



PACIFICA
GRADUATE INSTITUTE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Weaving the Threads of Transformation: Celebrating a Year of Remarkable Growth

***Reflections from Dr. Mattison and link to the latest Eye on Pacifica video update
November 14, 2023***

*"A hasty move to resolve tension can abort the growth of the new. If we can hold conflict in psychic utero long enough, we can give birth to something new in ourselves." —
Marion Woodman*

Dear Pacifica Community,

As we reflect on this remarkable journey, let us draw strength from the wise words of Marion Woodman, reminding us that sometimes, growth requires us to nurture conflict, to hold it in psychic utero, until it births something new within us.

In my inaugural year as President and CEO, I witnessed the collective power of our community as we traversed the labyrinth, wove the threads, and aimed for excellence with our bow and arrow. We have forged a tapestry of blessings, shouldered the weight of our challenges, reveled in the beauty of unity, and illuminated the caduceus of wisdom and shared purpose that resides within.

This journey is not merely about my leadership; it's a testament to the collective strength that defines the Pacifica community. Your unwavering support and commitment have been the bedrock of our success, and I am profoundly thankful for that.

From the beginning of my presidency, we embarked on a three-phase, six-step transition into the heart of the Institute. I invite each of you to celebrate the outstanding achievements that have been woven into our tapestry.

🌀 The Labyrinth: Navigating Challenges and Growth

Phase One (**October 2022 – February 2023**), the [*Listening, Learning, and Connecting Tour*](#), illuminated our path, fortifying the bonds of our community through open dialogue and reflection. This transformative journey unveiled our points of pride, pain, purpose, and priorities for impactful action. I extend special thanks to my transition team and all

those who actively engaged, including faculty, staff, and alumni who played a crucial role.

Our commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equitable representation remains unwavering. Establishing a diverse, new [Executive Leadership Team](#) is a tangible reflection of our dedication to fostering an environment where every voice is heard and valued. Concurrently, we have made substantial efforts to amplify student and faculty engagement across programs by increasing faculty hires, opportunities to engage, and in celebrating the outstanding scholarship across the community. There has been a focus on revitalizing and fortifying relationships, fostering a sense of unity within the campus community, with particular note to the work of our *Clinical Psychology program* over the last year to ensuring its longevity and continued academic excellence.

As we move forward, our dedication to fostering unity within the Pacifica community remains at the forefront of our initiatives. We recognize the importance of repairing and strengthening relationships, ensuring a cohesive and supportive environment that reflects the true spirit of our institution.

The Thread: Weaving Together Excellence

In Phase Two (**March 2023 – June 2023**), we expanded our horizons with the reimagined [Pacifica Extension](#) division, signaling our commitment to transcend geographical boundaries and engage with global communities. This strategic move fosters partnerships and builds bridges for the worldwide understanding of and exposure to Depth Psychology.

Simultaneously, we initiated our *Shared Governance* work for refining institutional decision-making and established the *President's Advisory Committee and Coordinating-Operations Council*, which unites faculty, leadership, and staff across the campus. Additionally, we completed the first-ever *Faculty Compensation and Workload Study*, addressing inequities and ensuring a collaborative and equitable approach to Pacifica's governance.

Tending the soul of the world remains at the core of our mission, exemplified through the *Pacifica SOUL Promise (PSP)* initiative. This groundbreaking effort serves as a roadmap for a future that secures scholarship and research funding, facilitating the expansion of diversity in our students, faculty, and researchers both locally and regionally. As part of the PSP program, we have proactively identified 26 grant-funding opportunities and secured fiscal sponsorship through the Santa Barbara Foundation, further supporting our academic and community endeavors.

As a notable outcome, completing our *Strategic Enrollment Plan* during this phase further strengthens our commitment to academic excellence and student success, ensuring a more accessible and vibrant educational experience.

The Bow and Arrow: Aiming for Excellence

In Phase Three (**July 2023 – October 2023**), achieving the first [WSCUC-approved fully online PRC](#) and DJO degrees has opened up new horizons, allowing us to share the treasures of Depth Psychology and Pacifica with a larger global audience. The introduction of an *Organization Review Study* represents a significant step toward a more adaptable and effective future. Efficiency and sustainability are paramount, and launching our *Campus Utilization Study* reflects our dedication to the environment and resources entrusted to us.

Your pivotal role in shaping our unmistakable global influence is paramount. Recent strides in fortifying public relations have elevated our faculty and student scholarships and propelled us to heights within esteemed academic circles and public discourse. Additionally, our global impact is vividly demonstrated through exclusive events. We hosted the [President of Lithuania](#) in collaboration with OPUS Archives & Research Center, cementing our commitment to international partnerships. Further, we were honored to welcome the [President of the American Psychological Association](#) as a keynote speaker during our annual Journey Week event, marking yet another milestone in our far-reaching influence on the global stage. Together, these endeavors underscore our dedication to making a lasting impact.

Moreover, our commitment extends beyond the classroom, as reflected in our thriving alumni engagement initiatives. Our alumni, like you, play a crucial role in shaping the narrative of our success. In this dynamic community, the impact of your experiences and contributions continue to resonate, further enriching our collective legacy.

We have prioritized Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) within our institution by successfully recruiting our inaugural [Vice President of People, Culture, and Inclusion](#). This strategic addition underscores our commitment to fostering an environment where diversity is celebrated, equity is promoted, and inclusion is the foundation of our vibrant community. We are also proud of the many [events](#) hosted over the last year that recognized the achievements, heritage, and contemporary issues of often underrepresented groups or community members, including AAPI Heritage Month, Black History Month, Juneteenth, Pride Panel, and Mental Health Community Dialog.

Though filled with challenges, the path in front of us has revealed the depth of our collective strength. The courage of our leaders, the unwavering support of our faculty, the dedication of our staff, and the contributions of our alumni and the broader community have brought us here. I invite you to celebrate a noteworthy achievement: a remarkable 14% growth in new student enrollments. This accomplishment is a testament to the trust placed in us by students, affirming our commitment to providing an educational environment that resonates with excellence and innovation.

As we stand at the threshold of the labyrinth, our bow and arrow drawn, let us remember the words of Carl Jung, "The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances: If there is any reaction, both are transformed." *We are transformed, and we continue to transform the world around us.*

Before we conclude, I invite you to sign up for our Breaking Bread sessions, where I hope to glean insights into our dreams, aspirations, and hopes. Watch the latest edition of [Eye on Pacifica](#) and share your insights with us. And register to attend our [Psychedelics conference](#). As we get to the end of 2023 and head into the next year ahead, we look forward to sharing more about what 2024 brings, including our WSCUC reaffirmation of accreditation efforts and our strategic plan.

The crucible of adversity is the canvas upon which the masterpiece of growth is painted. Through challenges, we forge the strongest bonds and unveil our true potential. May we always remember that our surroundings shape our essence, nurturing the soul within and the world beyond. I encourage you to care for yourselves, your families, and your loved ones and to embrace the essence of "Pacifica safe"—a state of being that encompasses motivation and holistic well-being.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to Pacifica. The best is yet to come, and the future is brighter and more promising than ever.

With heartfelt gratitude and an unwavering commitment to our shared journey,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lee Mathison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Lee
President & CEO
Pacifica Graduate Institute