

Pacifica Graduate Alumni Association “Coming Home” Celebration Honors Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.



Dianne Travis-Teague, Pacifica Director of Alumni Relations, Salud Carbajal, First District Supervisor, Hannah-Beth Jackson, California State Senator, Dr. Steve Aizenstat, Pacifica Founding President & Chancellor, Santa Barbara Mayor Helene Schneider, Dr. Thyronne Gordon, Pacifica Board of Trustees and Dr. Bernardo Nante, Prof., Universidad del Salvador, Buenos Aires

Pacifica Graduate Institute’s Alumni Association (PGIAA) recently hosted its 2015 Annual Meeting entitled “Coming Home,” an exciting three-day action-packed weekend of educational festivities for alum, family, friends and the entire community at the Institute’s Ladera campus located at 801 Ladera Lane, Santa Barbara, CA. Developed and organized by Dianne Travis-Teague, Director of Alumni Relations and her team, “Coming Home” began on Friday, January 16th with a keynote address by Selden Edwards - “How to knock off a New York Times bestselling novel in only 30 years” and ended on Sunday, January 18th with a community forum honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The event included panel dis-

ussion Series featuring Matthew Bennett, Nuria Ciofalo, Elizabeth Nelson, Robert Romanyshyn, Dennis Patrick Slattery, Gary White, Jonathan Young, Stephen Aizenstat (Founding President & Chancellor) and special guest, International Lecturer, Bernardo Nante.

On Saturday evening, the highly anticipated Santa Barbara premiere film screening of “Finding the Gold Within” captivated attendees and the community. (A Feature-length documentary, *Finding the Gold Within*, by award-winning filmmaker Karina Epperlein follows six young Black men through the trials and triumphs of their first three years of college. Graduates of the unique Ohio mentoring program Alchemy, Inc. – founded by Pacifica Graduate Institute alumni Dr.



Finding the Gold Within Student Muses and Filmmaker, Karina Epperlein answer questions from attendees

cussion, “Martin Luther King, Jr., Creative Maladjustment, and the Beloved Community” moderated by Jennifer Selig. Distinguished panelist included local city officials **Mayor Helene Schneider**, **First District Supervisor Salud Carbajal** and **California State Senator, Hannah-Beth Jackson** and others. *The video of the lecture and panel discussion honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is available at www.youtube.com/pacificagi.*

The Friday Evening Chancellor’s Reception, honored Pacifica alumnus Jill Griffin of Santa Fe, New Mexico (Dr. Griffin is the recipient of our Second Annual **Wendy Davee Award for Service**, which honors alumni/ae who exemplify Wendy’s dedication and spirit of soul tending through service in the community); and, Casa Magazine Publisher, Mark Whitehurst (Dr. Whitehurst is the recipient of the Association’s first **Chancellor’s Award for Excellence**, created to acknowledge and provide recognition for consistently superior professional achievement and to encourage the ongoing pursuit of excellence). Other events included a Writers/Media Day (co-sponsored by the Pacifica Bookstore), an Alumni Authors Book Faire, Campus Tours (both Ladera and Lambert), 2015 Faculty Lec-

Kwame Scruggs – they are hell-bent on disproving society’s stereotypes and low expectations. They grow before our eyes and we are able to witness the power of myth. Learn more at www.goldthefilm.com). The film and reception were co-sponsored by the Fund for Santa Barbara.

“Over the past four years, the Pacifica Graduate Institute Alumni Association (PGIAA) was born and is now a 501(c)(3) organization. This year’s event is designed not only to build community, but to share the wealth of talent found amongst our alumni/ae,” shared Travis-Teague.

Pacifica Graduate Institute is a WASC accredited graduate school with two campuses located between the coastal foothills of the Pacific Ocean, a few miles south of Santa Barbara. The Institute offers masters and doctoral degree programs in psychology, the humanities and mythological studies all informed by the traditions in depth psychology. Pacifica has established an educational environment that nourishes respect for cultural diversity and individual differences, and an academic community that fosters a spirit of free and open inquiry. In the last 35 years, Pacifica Graduate Institute has graduated over 4500 alumni and alumnae. ■