



## HISTORIC VISIT BY LITHUANIAN PRESIDENT & FIRST LADY TO THE MARIJA GIMBUTAS LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

*September 22, 2023*

Dear Pacifica Community,

Last Friday, September 22, marked a momentous occasion for Pacifica and OPUS Archives and Research Center as we proudly welcomed the President of Lithuania, Dr. Gitanas Nausėda, and Lithuanian First Lady, Diana Nausėdienė, for an exclusive visit to the [Marija Gimbutas Library and Archives](#), curated by OPUS Archives at Pacifica's Lambert Campus.

Following his attendance and address at the United Nations General Assembly, President Nausėda, accompanied by his delegation, made a special journey to Southern California that included a priority visit to the Gimbutas Library and Archives. Lithuanians hold Dr. Gimbutas in very high regard for her work on prehistoric European archaeology, her work preserving Lithuanian folklore and mythology, and for her publications about the goddess figurines of Old Europe, the early farming cultures of Europe before 2500 BCE. Dr. Gimbutas was Professor of European Archeology and Indo-European Studies at UCLA, whose personal library and archives were donated to Pacifica and OPUS in 1994.

We were honored by their presence on campus, along with Marija Gimbutas' daughter, Zivile. Thank you to the many who helped organize and host this special visit - and all the complexities that come with hosting a foreign dignitary - specifically Richard Buchen (Special Collections Librarian), who led the tour, and Dr. Maren Hansen (OPUS Board member).

**To read more about their visit, including photos and reflections from President Nausėda and First Lady Nausėdienė, visit:**  
<https://www.pacifica.edu/pacifica-news/pacifica-and-opus-welcome-the-president-of-lithuania/>



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lemi Mathison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "n".

Dr. Lee  
President & CEO, Pacifica Graduate Institute