

PACIFICA

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

ANIMAE MUNDI COLENDAE GRATIA

NEWSLETTER | APRIL '26



GODDESS-MAKERS 2026

Oracles of the Creative
in an Age of Collapse

SAVE THE DATE

August 28th – 30th, 2026

Hosted at the Ladera Lane Campus
of Pacifica Graduate Institute

PACIFICA
GRADUATE INSTITUTE
Extension and International Studies

FINAL CALL FOR PAPERS

Submit proposals by April 26, 2026 to Extension@pacifica.edu.

Goddess-Makers 2026
Oracles of the Creative in an Age of Collapse

Hosted by Pacifica Graduate Institute

In times of cultural instability, the oracle stands at the threshold — interpreting what appears as disintegration and discerning what is struggling toward birth. Goddess-Makers 2026 invites our Pacifica alums who are scholars, clinicians, artists, mythologists, activists, and cultural leaders to explore the role of the creative unconscious in an era marked by technological acceleration, political polarization, ecological grief, and collective anxiety.

From a depth psychological perspective, collapse is not merely social or institutional; it is psychic. When cultural myths weaken, anxiety intensifies. Identity structures tremble. In the consulting room, therapists are witnessing rising existential dread, fragmentation, intergenerational tension, technological destabilization, and dreams saturated with images of descent, fire, ruins, and transformation. Depth psychology understands these not only as symptoms, but as archetypal signals.

What emerges when we listen symbolically to collapse?

We invite proposals that engage the creative unconscious as an oracular force — not predicting outcomes, but interpreting archetypal movement beneath surface events. How might artists, clinicians, and leaders participate consciously in this threshold moment?

We welcome proposals that explore:

Clinical & Counseling Perspectives

- Collective anxiety and archetypal activation in the consulting room
- Dreams of collapse, descent, and transformation
- Nigredo, depression, and initiation
- Differentiating regression from archetypal descent
- Ecological grief and cultural mourning
- AI, technology, and the destabilization of identity
- The therapist as symbolic container in times of instability
- Imagination as a clinical tool for metabolizing fear
- Feminine authority and relational leadership in therapeutic practice

Jungian & Depth Psychological Theory

- The creative unconscious in times of cultural fragmentation
- The Red Book and oracular imagination
- Archetypes emerging in contemporary culture
- Collective shadow and political polarization
- Mythic analysis of regression and nostalgia movements
- Individuation at collective scale

Feminine Initiation & Leadership

- Oracular traditions and feminine authority in myth and religion
- Inanna, Persephone, and descent as empowerment
- Women's leadership in times of instability
- Relational, embodied, and imaginal governance

Creativity, Culture & AI

- Artificial intelligence and the future of human creativity
- Technology as archetypal disruption
- The artist as cultural oracle
- Human–AI partnership and symbolic reorganization
- The future of authorship and meaning

Interdisciplinary & Experiential Formats

- Clinical case studies
- Theoretical and research-based papers
- Creative and performative presentations
- Workshops integrating imaginal or expressive modalities
- Panel dialogues on cultural transformation

We welcome proposals from Pacifica alumni who are established scholars, practitioners, artists, mythologists and emerging voices. Submissions may be theoretical, clinical, interdisciplinary, artistic, or experiential.

Presentation Format Options

We encourage a diversity of formats to engage attendees in intellectual, creative, and experiential ways:

- **Academic Papers & Lectures** – 20-minute individual presentations or 60-minute panel discussions on relevant themes.
- **Workshops** – Interactive sessions integrating creative, somatic, or ritual-based approaches (120 minutes).
- **Experiential Sessions** – Guided movement, dreamwork, active imagination, storytelling, or artistic practices exploring the conference themes (60 minutes).
- **Roundtable Discussions** – Informal, facilitated conversations that encourage deep dialogue and exchange among participants (60 minutes).
- **Film Screenings & Media Presentations** – Short films, digital storytelling, or multimedia works that engage the creative feminine. (60 minutes or 120 minutes)
- **Performances & Creative Readings** – Poetry, music, theater, or spoken-word performances that embody the power of feminine creativity. (60 Minutes or shorter for inclusion as part of a main session)

Submission Guidelines

Please submit a **300-word proposal** outlining your presentation, including:

- Title of your presentation
- Presentation format (from the list above)
- Abstract detailing the focus and relevance to the conference theme
- A brief biography (100 words) including your professional background and affiliations
- A headshot (PNG or JPEG)

While portions of this conference will be livestreamed, allowing for a global gathering of voices, **all presentations must be offered on-campus.**

Submit proposals by April 26, 2026 to Extension@pacific.edu.
Notifications of acceptance will be sent by May 22, 2026.

Goddess-Makers 2026 convenes those willing to stand in the tension of this historical moment not to restore the old myth, but to midwife the new.



Alumni Authors' Reception at the Goddess-Makers Conference

Friday, August 28 | 4:00 PM |
Ladera Campus

Following last year's resounding success, published alumni and faculty authors are once again invited to participate in the opening event of the Goddess-Makers conference weekend—an evening devoted to the written word and the creative force of Pacifica scholars.

Whether your work engages scholarship, poetry, mythopoesis, or the imaginative realm, this reception offers the opportunity to share and sell your books in community with fellow alumni and conference guests.

To reserve a table and be included in the promotional materials, please complete this [FORM](#) today.

OPEN TO CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

For questions, email
Maryam.Sayyad@my.pacifica.edu

Gallery of Alumni Arts at the Goddess-Makers Conference

August 29–30 | Ladera Campus

As part of Goddess-Makers: Oracles of the Creative in an Age of Collapse, the Ladera campus will be transformed into a Festival of Arts—a living gallery showcasing the visual language of soul.

We invite alumni and faculty artists working in any visual or spatial medium to exhibit their work throughout the weekend in both indoor and outdoor spaces.

Two-dimensional works, sculpture, installation, altar pieces, ritual objects, and unscheduled performance gestures are all welcome. Space will be curated for quiet viewing and contemplative encounter, in keeping with the mythopoetic spirit of the weekend.

To participate, please complete this [FORM](#).

OPEN TO CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

For questions, email
Maryam.Sayyad@my.pacifica.edu

CONNECT



Alumni Directory



The New Alumni Directory!

Pacifica Alumni Connections is creating an Alumni Directory. This directory will serve as a centralized space where alumni can share their professional offerings and contact information, making it easier to connect, collaborate, and support one another.

Our goal is to foster meaningful relationships by highlighting common areas of business, practice, and expertise within the alumni community. Whether you are looking to collaborate, refer, or simply network with fellow Pacifica graduates, this directory will help you find those connection points.

If you are interested in listing your information in the Pacifica online Alumni Directory, please fill out the form below—we look forward to co-creating this space for alumni connection!

[ALUMNI DIRECTORY FORM](#)



The Wisdom Well

Goddess-Makers 2026: Oracles of the Creative in an Age of Collapse

Thursday, May 21, 2026 | 5:30–7:00 PM PT | 8:30-10:00 ET | *Virtual*

We warmly invite you to join us this May for a special alumni gathering exploring the theme of our upcoming summer conference, *Goddess-Makers 2026: Oracles of the Creative in an Age of Collapse*. In a time marked by profound cultural, ecological, and psychological uncertainty, this session will open a space for reflection on the role of imagination, symbol, and the creative feminine as guiding forces for renewal.

The conversation will be guided by Lorelee M. Scott, Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Lifelong Learning at Pacifica Graduate Institute and a champion of the Pacifica Alumni Connections (OPAC) initiative. With an MFA grounded in interdisciplinary studies focused on depth psychology, somatic, performance art and the role of the creative unconscious in cultural and individual transformation and over a decade of leadership in developing innovative academic and extension programs, Lorelee brings a unique integration of scholarly rigor, creative vision, and institutional leadership. Her work has focused on expanding the reach of depth psychology into contemporary contexts—bridging soul-centered learning with real-world application, and cultivating spaces where imagination and intellect meet.

This May session will serve as both an intellectual and imaginal threshold—an invitation to engage the archetypal dimensions of the Goddess-Maker and to consider what it means to serve as an oracle of the creative in an age of collapse. Participants will explore key themes that will shape the August 28-30th conference, including the reclamation of feminine wisdom traditions, the role of artistry and

embodiment in times of crisis, and the emergence of new mythopoetic narratives for collective transformation.

Join us as we begin this shared inquiry—gathering as a community of scholars, creatives, and seekers—to listen more deeply to the voice of soul and to imagine what wants to be born through us now.

Register for the May 21st Wisdom Well below.
You will receive the ZOOM link the day before the event.

SAVE THE DATE for the next Wisdom Well on June 18th.
LUMINA: What's emerging in the Cultural Consciousness?
With Bradley McDevitt '22

Lorraine “Rain” Warren, PhD,
Networking & Communications Co-Chair
CLE '17 (CLIE)

Contact AlumniConnections@pacifica.edu with questions
Subject: WISDOM WELL

REGISTER FOR MAY 21 WISDOM WELL

CULTIVATE



Alumni Career Journey Spotlight

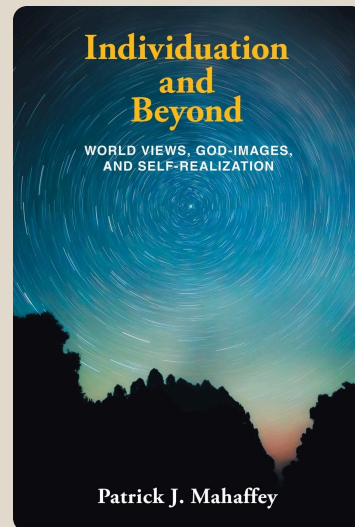
Jennifer Degnan Smith, PhD
Listening to the Soul of Your Research

May 7 & 14, 2026 | Virtual

Careers in Depth is a monthly workshop series highlighting the professional journeys of Pacifica graduates. PGI alums navigate diverse career paths, integrating depth psychology into their work in meaningful ways. On **May 7 & 14**, the *Careers in Depth* series will be with **Jennifer Degnan Smith, PhD**, a graduate of the Jungian and Archetypal Studies program. Jen is a consultant and instructor who has also created and led personal development workshops for organizations and community groups in the U.S. and Europe, with a particular focus on vocational development. Her talk and accompanying mentoring session, entitled “Listening to the Soul of Your Research,” invites participants to revisit moments of curiosity and pivotal life events that may illuminate the deeper motivations behind their academic pursuits and their life after their degree, including their personal development, professional direction, and meaningful contribution to the wider world.

If you are interested in presenting and mentoring in the *Careers in Depth* series, please email us at AlumniConnections@pacific.edu.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER FOR CAREERS IN DEPTH



Guest Presentation to the Jungian and Archetypal Psychology Program

“Individuation an Integrative Spirituality”
—Dr. Patrick J. Mahaffey

May 7, 2026 | 7 PM | BARRETT CENTER | LADERA CAMPUS

Description of the Talk

Psychological individuation and spiritual awakening are different yet complementary modes of human development. This presentation synthesizes insights and practices from process theology, Jungian psychology, the Diamond Approach, contemplative

yoga, and integral philosophy that support integrative spirituality—forms of inner work that conjoin psychological wholeness with spiritual realization.

Author Bio

Dr. Patrick J. Mahaffey is Professor Emeritus in the Mythological Studies Program at Pacifica Graduate Institute, a practitioner of contemplative yoga, and the author of *Individuation and Beyond: Worldviews, God-Images, and Self-Realization*.

Description on the Book

Individuation and Beyond is a profound exploration of the psychospiritual journey toward wholeness and awakening. Drawing on over five decades of academic study, spiritual practice, and teaching at Pacifica Graduate Institute, Dr. Patrick J. Mahaffey interweaves insights from process relational theology, Jungian depth psychology, the Diamond Approach, contemplative yoga traditions, and integral philosophy. The book invites readers to engage deeply with their inner lives by examining the worldviews and God-images that shape meaning and identity. He proposes a form of *integrative spirituality*—a path that unites psychological wholeness with spiritual realization. More than a synthesis of great ideas, this work is a guide for the modern seeker—a mandala of perspectives designed to illuminate the divine within the human. Each chapter concludes with reflection questions and practices that encourage experiential engagement, making the book both intellectually rigorous and personally transformative.

CONTRIBUTE



**The Alumni Publications List
on Bookshop.org**

This growing collection showcases the remarkable breadth of scholarship and creative work emerging from the Pacifica community. Here you will find thought-provoking titles spanning depth psychology, mythology, ecopsychology, the arts, spirituality, cultural studies, and beyond. Each work reflects the spirit of inquiry, imagination, and soul-centered learning that continues to animate Pacifica's intellectual and creative life.

CLICK ON THE IMAGE to explore the PGI Alumni Publications collection on Bookshop.org.

Are you a published author?

If you would like your book to be included in the PGI Alumni Publications collection, please complete the submission form below.

Please note: Bookshop.org currently lists titles distributed through Ingram.

Have questions, ideas, or would like to collaborate on this initiative, please contact Maryam.Sayyad@my.pacifica.edu

ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS SUBMISSION FORM



Lambert Campus Transition

Last year, Pacifica announced the transition of all operations and on-campus programs to the Ladera Campus (<https://www.pacifica.edu/pacificas-campus-transition/>).

Part of this process includes thoughtfully relocating class gifts from the Lambert Campus to the Ladera Campus. This transition is being carried out with great care and respect for the meaning these gifts hold within the Pacifica community. If you were part of a class gift at the Lambert Campus and would like to participate in coordinating its ceremonial movement, please contact us at AlumniConnections@pacifica.edu and include "Class Gift" in the subject line.

Opportunities to honor this transition and the class gifts will also be offered at upcoming events.

Open Call for Participation

OPAC is a volunteer operation. **We are Alumni-Led and Alumni-Fed.**
We encourage you to contribute wherever you feel called to champion this work.

We seek editors, artists, scholars, administrators, writers, greeters, designers, and more! If you feel called to this project and have a vision for how you wish to participate, we would love to hear from you!

alumniconnections@pacifica.edu



Thank you for taking the time to open and read this newsletter. Drop us a line at alumniconnections@pacifica.edu and you'll hear back from us as soon as possible.

Loralee Scott, MFA | Vice President, Institutional Advancement
Bradley McDevitt ('22) | Co-Chair, Networking & Communications
Lorraine "Rain" Warren ('17) | Co-Chair, Networking & Communications
Maryam Sayyad ('23) | Co-Chair, Scholarship & Events
Stephanie Zajchowski ('19) | Co-Chair, Mentorship & Career Development

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