

# BEACON BLAST

## *Teachers with Class*

Room 1 — Transition: Ms. Sondra Ryan  
Room 2 — High School: Ms. Renee Bautista  
Room 3 — High School: Mr. Michael Baugh  
Room 4 — Transition: Mr. Oliver Mason  
Room 5 — Junior High: Ms. Cheryl Wood  
Room 6 — Elementary: Ms. Ashley Robbins and Ms. Kim Bidelspach  
Room 7 — Mixed Grades: Ms. Juli Inagi

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September 2015

*Welcome back to the new term! We are excited to share that Dr. Lang will be speaking* at the National TACA Autism Conference, which is being held October 23-24 at the Hilton Orange County. Dr. Lang will be speaking on Saturday, October 24 from 2:30-3:30 and 4:00-4:50 about "How to Facilitate Independence in Your Loved Ones at Home, Life and in the Community: A Two-Part Presentation." Please visit [TACAAutismConference.com](http://TACAAutismConference.com).

*We are pleased to report on further staff training.* Kristen Franchak and Danielle Witek attended the Direct Instruction conference in Oregon, which is a model for teaching that emphasizes well-developed and carefully planned lessons designed around small learning increments and clearly defined and prescribed teaching tasks. It is based on the theory that clear instruction that eliminates misinterpretations can greatly improve and accelerate learning for students. The Beacon Day School staff will be educated on this model as a part of our continuing education program.

*A friendly reminder* to parents: we appreciate posts about your positive Beacon experiences on Yelp and your connecting with Beacon on the Beacon Day School Facebook page. These social media avenues are very important to getting the word out about our school.

*Beacon Day School would like to introduce and welcome the following teachers.*

### **Sondra Ryan joins Beacon as teacher for Room 1.**

*Which grade level and age group are you teaching?*

I am currently teaching transition students who are aged 17-22 years old.

*Can you please tell us a little about your background, in general, and especially as it relates to helping with this class?*

I started in a special education setting over 10 years ago. I started out working as an ABA aide for children with autism. My passion for the field quickly grew, and I couldn't see myself doing anything else. My experience for the last 7 years has been teaching at a non-public school, with the focus on students with autism, with a strong need for functional academics, communication, and social and behavioral needs. I am so excited for my new experiences at Beacon Day School.

*What have you liked best about Beacon Day School?*

The thing I like best about Beacon Day School is working with responsible, knowledgeable staff members who really know and respect the students and their individual needs.

*Are there community-based or classroom activities that you regard as especially helpful to students?*

My focus for community-based and classroom activities is to make activities meaningful and functional. It is important to me that skills can be carried over and generalized into other areas of my students' lives.

*What would make you happiest on behalf of each student?*

I love to see my students comfortable enough in the classroom environment to be themselves. I am also the happiest when I expose a student to a new concept and they surpass my expectations. It is always a rewarding experience to see my students grow and reach their maximum potential.

### **Renee Bautista joins Beacon as teacher for Room 2.**

I have been in the special education field for over 12 years. I completed my Bachelor of Science in Child and Adolescent Studies with a concentration in special education at California State University, Fullerton. I then taught a reverse inclusion classroom for 10 years for the second- through sixth-grade levels. I then completed my Master of Science in Special Education, with a specialization in moderate/severe disabilities, at National University. I later taught a moderate/severe junior high classroom. Being a well-rounded educator, I have had the opportunity to teach a diverse group of elementary, middle, and junior high school students, thus enhancing my teaching techniques and instructional methods. I hope to use my expertise that I have acquired these past years to guide and encourage your student to achieve their goals to the best of their ability. I am excited to work with your child this year and to see them make leaps and gains, not only academically, but in their independence as well.

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*Continued from page 1.*

**Michael Baugh joins Beacon as teacher for Room 3.**

*Which grade levels and age group are you teaching?*

I am working with high school and adult transition-aged students (14 – 22 years old).

*Can you please tell us a little about your background, in general, and especially as it relates to helping with this class?*

I have been working in special education for 9 years. I started as a substitute teacher and, after a year, became a one-on-one aide, pursuing my teaching credential after work. Two years later, I applied for an internship at the same school I was employed at as a full-time substitute teacher. I received my credential and am now pursuing a master's degree in education. This summer, I joined Beacon Day School as a moderate/severe education specialist and look forward to our students' successful school year.

*What have you liked best about Beacon Day School?*

I really appreciate the student-focused support and leadership here at Beacon Day School. Our classroom benefits from an experienced team of behavioral interventionists and service professionals.

*Are there community-based or classroom activities that you regard as especially helpful to students?*

Simply, our students benefit from practiced individual and group activities. As a result, they explore, improve, and benefit from independent learning skills.

*What would make you happiest on behalf of each student?*

That each of us feel a sense of belonging and that our students can better independently express themselves.

***Introducing Pauline Delmar!***

**Beacon Day School is pleased to introduce Pauline Delmar, MA, CCRC.**

*When did you join Beacon Day School, and what is your role?*

My first day as executive assistant for Beacon Day School was August 10, 2015.

*Can you please share a little bit about your interests, in general, and especially as relevant to what led you to help at Beacon?*

I have been working in mental health since 1994 in several roles from community outreach to director of several research clinics. I have worked with all populations both clinically and from an operational perspective and have always felt the need to assist in the success of others.

*What did you like best when you first joined Beacon?*

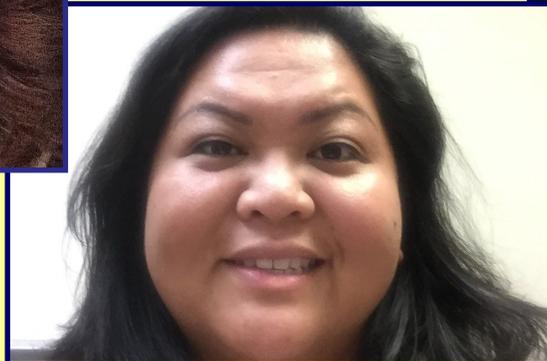
The staff made me feel part of the team right away. They are incredibly friendly and always available to help.

*How do you hope to best help the school?*

I think my unique background in operations and clinical aspects will bring a new perspective in assisting Dr. Lang to provide the best services possible for the students her school serves.



*Pauline Delmar*



*Renee Bautista*



*Michael Baugh*