning a new kind of school – one that respected children and cultivated the virtues of personal responsibility, independence, and compassion. Now that vision has come to fruition as The Open School, Orange County's first and only free democratic school.

Education at The Open School is completely student centered; there is no set curriculum, there are no tests or assessments, and there are no mandatory classes. Students are never segregated by age or ability and anyone can offer or request a class. Learning comes through genuine interest and the basics of reading, writing, and mathematics are often acquired collaterally through these interests.

The school is governed by direct democracy, where each student and staff member has one equal vote.

All matters, from hiring and firing staff to allocating the budget, are decided democratically, and the school has absolutely no hierarchy. In this way, children and adults are collectively responsible for creating rules and maintaining the integrity of the democracy. Rule breaking is handled through a restorative justice methodology that emphasizes compassion and the cultivation of personal responsibility.

The Open School represents a completely new way of blending human development and educational systems. As The Open School approaches its second year, it is accepting a small number of new students, but ultimately envisions a large campus in Central County, equipped with state of the art technology, a natural playscape, and tinkering labs dedicated to any interest a student might have. Check them out on Facebook or at www.openschooloc.com.

Fiona Stewart, Class of 2000, M.A. Human Development

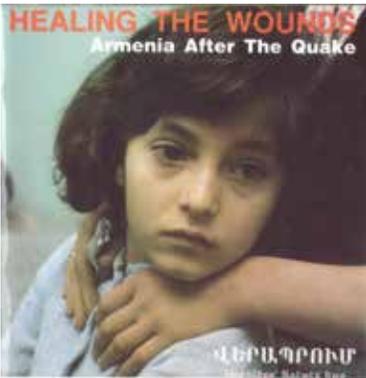


Pacific Oaks alumna, Fiona Stewart, was recently selected as a Master Leader by the Exchange Leadership Initiative of Child Care Exchange. This distinction is awarded to "experienced professionals who have proven themselves as able leaders in their organization, and who are taking leadership in building the profession and advocating for children and families at the local, state, and/or national levels."

In her more than 25 years in the early childhood care and education field, Fiona has worked as a teacher and director in early childhood programs, a college

instructor, grant administrator, program director and as a consultant, trainer, and facilitator on child development, early childhood education, diversity and anti-bias, conflict resolution, leadership, and grant funding. She is currently the Program Director of the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles, a collaborative partnership of the child care R&R and Alternative Payment agencies across the county. In this capacity she develops and oversees all county-wide training and coaching programs, including the Gateways for Early Educators™ professional development system, as well as the California Early Care & Education Workforce Registry for Los Angeles County. Fiona is also a former Pacific Oaks staff member and Children's School parent.

Dr. Shoghagat Sharon Aroian, Class of 1986, M.A. Human Development



Dr. Aroian has dedicated her life to helping children and families overcome trauma and adversity. Her dissertation, which was based on her experience treating children in Armenia in the aftermath of the 1988 earthquake, was published in the Los Angeles Times. Dr. Aroian set up the first play therapy rooms in Armenia and was also featured in Russian news media discussing the purpose of therapeutic toys. She has trained with Magda Gerber and, under her supervision,

taught a baby group. After founding a private practice in Beverly Hills, and practicing as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Child Development Specialist for 30 years, she is now retired. During Dr. Aroian's first year of retirement, she published *Crossing the Euphrates*, a historical novel about her grandfather's 400-page diary detailing his survival of the 1915 Armenian Genocide. *Crossing the Euphrates* was published on December 16, 2015 and is currently available on Amazon and in our Pasadena campus library. Dr. Aroian will promote her novel's release throughout America and the United Kingdom later this year.

4 • 2016 EVANGELINE BURGESS MEMORIAL LECTURE FEATURING DR. YONG ZHAO



presenting

**“American Education
in the Age of Globalization”**

Tuesday, April 5, 2016 • 7–9PM
Pacific Oaks College, 45 Eureka St., Pasadena, CA

RSVP by March 28 at Pacifcoaks.edu/events/2016/Burgess

Yong Zhao, Ph.D., currently serves as the Presidential Chair and Director of the Institute for Global and Online Education in the College of Education, University of Oregon, where he is also a Professor in the Department of Educational Measurement, Policy, and Leadership. His works focus on the implications of globalization and technology on education. He has published over 100 articles and 20 books, including *Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Dragon: Why China has the Best (and Worst) Education System in the World*, *Catching Up or Leading the Way: American Education in the Age of Globalization* and *World Class Learners: Educating Creative and Entrepreneurial Students*. Dr. Yong Zhao was named one of 2012's 10 most influential people in educational technology by *Tech & Learn Magazine*. He is an elected fellow of the International Academy for Education. His latest book *World Class Learners* has won several awards including the Society of Professors of Education Book Award (2013), Association of Education Publishers' (AEP) Judges' Award and Distinguished Achievement Award in Education Leadership (2013).

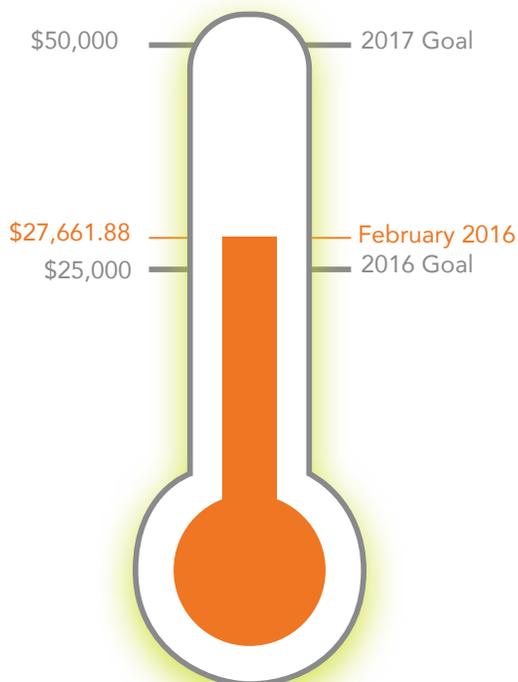
Until December 2010, Dr. Zhao was a University Distinguished Professor at the College of Education, Michigan State University, where he also served as the founding director of the Center for Teaching and Technology, and executive director of the Confucius Institute, as well as the US-China Center for Research on Educational Excellence.

5 • ANN PEPPERS CHALLENGE GRANT UPDATE

It is with great excitement that we share that Pacific Oaks College met the first year goal of the Ann Peppers 2-year matching grant challenge by raising \$25,000 just before the end of the 2015 calendar year.

Our largest financial support came from our Board of Trustees who contributed 63% of the total amount raised. In terms of participation from individual donors, the greatest constituency support came from our faculty and staff. Of the 35 donors who participated this first year, 46% are Pacific Oaks employees.

We were deeply moved to discover that our largest single donation came from one of our many alumni contributors, and we would not have made such progress in achieving our goal without the continued support of our former students. Meeting the first year's goal prior to our targeted deadline has been exhilarating and created even more excitement within our team to commence on year two of this incredible challenge grant. We look forward to sharing further progress as we move onward in our efforts to increase scholarship support for our undergraduate students.



To make a contribution online in support of the Ann Peppers Challenge Grant please visit giving.pacificoaks.edu.

One of the many ways you can help the College meet the Ann Peppers challenge is by purchasing a PO Proud t-shirt.



PO Proud t-shirts are available to purchase for \$10 with proceeds benefitting the Ann Peppers Scholarship Endowment. Contact the Advancement Office at 626.529.8091 for more details.



You can make a lasting difference in a young person's life by serving as a mentor to a Youth of Promise.

By transforming a child's life, you'll transform yours too!

Be an Inspiration • Be a Role Model • Be a Mentor



626-449-0839 X116 • Lisa@flintridge.org
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6 • PACIFIC OAKS COLLEGE 56TH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY



Our 56th Commencement Ceremony will take place on Saturday, May 7, 2016 at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium with a commencement address by Dolores Huerta, labor activist and co-founder of United Farm Workers. We are looking forward to graduating over 350 students this year!

One of the most famous and celebrated Latinas in the US, Dolores Huerta has been an advocate for social justice, women's rights, reproductive freedom and LGBT civil rights. In 1998, she received the Eleanor D. Roosevelt Human Rights Award from President Clinton and in 2012, she received the Medal of Freedom Award from President Obama, the highest civilian award in the US.

Huerta most notably co-founded the United Farm Workers (UFW) with Cesar Chavez in 1962, advocating for the rights of farm workers in this country. She is a founding board member of the Feminist Majority Foundation and also serves on the board of Ms. Magazine. Huerta has received numerous awards including the Ohtli award from the Mexican Government, the James Smithson Award from the Smithsonian Institution, and the Icons of the American Civil Rights Movement Award bestowed to her in 2011 by the National Civil Rights Museum. She was named the Ladies Home Journal's 100 most important woman of the 20th Century and the Kern County woman of the year by the California State legislature. Her most recent recognitions include her induction to the U.S. Department of Labor Hall of Honor and the first Latina induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

At 85, Dolores Huerta continues to work tirelessly developing leaders and advocating for the working poor, women, and children. As founder and president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, she travels across the country engaging in campaigns and influencing legislation that supports equality and defends civil rights.



Please join us for an

[ALUMNI RECEPTION]

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2016 • 6-7 PM

Sheraton Pasadena Hotel
303 CORDOVA STREET
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Enjoy complimentary refreshments and conversation with faculty and past classmates. Come learn what's new at Pacific Oaks from our President and academic leaders.

RSVP: pacificoaks.edu/events/2016/alum_reception

For further information, please contact the Office of Advancement at **626.529.8091** or alumni@pacificoaks.edu

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ANYTHING TO SHARE?
We would love to hear from you!

Please send updates to
alumni@pacificoaks.edu

To ensure you are included on our electronic mailing list, please email us at alumni@pacificoaks.edu.

We look forward to hosting you soon!



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