

uscTrojan

FAMILY



Grit and Grace

Her brother needs a kidney.
She needs to get fit to donate.
How a Keck Medicine of USC
team is solving both problems.



SCENE

Solar panels atop the Galen Center look toward the Los Angeles skyline—and a more energy-efficient future. Setting what she called an “aggressive timeline,” President Carol L. Folt announced in December that the university had set a 2025 deadline to achieve carbon neutrality.





A Green Goodbye

So much has changed in the 10 years since I arrived on campus to become editor-in-chief of this magazine. USC Village rose on the north side of Jefferson Boulevard in 2017, and hundreds of students now call it home. On the Health Sciences Campus, new clinics opened for patients. And the name and shield of USC now glow high atop a 32-foot skyscraper in downtown Los Angeles. Trojans have celebrated during good times and ached during bad ones. The last decade has been quite a trip.

All journeys must end, though. This is my final issue leading USC Trojan Family Magazine, and I'm bidding you goodbye as I shift into another exciting role at the university. But I can't wait to keep reading the magazine and its website—trojanfamily.usc.edu—to see the stories this creative team brings to light.

If there's one thing I'm sure of, it's that the stories in these pages will continue to show how Trojans make a difference in the world. In this spring issue—just in time for Earth Month—we focus on students, alumni and faculty and staff members who are going green. From composting dining hall scraps to putting solar panels on the Galen Center, they Fight On for a more sustainable USC. I hope their spirit inspires you to join them.

ALICIA DI RADO
Outgoing Editor-in-Chief
USC Trojan Family Magazine

uscTrojan FAMILY

The magazine of the
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In the fight for the planet, even little things mean a lot.

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Artificial intelligence isn't just for sci-fi movies. Here are three ways AI pops up in our everyday lives.

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Alum Joseph Medicine Crow, a war hero and scholar, is memorialized on the USC campus.



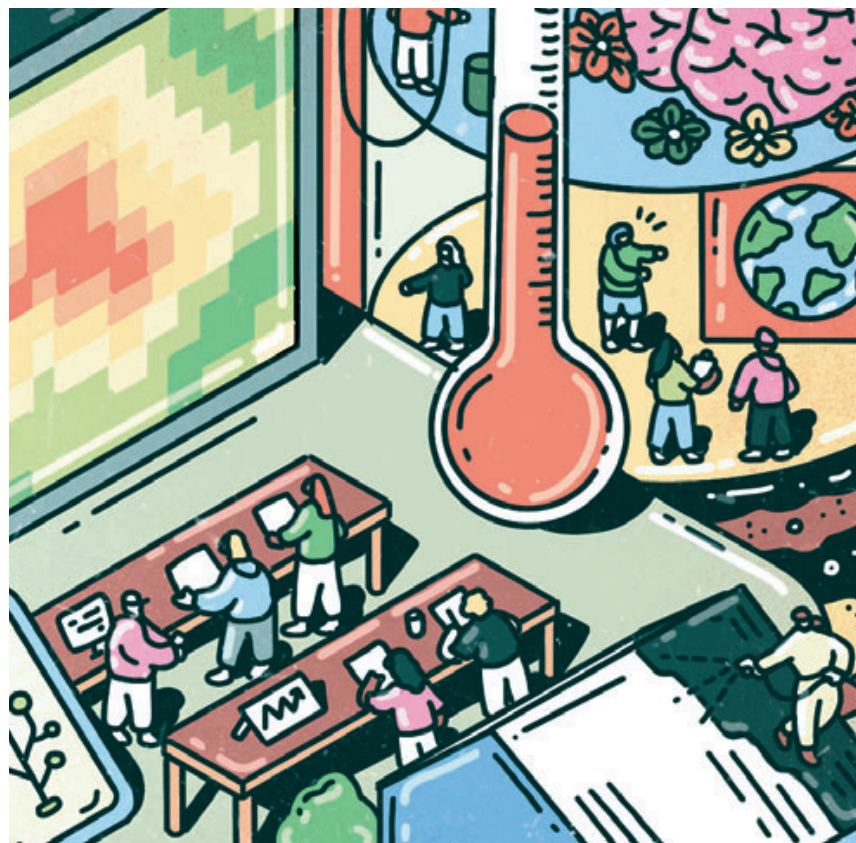
FAMILY

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USC graduates of the 1920s entered a world that had just begun to right itself.



You're getting warmer—it's not your imagination. (More on p. 36.)

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Polluted air is increasingly linked to cognitive decline. By Candace Pearson

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This classical pianist plays concerts in some of the West's most beautiful spots. Oh, and he brings his own Steinway grand. By Elisa Huang

36 Hot Town

What's nature's solution for scorching temps? Trees—lots of them. By Cristine Hall

8 WRITERS, 10 DIRECTORS AND 1 HIT



What do get when you put eight writers and 10 directors at the helm of a single feature film? When it's *Voodoo Macbeth*, a product of USC's Feature Film Production class, the answer is "a winner."

Faculty Adviser/Producer John Watson (*Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*) was looking to give more of his students feature film experience and came up with the groundbreaking concept of uniting 10 directors for a single full-length film.

The class wrote and directed *Voodoo Macbeth*, a behind-the-scenes drama about Orson Welles' legendary 1936 all-Black stage production of Shakespeare's Scottish play. With eight writers and 10 directors, you might expect a witch's brew, but *Voodoo Macbeth* has been accepted into almost two dozen film festivals and won the Best of Fest Audience Choice Award at the Sedona (Ariz.) International Film Festival and the Best Feature Film prize at the Harlem International Film Festival.

"Our film is about a community coming together to make something special," Watson says. "It's an all-is-one approach. Not the other way around."

—David Medzerian

FINDING HER VOICE



Throughout her drama training, Kathleen Dunn-Muzingo was drawn, for reasons she didn't quite understand, to a book called *The Use and Training of the Human Voice*. She gravitated toward its voice workouts and often practiced them. When she had a chance to work with Arthur Lessac, its author, she jumped at it.

"His voice training changed how I looked at text, how to deepen my voice for pitch power

and playing powerful roles. Before that, I always played the ingénue," says Dunn-Muzingo, now an associate professor of theater practice in voice and movement at the USC School of Dramatic Arts.

Dunn-Muzingo soon was playing more than 20 dialect roles in film and theater. She interviewed people native to the dialects she was using because she was interested in carrying their stories onto the stage and film. Her credits now include such productions as *Mad Men*, Marvel's *The Avengers* and *How to Get Away with Murder* in which her duties might include pre-shoot coaching, on-set consulting and post-production dubbing.

Her goal: ensuring that actors have the freedom to run on the set because they've done the research and preparation. "I feel like I'm a success," she says, "when the actor is flying and doesn't need me."

STAY IN TOUCH



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OLYMPIC DREAMS



Alan Abrahamson's love of the Olympics dates to his teenage years, watching the Games at home in Clayton, Ohio. Later, as a young reporter, he hoped

to cover the 1980 Olympics—so much so that he studied Russian for four years. Then the U.S. announced it was boycotting the Moscow Games. Over the next two decades, Abrahamson took off a year to travel the world, went to law school and took a job with a big San Francisco law firm—but the Olympic dream remained.

Abrahamson finally got his chance in 2000, covering Australia's Sydney Games for the Los Angeles Times—the first of 18 Games he has covered and started him on a path to becoming one of the world's authorities on the Olympics.

Coming to the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism to teach journalism didn't end his Olympic career. Now he covers the Games for his own Olympics website, 3 Wire Sports, and besides writing stories, he also posts video blogs. (He's usually accompanied by Annenberg students, but the pandemic stopped that for now.)

Although his work may have changed, he still feels like that Ohio kid each time he walks into a new Olympic Village. "Very few people in life get to live out their dreams," he says. "I get to."

Think Green

Trying to protect the planet from pollution and climate change can feel like a heavy responsibility—a problem too overwhelming for small, everyday actions to matter. What good does it do to flick off the porch light or swap your car for a bike?

It can mean a lot, though, when you use the power of a big family to make a difference. That's what's happening at USC. Consider the water refill stations scattered across the university. When students, staff and faculty use their own water bottles instead of single-use plastic bottles, they take a strong stand against waste. Check out some other ways USC goes green.



SEEING STARS

Compare USC's progress on the national green scene against more than 1,000 universities through the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System. USC joined STARS in 2021 and earned a silver star, the third-highest rating awarded.



HERE COMES THE SUN

About 1,500 solar panels sit atop the Galen Center's roof, covering 50,000 square feet in USC's biggest sustainability project.



WASTE NOT

You can find 70 recycling stations with containers for sorting recyclables, compostable items, liquids and landfill trash on USC campuses. Expect 200 more by this summer.



SOAK IT IN

About 150 feet under USC Village's paving stones, water flows. A collection system of tanks and pipes captures rainwater and diverts it to the aquifer. The result: more water for L.A.'s supply, less wasted runoff to the ocean.



WINDS OF CHANGE

Hate loud leaf blowers? You won't find them at USC, where landscapers use environmentally friendly blowers powered by electricity.

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TROJAN

ON BALANCE

USC's Chevez Goodwin outmaneuvers Wooga Poplar of the Miami Hurricanes in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. The Trojans lost by 2 points, eliminating them from March Madness, but ended the season with a 26-8 record.



PHOTO BY JOHN MCGILLEN/USC ATHLETICS



Bin There, Done That

When life gives him abandoned fruit, USC's zero waste auditor makes dessert.

Josh Rebello is an auditor, though no tax returns are involved. His audits are done outdoors, wearing protective gear and sifting through bags of garbage, recyclables and compost materials.

"I'm a zero waste auditor, and that's not an easy job to explain," he says. "I tell people I do waste characterization, going through trash. As soon as they hear that they're like, 'Oh, you're a trash man.'"

Although Rebello has no issue with the "trash man" moniker, he's eager to explain what he really does. "I look at the bags that come from our recycling stations—landfill, recycling and compost—to get an idea of how people are using those bins," he says. "Once we know how we're doing, we can reinvest in educating people about what goes where."

Rebello is one of two zero waste auditors at USC, a duo expected to become a team of 20 in the next five years. They'll help USC move toward its goal of zero

waste—meaning 90% of all recyclables and compostable materials are diverted from landfills—by 2028.

Of course, if everyone lived like Rebello, there wouldn't be much trash to worry about. He composts at home, and he carries his own containers to stores that fill them with household products. Rebello makes his own lip balm with beeswax and jojoba oil. Toothpaste is baking soda and coconut oil. His dessert recipes include found fruit.

"I discovered some bananas in a compost bin," he says. "They were a little bruised but inside they were perfect, so I turned them into banana ice cream. A co-worker and I came across a box of apples that had been abandoned next to a compost bin. I put some in a bag, made apple crisp and brought it to work."

It's worth noting that Rebello carried the crisp to campus on the bus. He's lived in Los Angeles for three years without a car. Plenty of walking keeps him effortlessly thin.

At 26, Rebello has been auditing for several years. He can eyeball a transparent bag of trash and almost instantly estimate how much of it could have been recycled or composted. Wearing a sun hat that was a discarded dining hall decoration in a previous life, he tracks it all on a sturdy tablet. All that data contributes to a bigger tracking effort. Its conclusions are fed back into an education loop to help teach the campus community how to recycle the right way.

"In an ideal world, everything would just be reusable," Rebello says. "Because the industries that are making these things, they're not telling anyone the proper way to dispose of any of it. It isn't necessarily taught in school, and if your family isn't doing it, you're just not going to be aware. So that leaves the university to educate people." **RON MACKOVICH-RODRIGUEZ**



To watch a video of Josh Rebello explaining USC's multistream waste bins, visit uscne.ws/USCBins.

Good Chemistry

Two students come up with an innovative idea to a seemingly intractable environmental problem.



Chemists Nancy Bush and Caitlin Dinh won the 2021 USC Wrigley Sustainability Prize for cutting pollutants.

Nancy Bush and Caitlin Dinh grew up on different coasts but with a common interest: chemistry. Bush, a doctoral candidate from Connecticut studying inorganic chemistry, and Dinh, a senior from California majoring in chemistry, met for the first time last fall, but they've already become great partners. Working in the lab of Megan Fieser, Gabilan Assistant Professor of Chemistry who studies ways to tackle the problem of plastic pollution, they've been researching a method for making PVC plastic recyclable.

Their efforts have been so successful that the pair won first place in this year's Wrigley Sustainability Prize, awarded by the USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies. The competition seeks innovative

environmental ideas with market potential from the USC community. Bush and Dinh, who received a \$7,000 prize to help translate their idea into action, shared more about the

inspiration and science behind PV-C, their winning idea.

IN BRIEF, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM YOU'RE TRYING TO SOLVE?

PVC plastics are the third most produced in the world, yet cannot be recycled due to

the chlorine atom in their polymer structure. When the plastics are thrown away, the chlorine breaks down into corrosive acid and dioxins in landfills.

We plan to catalytically cleave the chlorine from the PVC, turning it into sodium chloride and polyethylene, one of the easiest plastics to recycle mechanically.

"It is now our job to find solutions that can better the lives of people and the planet."

WHAT MAKES YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT SOLVING THIS PROBLEM?

As chemists, it is hard for us to see so many pollutants that were made by chemists [leaching into] our water systems, landfills and food. It is now our job to find solutions that can better the lives of people and the planet.

FIVE YEARS FROM NOW, HOW DO YOU HOPE YOUR BUSINESS WILL HAVE IMPACTED SOCIETY?

Our idea, PV-C, could reduce PVC in landfills, reduce the need for virgin polyethylene plastic production and reclaim chlorine in the form of salt, which is easily reused for use in chlorine manufacturing, thus reducing the need for chlorine mining.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO FELLOW STUDENTS HOPING TO CREATE A SUSTAINABILITY-FOCUSED COMPANY?

Sustainability means so much more than just long-term environmental viability. It means keeping the Earth alive and thriving for the good of the people on it.

Many companies use the word sustainability but don't understand the full scope of their actions. What may seem like a helpful solution could actually harm others in the process. Do an entire analysis of your supply chain: Where are you sourcing materials? Who are you trusting to help run your business? The more thoughtful you are, the better the impact you will make.

HOW WILL YOU INVEST YOUR PRIZE MONEY?

The prize money will go toward supporting the scientific advancements needed to push our chemistry to commercial viability. With more experimental testing, we hope to find cheaper metals to work with, such as nickel, in order to make our process more cost-effective.

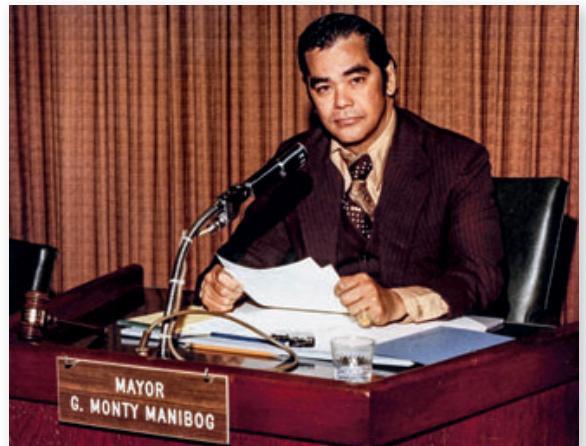
KATHRYN ROYSTER

Communities Uncovered

USC's latest digital collections highlight the voices that history often overlooks.

Who gets to tell the story of Los Angeles? To share and preserve the region's vibrant and diverse history, USC Libraries recently completed a three-year project documenting the lived experiences of Black, Jewish, Mexican American, and Asian and Pacific Island American communities in Southern California.

With support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the university partnered with archivists and volunteers at community organizations in the L.A. as Subject research alliance. In total, 15,755 pages of historical records, 1,000 photographs, 2,000 video recordings and 95 images of cultural objects are now freely accessible on several websites including the USC Digital Library.



▲ The **Filipino American Library** provided materials that record the Filipino American experience, including contributions during World War II and the community's growth in Southern California.



◀ The **Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum** offered material that highlights Mexican American, Chinese American and Japanese American life in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This broadside, or ad, from January 1929 highlights the noted baritone Gilberto Soria, one of the troupe who starred in the variety shows that kept audiences entertained.



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MLK/b
enc.



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◀ The **Southern California Library** offered its Emma Lazarus Jewish Women's Clubs of Los Angeles archives, which trace the group's advocacy during the 1950s and '60s for issues including civil rights for women and Black Americans.

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◀ Go for **Broke National Education Center's** recordings from the Hanashi Oral History program feature more than 1,000 videos, including interviews with decorated Japanese American World War II veterans.



◀ The **Pasadena Museum of History** contributed its Black History Collection, which traces the growth of the city's African American residential and business community starting in the early 20th century.



▲ The **FAME Church of Los Angeles** and the Cecil Murray Center for Community Engagement at the USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture contributed VHS recordings of sermons by Rev. Cecil "Chip" Murray capturing pivotal moments in U.S. life, including the acquittal of police officers who beat Rodney King.

Marvelous Machines

USC scientists put artificial intelligence to use in unexpected ways.

Artificial intelligence, or AI, may sound like something out of a sci-fi fantasy, but it's a part of the here and now. In fact, it's already providing benefits that just might surprise you. Here are three ways USC scientists are putting smart machines to work for humankind.

BUG ZAPPER

USC researchers devised a new way to fight back against the novel coronavirus by pinpointing the most promising vaccines and therapies in seconds—keeping us ahead of its mutations. Their machine-learning approach analyzes potential changes in the virus that causes COVID-19 and zeroes in on the best vaccine candidates.

LAUGH LINES

Alexa and Google are great at understanding commands—playing a song, giving you the forecast or turning down

the lights, for example—but their conversation skills could use some work. USC experts are hoping AI can learn from an unexpected source of dialogue: improv comedy. By feeding thousands of comedic exchanges into a chatbot system, the researchers hope to create a fun and witty conversation partner that you would never guess is actually powered by artificial intelligence.

PICTURE OF HEALTH

Researchers are turning to AI methods to comb through massive databases of information from Alzheimer's patients to identify early signs and potential causes of the disease. Scientists are also building a machine-learning tool to help radiologists analyze kidney scans for potential tumors, enabling physicians to identify and treat renal cancer earlier than ever.

ERIC LINDBERG



Paper, Not Plastic

A mechanical engineering student has a sustainable alternative to plastic.



Aidan Leitch loves to make stuff.

A junior studying mechanical engineering at the USC Viterbi School of

Engineering, he spends his free time creating 3D-printed bouncing balls and building robotic dogs. Recently, Leitch turned his attention to designing a possible plastic alternative.

He's found a way to press cardboard, newspaper, white paper or egg cartons into a dense, wood-like material using 3D molds and rice paste. The final material is rigid, fully biodegradable and easily moldable into intricate designs. "We're pretty used to paper being soft, thin and flat, but the pressed pulp is none of the above," Leitch says. "It doesn't tear, burn or crush as easily as the paper it was made from. But just like most paper, the material is easily compostable."

Leitch has created dishes, desk organizers and pencil holders, but he hopes this pressed pulp material can ultimately be used as a replacement for plastic for product packaging, takeout utensils and more.

"3D printing and other advanced manufacturing techniques are already revolutionizing how we fabricate everything," Leitch says. "Though often this means fancy new plastics or composite materials, I think advanced manufacturing offers new opportunities for traditional and sustainable materials like paper, too. I hope my project proves this and inspires other to explore these opportunities." LILA JONES

ILLUSTRATION BY JOSH COCHRAN

The Great Science Divide

Science denial isn't new—but we may have new ways to tackle it.



Just as Gale Sinatra handed her publisher the first draft of her book, COVID-19 struck. *Science Denial: Why It Happens and What to Do About It* would turn out to be more timely than she ever imagined.

Sinatra, an expert on climate science education, has spent decades studying science learning. As COVID-19 stoked science resistance and fears, the issue feels even more urgent. Here, the Stephen H. Crocker Professor of Education at the USC Rossier School of Education explains the divide between belief and doubt, answering the question: Is it possible for us to come together on this pressing issue?

IS THERE MORE SCIENCE RESISTANCE NOW BECAUSE OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND COVID-19?

Science denial has been around since Galileo, who was imprisoned for suggesting the Earth wasn't the center of the universe. It may just seem more extreme now because social media spreads mis- and disinformation so rapidly. We like to say that a lie goes all the

way around the world while the truth is still trying to get its pants on.

Misinformation is very seductive—whether it's interesting, odd, curious or humorous—so people share it. We know from the recent testimony of a former Facebook employee that if people click on misinformation because it's intriguing, interesting or fits their point of view, algorithms will spread it more quickly than what might be a boring truth.

Being in social media bubbles, we have the same information—some scientifically accurate, some not—reinforced over and over again.

WHAT ABOUT MISINFORMATION SPREAD BY SOMEONE CONSIDERED A LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY?

During the pandemic, we witnessed the messy business of science changing in real time in response to rapidly evolving information. At first, we were washing groceries, then told

that wasn't necessary. Initially, we weren't wearing masks then later were told we had to. This created a lot of confusion and mistrust. People thought scientists were changing their minds. In actuality, new information was becoming available, providing evidence that changed their thinking.

ARE CLIMATE CHANGE SKEPTICS HAVING A CHANGE OF HEART?

I've been doing climate change education research for over 15 years and have seen an active shift in the public's awareness of the climate crisis as well as reasons to believe there's hope for massive change.

The youth activism movement, including USC students, is heavily interested in climate change and mitigating impact. We're seeing universities and monetary funds divesting from their investments in fossil fuels, a noteworthy economic shift. Political interest is also shifting.

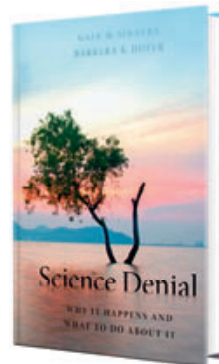
HOW CAN TRUST BE RESTORED?

The science behind vaccines is so politicized, it led to a lot of distrust. There shouldn't be anything political about COVID-19. Viruses don't know if you're conservative or liberal.

Everyone should look for multiple sources of information. I would never trust a single scientist or report. Everyone can make mistakes. You want a broad consensus. One of the facts that persuaded people early on to take the vaccine was that 97% of doctors chose to be vaccinated—not just their family physician or a doctor on TV, but the vast majority of physicians.

Trust is built by listening to people, being empathetic about legitimate concerns and referring them to reliable, trusted sources with accurate information.

This interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.





Finding Home

With the help of USC law students, a woman wins a 16-year case to remain in the U.S.

Nerves were high when Sophia Duenas appeared in U.S. immigration court last fall. Not only was it the first time the second-year law student had ever appeared before a judge, but her client had been fighting to remain in the U.S. since 2004.

The judge handed down the ruling: Her client would be on track to earn a green card. Both Duenas and her client, a Salvadoran woman living in Los Angeles, could barely control their emotions.

"[The client] was in shock," says Duenas, the last of at least 17 students who have represented her through the USC Gould School of Law Immigration Clinic. "She jumped up and gave me a big hug. We were so excited in the moment. She was crying. I cried, too. It's absurd she had to wait this long, but I'm happy she can finally have some peace."

A LONG JOURNEY

Pro bono teaching clinics like the USC Immigration Clinic are a lifeline for people

without resources to navigate America's complex legal system. Niels Frenzen, a co-director at the clinic, estimates the cost of a private attorney over 16 years to be \$50,000.

"She's a single mom trying to survive and support her kids and care for her mother," says Jean Reisz, the other co-director of the clinic. "Not only did she have to wait a long time for relief, but to prepare her case and for multiple court hearings, she had to take off time from work, and she would sometimes lose her job."

At 16 years, the case isn't the lengthiest handled by the clinic, but the number of delays in this case was unusual. The client initially applied for asylum as a survivor of domestic violence in El Salvador, but legal recognition on that basis shifted over three successive presidential administrations. Finally a U.S. Supreme Court decision in 2020 allowed Duenas to make the case for remaining in the U.S. because her client cares for her mother, who lives with dementia.

To argue her case, Duenas presented testimony from Laura Mosqueda, a professor of family medicine and geriatrics at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. "The case turned on this expert witness who could talk about what would happen if the client was removed," Duenas says. "It was a huge deal to find Dr. Mosqueda. We are a pro bono clinic so we rely on people to volunteer their time and knowledge."

LASTING LESSONS

Frenzen and Reisz designed the clinic to give USC Gould students real-world experience working with clients who have undergone trauma. Learning professional detachment while coping with law school and personal lives can be overwhelming, so keeping a good life balance is an important lesson.

Duenas says appearing in the courtroom was intimidating but a phenomenal experience. She's gained confidence that she can succeed as a lawyer. Still, the final outcome was the greatest reward of all. "[The client] is so hardworking and has this beautiful family, and she took her mother in to care for her full-time. She is the image of an amazing citizen and person." **LESLIE RIDGEWAY**

A Towering Legacy

A historic campus building is renamed in honor of renowned alumnus Joseph Medicine Crow.

Joseph Medicine Crow MA '39 had a knack for making history.

He was the first member of the Apsáalooke (Crow) Nation to earn a master's degree. He became the tribe's last war chief in recognition of heroic actions while fighting for the U.S. Army during World War II. He was a tribal historian for more than 50 years, publishing seminal and influential works about Native American history and culture. And now, the late USC alumnus will be honored with a prominent and lasting place in his alma mater's history.

In the fall, university leaders announced the naming of the Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow Center for International and Public Affairs. The historic building has been home to programs in anthropology, art history, international relations, political science and applied social sciences. Its

tower bears one of USC's most visible landmarks, the stylized globe.

The war veteran and scholar was selected by a committee charged with identifying an alum who reflected the university's values, embodied its mission and established a legacy of leadership. A scholarship program for Native American students will also be established in his name.

Medicine Crow completed his master's degree in anthropology while on scholarship in 1939 and received an honorary doctorate in 2003—one of four honorary doctorates awarded throughout his life. In 2009, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, in recognition of his military service and contributions to Native American history. Medicine Crow died in 2016 at age 102. **ERIC LINDBERG**



USC's Center for International and Public Affairs will bear the name of alum Joseph Medicine Crow.

Anatomy of a Startup

Senior Kyle Adomian launched a successful tutoring startup—all before he graduated.

During his freshman year, business major Kyle Adomian was looking for a tutor to help with his calculus class. Wouldn't it be great, Adomian thought, to find tutors who had taken the class you need help with? The idea for TutorTies was born.

Adomian developed his idea, built an app and changed the traditional tutoring dynamic. Here's how he did it. **JULIE RIGGOTT**

1

CREATING A NETWORK

To launch his idea, Adomian connects students and tutors using a Google form. He recruits tutors for major classes across USC schools.

2

GETTING THE WORD OUT

TutorTies grows by word of mouth. USC Marshall School of Business posts about it on Instagram, where an alum spots it and offers seed money.

3

TAPPING BUSINESS EXPERTISE

Adomian works with a USC professor to develop his app. He also reaches out for advice and leads from his professors.

4

PRODUCT LAUNCH

The app debuts in 2020. Features include the familiar swipe right or left for a match. Users also can chat with tutors.

5

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

TutorTies begins with 90 active tutors. In its first semester, it generates 150 tutoring sessions.

6

BUILDING ON SUCCESS

For the spring 2021 semester, it books 350 USC tutoring sessions and increases revenue by 175%.

7

NEW HORIZONS

TutorTies expands to Michigan, Duke and Northwestern, among other campuses.

8

HANDS-ON LEARNING

Adomian, now a senior, describes TutorTies as "invaluable": "I've been able to touch so many ... industries such as marketing, finance ... even legal."

Best in Class

USC's 2021 entering undergrad class is the most diverse and talented yet.

When USC welcomed students back to campus last fall, it also set a new bar for academics and diversity. The incoming Class of 2025 is the highest-achieving group yet and includes a record-setting number of students from diverse backgrounds.

The university also continues its commitment to financial aid. The incoming class is the second to benefit from the Affordability Initiative, which offers free tuition to new first-year students from families with incomes less than \$80,000. Last year, nearly 900 first-year students benefited from the initiative, representing an increase in financial aid of more than \$7 million. **RON MACKOVICH-RODRIGUEZ**

BY THE NUMBERS: MEET USC'S FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

53%
of the first-year class are women

25%
had straight A's in high school

23%
are the first in their families to attend college, a record

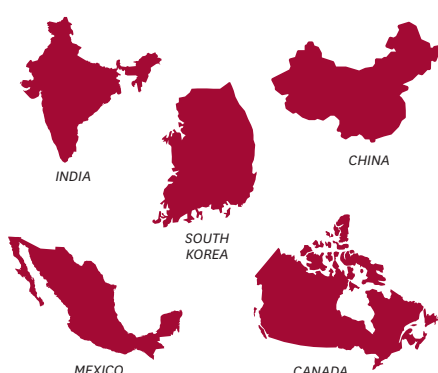
ONE
out of
FIVE
students is Latino

ALMOST 200
earned their diplomas from the Los Angeles Unified School District

MOST REPRESENTED STATES:



MOST REPRESENTED COUNTRIES:



A Teacher and Healer

A radiology expert brings a passion for health equity to her new role as dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

Carolyn C. Meltzer has been appointed dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC, Southern California's oldest medical school. She previously served as the William P. Timmie Professor and chair of the Department of Radiology and Imaging Sciences at Emory University in Atlanta. She oversaw a medical enterprise responsible for more than 1.5 million procedures each year and held prominent leadership roles at the university's medical school: the executive associate dean of faculty academic advancement, leadership and inclusion, and the chief diversity and inclusion officer.

In her leadership roles at Emory, she emphasized inclusion and social justice, and she plans to continue focusing on equity at the Keck School of Medicine. "Teams that bring together diverse expertise and perspectives are needed to elevate health equity as a societal imperative," she says.

An expert in neuroradiology and nuclear medicine, Meltzer has conducted research to understand the brain's structure and function during normal aging, dementia, Alzheimer's disease and psychiatric disorders in later life. She also specializes in cancer imaging research.

Meltzer earned her medical degree from The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and completed her graduate medical education at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. She holds an undergraduate degree in biology and neurobiology with honors from Cornell University. **ERIC LINDBERG**

Climate + Art History



Thomas Cole's 1826 painting from the USC Fisher Collection portends environmental dangers and foreshadows troubles yet to come.

In Thomas Cole's 1826 painting, *The Woodchopper, Lake Featherstonhaugh*—part of USC's Fisher Museum of Art's collection—a laborer attacks an oak tree with his ax. Trees frame the composition, leading the eye through the estate belonging to the painter's English-born patron George William Featherstonhaugh, geologist and railroad entrepreneur. Cattle and sheep graze on the smooth turf, which dips toward a picturesque lake and a dense forest in which houses are scattered in its clearings. Beyond, the gently rising mountains and the expanse of sky speak to America's vastness.

What the eye doesn't linger on are the distant trees: hemlocks, which in the early 19th century, were vulnerable to human activity. They were cleared to provide agricultural land; their bark was stripped and sent to tanneries.

When we look at a painting from the past, we may observe signs of environmental change that are already happening, such as the clearance of woodland, but we also have an opportunity to think about the damage that lies in the future. Everyday elements such as hemlocks in a landscape are significant because they can register change—frequently, the long, slow process of ecological degradation.

Our surviving hemlocks are newly threatened. Once commonplace in the Northeast, they are vulnerable to the woolly adelgid beetle, which thrives on drought-weakened trees. Even if Cole's hemlocks survived felling, their prognosis is poor.

Art speaks to these environmental threats, not just through our projections onto earlier paintings but also through new work that reaches back into the earlier period. Jean

Shin's *Fallen* (2021) powerfully addresses the hemlock's history and its vulnerability.

Around 1880, Cole's close friend, artist Frederic Church, planted a hemlock sapling outside his house. This tree died several years ago. Felled, laid across two boulders by Shin and stripped of its bark, it's like a body at rest.

She clothed the trunk with leather waste from the fashion industry—a “custom-made shroud” she called it—as a way to reflect on hemlock's history

and on ecological collapse. A single tree symbolizes collective loss, in the past and now. It's a prompt to refrain from taking the background of 19th-century paintings for granted, any more than we should fail to think about the trees around us. It prompts us to look back earlier paintings and reflect on the future that they unknowingly contain. **KATE FLINT**

About the Author

Kate Flint is Provost Professor of Art History and English at the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. Her research spans the 19th and 21st centuries and among her books are *The Victorians and the Visual Imagination* and *Flash! Photography, Writing and Surprising Illumination*.

Art Reimagined

“Art is not what you see,” French Impressionist Edgar Degas said, “but what you make others see.”

Students from around the world pursue degrees at USC Roski School of Art and Design. As those in creative fields have done for centuries, the artists whose works you see here seek to explore, expand and understand our globe. Using their creative talents to express their observations and passions, they reflect intently on nature, how it has endured, how it struggles and, most important, how humankind has used—and misused—it.

Some of these works advocate change; others offer alternate paths to creating, conserving and living sustainably. But all of them, some haunting, some hopeful, ask the viewer to contemplate what is and what could be.



▲ ROLLING HILLS, FROM THE SERIES

“KILL ONLY TIME” (2021), by USC Roski student Gabriel Tolson, revisits art’s historical imagination of the American West as a self-consuming vision.



LAST VISIT 1 (2021) is one work in a series by USC Roski student Grace Fries. In this series of photographs, the artist envisions a future that includes saying goodbye to the grounds that give us life but reminds us of our culpability for its demise.

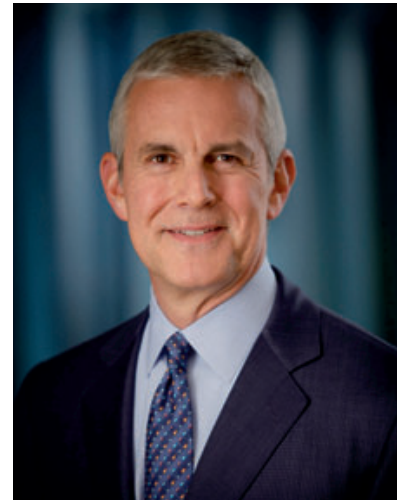


▲ WITNESS OF LAND, HISTORIC PALM TREE AT EXPOSITION PARK (2021)

Roski alum Hings Lim envisions trees as living time capsules of land and witnesses to history, including climate change, migration, colonization, industrialization and urbanization.



◀
ZERO WASTE BAG (2021) Created by Roski student Paola Espinosa, this work uses repurposed discarded textiles. In quilt-like form, the trash is now a usable grocery bag.



Trojan Leader

Business executive Robert D. Beyer joins the USC Board of Trustees.

For Robert D. Beyer '81, joining the USC Board of Trustees continues a decade-long dedication of support for the university.

The noted investor and business executive is a graduate of the USC Marshall School of Business and has been a member of the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences Board of Councilors for 20 years.

Beyer is chairman of Chaparral Investments, a personal investment and holding company. Previously, he served as the executive chairman of Crescent Acquisition Corp., a special-purpose acquisition company; the CEO of the TCW Group, a global investment management firm; and a member of the Executive Committee of Société Générale Asset Management, which acquired TCW in 2001.

He has also served on several boards, including the UCLA Anderson School of Management's Board of Advisors and the Board of Directors of Providence Saint John's Health Center. His expertise spans issues such as corporate governance, risk management and the evolution of institutional structures.

Beyer is the father of four adult children and lives with his wife, Catherine, in Los Angeles. **DAVID MEDZERIAN**

▶
DREAM (2021), by USC Roski student Lu Chen, is made from household garbage. It reinforces the notion that objects can create beauty and impart meaning, no matter how humble their origins.



Investing in Inclusivity

USC's cinema school builds a more welcoming culture, one conversation at a time.

USC's goal to increase diversity in gaming has a big boost from one of the industry's biggest names: Microsoft's Xbox Game Studios.

The gaming giant is one of the first supporters of the Gerald A. Lawson Endowment Fund for Black and Indigenous Students, which was created to advance inclusion and representation in the gaming and entertainment industries. The fund, which is named in honor of one of the first Black engineers in gaming, offers financial support to Black and Indigenous

students pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees in USC's top-ranked game design program. Students who receive support from the fund will be known as Lawson Scholars.

The fund is just the latest initiative at the School of Cinematic Arts to bring more underrepresented voices into the gaming and entertainment industry. Read on to learn about how USC is working to build a more welcoming, supportive and inclusive environment for marginalized communities.



WARM WELCOMES

Orientation events for new cinema school students were organized in collaboration with the African American Cinema Society and QSCA, offering Black and LGBTQIA+ students resources and community-building opportunities.

A FOCUS ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Students, faculty and staff teamed up to discuss specific challenges and present suggestions to effect change. Current diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) groups include a Disability Caucus, an Anti-Black Racism Taskforce and a Gender-Neutral Bathrooms Team.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

A newsletter and social media accounts were launched under the inclusiveSCA name to keep the campus community looped in on community events and other important efforts on diversity and inclusion at the school.

FILMMAKER FOCUS

The School of Cinematic Arts' Council for Diversity & Inclusion continued its collaboration with L.A. Skins Fest, a film festival centered on Indigenous filmmakers. Events this semester included a panel discussion on Native women in animation.

BEYOND THE TEXTBOOK

New classroom guides and workshops help faculty incorporate DEI suggestions into their work. Additional training workshops include "DEI & Wellbeing," "Building Community Agreements and Norms" and "Getting Comfortable with Challenging Discussions in the Classroom." **ELISA HUANG**

A Seat at the Table

More than half of first-year business students are women—a milestone for gender parity.

When Jerne Ward, a first-year business major, walked into her classes at the start of the semester, she expected to find a majority male environment. "I had never heard of a business school, especially a prestigious school, with equal numbers of males and females," she says.

As it turns out, Ward is part of the first undergraduate class at the USC Marshall School of Business to reach gender parity. On the first

day of the fall semester, Ward was among the women making up 52% of the Class of 2025 enrolled at the business school. "This makes me proud to be a Trojan, but especially proud to be a Marshall student," she says.

The achievement reflects the school's commitment to build a class that represents the gender parity that's lacking at the highest levels of the business world. To create a pipeline of future female leaders, the school worked closely with USC admissions to recruit students, highlighting the school's standout leadership programs and international opportunities as well as prominent women faculty. The school also created new scholarships aimed at attracting women.

USC Marshall has made impressive strides in its graduate programs as well. In 2018, it became the first top-20 MBA program to reach gender parity. **JULIE TILSNER**

You Never Have To Go Anywhere Else For Best-In-Class Care

At the new USC Cardiac and Vascular Institute, we put you at the center of your care. Our multidisciplinary team of cardiologists and cardiac and vascular surgeons works together to develop a treatment plan customized just for you. This integrated approach ensures you'll receive the best care experience and achieve the best possible outcome.

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Keck Medicine
of **USC**

To save her brother's life, Elizabeth is getting in shape.

The 38-year-old Kern County, California, resident, whose last name is not being used to ensure the family's privacy, changed her cooking and her workout routines and has dropped 32 pounds since September 2020. Keck Medicine of USC physicians told her she would be an ideal kidney donor for her older brother—if it weren't for her weight, which put her out of range to donate safely.

Her transformation was aided by a donor wellness program launched last year by the USC Transplant Institute. Transplant sur-

For example, Elizabeth liked to snack on flavored yogurt. Kim advised her to look at the label and see how much added sugar it had. The numbers startled her. "I was like, 'Wait, I was eating this?'"

Kim suggested she switch to plain Greek yogurt and add fresh fruit. "Less sugar, less calories, but you get the same result," Elizabeth says. "Small changes like that."

To Give

At Keck Medicine of USC, keeping both organ transplant recipients and their donors ...

geons realized that as many as a third of living donors were turned away because they didn't meet the necessary health requirements. The donor wellness program aims to solve two problems: increase the pool of available living donors while also improving the donor's own health and well-being.

The program is one part of the university's effort to improve organ transplant outcomes. From helping potential donors get healthy to examining racial disparities to protecting patients from COVID-19, Keck Medicine physicians are searching for more and better ways to keep both donors and recipients healthy and active.

A GAME PLAN FOR SUCCESS

Elizabeth's journey began because she wanted to help her brother, who had been on dialysis for several years. He is the third of the six siblings; Elizabeth is the fifth.

The siblings agreed Elizabeth was the best candidate. For one thing, she had one child, a teenage daughter, and didn't plan to have more.

But USC's transplant coordinators told her that she would have to lose at least 20 pounds to qualify as a viable donor. She dieted and worked out as many as five times a week, but after a year, lab tests showed she was still 10 pounds over the target weight.

That's when Elizabeth was introduced to Susan Kim, a nurse and clinical nutrition and wellness manager. Kim headed up the newly launched donor wellness program, and Elizabeth became one of its first participants. Kim knew she was already working out and counting calories, so she started talking about nutrition.

The small changes added up, and the pounds started to drop off.

WHEN DEMAND EXCEEDS SUPPLY

Elizabeth's success is part of the vision of the living donor program—an initiative born of frustration.

Southern California is one of the most difficult places in the nation to live if you need a new liver or kidney, says Aaron Ahearn, associate director of the liver transplantation program at Keck Medicine of USC. That's partly because of good trends: A healthier population means fewer people collapsing and dying of heart attacks or strokes, which frees up organs for donation. On the other hand, the large metro area also includes many residents whose health is declining, often the result of living for decades in impoverished and underserved neighborhoods. "You essentially have to be in the ICU in multi-organ failure before you can get a liver transplant," Ahearn says.

One solution to this dilemma is living organ donor transplantation. Keck Medicine has one of the few living donor programs in Southern California, but surgeons were turning away about 30% of candidates.





“We realized it was a problem on both sides,” he says. “The donors were at higher risk of developing their own diseases due to the health consequences of being overweight. And the recipients were in desperate need of an organ. This was an opportunity to improve everyone’s health.”

It turned out that not only was a donor wellness program “good karma,” as Ahearn puts

patients didn’t qualify for transplants until they were at a more advanced state of kidney disease than white patients, he says.

Keck Medicine decided to eliminate those calculations from its system. “We’ve rectified that,” Jim Kim says. “We’re no longer using any of these equations that take race into account.”

TAKING COVER FROM COVID

The coronavirus threw a wrench into the transplant program when it landed in the U.S. in 2020, particularly when a bad COVID-19 wave

Receive

... healthy is all part of the plan. by CONSTANCE SOMMER Illustration by SIMONE NORONHA

it, but it also made good financial sense. If a patient couldn’t get a living donor transplant, she would have to wait until she was deathly ill to get one from a deceased donor. The cost of caring for her in the ICU while she awaited that transplant and later recovered, weak from the surgery, was greater than offering free services to potential living donors, he says.

Besides nutrition counseling, the donor wellness program offers participants personalized meal plans and help with time and stress management from occupational therapists. A welcome packet includes a bathroom scale, a blood pressure monitor and a step-tracking watch. “You want to make it all as easy as possible, as manageable as possible,” Kim says.

Keck Medicine also took a hard look at its own team and began examining its own structural biases. After news reports of racial disparities in kidney transplants, Jim Kim, a surgeon at Keck Medicine specializing in organ transplants, worked with his team to review how they calculated kidney function for patients. They were surprised to realize that the equations they used contained racial biases. These were the same equations used for decades around the country, but Black

hit Southern California in November and December of that year. Ahearn started getting calls from transplant patients who tested positive. Because their immune systems were suppressed, they had a high mortality rate. “We realized COVID was devastating for our recipients, and we needed to do something to retard disease progression,” he says.

Ahearn and his team built a system on the fly. The kidney and liver transplant programs set up regular telemedicine visits, sent patients pulse oximeters to measure oxygen levels and heart rates and provided monoclonal antibody infusions to fight the first signs of disease. As a result, coronavirus hospitalizations for USC transplant recipients dropped from 54% to 35%, and deaths dropped to zero in a two-month period for transplant patients who received monoclonal antibody infusions.

“It was really important that our transplant patients be educated that their risk is different than the general population,” Ahearn says, “but there are things they could do to reduce their risk, so they needed to communicate with us.”

Communication has also been key for Elizabeth’s success. Regular telemedicine visits with Susan Kim helped the potential donor overhaul her diet and lose 12 more pounds. She’s now a fan of lentils and brown rice, vegetables and nuts. Her daughter has also embraced the changes to their meals, and her sisters-in-law ask her to share her new recipes. “This is a new lifestyle for me,” she says.

She is hopeful that at her next appointment, the transplant team will give her the green light to proceed with the donation.

“I just want to make my brother feel better,” she says. “They [the transplant team] asked me when would I be available to do the transplant. I told them, whenever my brother is ready, I’ll be ready.”



YOUR BRAIN ON AIR POLLUTION

**RESEARCHERS ACROSS USC HAVE
JOINED FORCES TO UNCOVER THE
CONNECTION BETWEEN THE AIR WE
BREATHE AND LIFELONG BRAIN HEALTH.**

BY CANDACE PEARSON • PAINTINGS BY JASON HOLLEY

Another blue-sky morning dawns in Southern California as Jiu-Chiuan Chen prepares for his daily run through his tree-lined Fullerton neighborhood. When the USC physician and epidemiologist steps outside, he spots a gray-brown haze hugging the horizon. He checks the Air Quality Index on his phone and goes back inside.

About 35 miles north in Glendale, Jennifer Ailshire wonders whether she should hop on her bike and explore the San Gabriel Mountain foothills. The USC sociologist clicks on the Air Quality Index on her laptop before deciding it's safe to ride.

In Culver City to the west, Lauren Salminen considers the wisdom of hiking in the Santa Monica Mountains. She can see a misty scrim in the distance, but is that morning fog or smog? The USC neurology instructor decides this might be a day for yoga indoors.

These USC scientists—each an experienced researcher in brain aging—know that air pollution does more than ruin a good workout. Medical science has long recognized the impact of air pollution on the lungs, but now research at USC is helping define the environment's impact on the brain. Growing evidence links the long-term effects of dirty air to accelerated cognitive decline and dementia.

USC researchers, including Chen, hope to better understand environmental effects and gene-environment interactions on brain health. "USC has the perfect soil to grow this new area of research," he says.

An Inspiration Point

The USC Children's Health Study, launched in 1993 and now involving about 12,000 school-age children, is one of the nation's largest and longest-running research projects on children's respiratory health. Its researchers have contributed crucial data that have deepened understanding of lung health, including evidence that kids who live in more polluted areas have poorer lung function, reduced lung growth, and more asthma and lung damage than those in less-polluted areas.

When kids move away from polluted neighborhoods, their lung function improves, a discovery that has inspired other scientists to ask: If L.A.'s bad air is affecting our breathing, what about our brains?

What they're finding is critical, including who is most at risk. "The aging brain is vulnerable to air pollution," says Caleb Finch, a USC gerontologist and expert on the biology of aging and also co-principal investigator in the AirPollBrain Group. "For too long, the role of environmental neurotoxins in Alzheimer's disease has been neglected."

Within a few years of joining forces, Chen and Finch reported the first evidence that a critical Alzheimer's risk gene—APOE4—speeds brain aging when it interacts with fine air particles.

In 2011, the colleagues received the first-ever National Institutes of Health grant to study the connections between air pollution and Alzheimer's. Since then, about one-fourth of the 220 NIH-funded research grants focused on air pollution and dementia have come to USC.

Finch and Chen have also succeeded in attracting more than two dozen USC scientists to the AirPollBrain Group, crossing disciplines and schools to unite neuroscientists, environmental health experts, engineers, gerontologists, physicians, sociologists and more.

The result: In 2018, the National Institute on Aging awarded USC researchers a five-year \$11.5 million grant to examine how urban air pollution contributes to an increased risk of dementia.

Small Particles Make a Big Impact

Air pollution wreaks havoc primarily through systemic inflammation, Finch says, and that exposure can lead to the formation of amyloid plaques, the proteins that form between the brain's nerve cells that are the hallmarks of Alzheimer's.

Researchers have fine particle pollution, also known as PM2.5, in their sights. The tiny, inhalable pollutants come from cars, power plants and coal and wood-burning fuel. Its name comes from its size—smaller than 2.5 microns in diameter or about 30 times smaller than the width of a human hair. But the impact, once inhaled, is huge.

The microscopic particles can pass directly through the nose or lungs and slip through the blood-brain barrier, which is supposed to protect our brains from all invaders. "Pollution is breaking down our barriers," says Megan Herting, a USC public health scientist whose lab uses advanced neuroimaging to study how the brain develops during childhood.

For reasons not yet fully understood, women in their 70s and 80s who live in areas with high levels of air pollution are at particular risk for Alzheimer's-like brain shrinkage compared with women who routinely breathe cleaner air.

But kids aren't immune. USC studies have shown that even at relatively low levels, toxic air may alter the size of a child's

developing brain and boost the risk of cognitive and emotional problems in adolescence.

How Bad is Our Air?

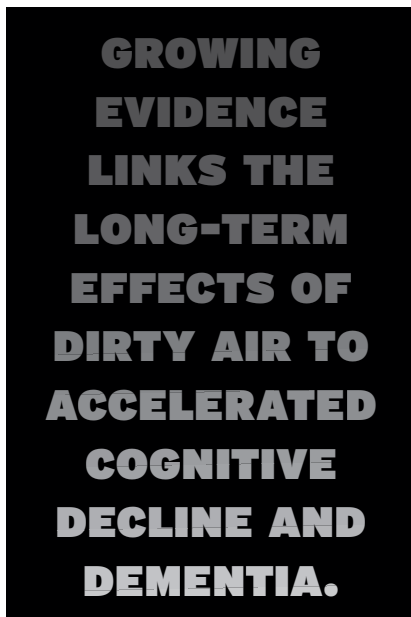
The Los Angeles-Long Beach region ranks first in the nation for ozone pollution and fourth in year-round fine particle pollution, according to the American Lung Association.

Pollution declines in the last 10 to 15 years nationally and in L.A. have been a public health success story. "It shows that if we put our minds to it, we can make our environment a healthier place to live," Ailshire says. In 2021, she and Finch, her colleague in the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology, reported in separate studies that showed a decrease in neurotoxic PM2.5 air pollution in humans and in laboratory studies.

In the last few years, she has seen some backsliding to unhealthy levels. "We have to be constantly vigilant," she says. "We can't get ahead of ourselves and declare a victory."

Ailshire is particularly interested in the "social ecology" of air pollution—the intersection of socioeconomic and physical risks—driven by the fact that polluted air tends to be worse in poorer neighborhoods. "Air pollution isn't just a physical characteristic," Ailshire says. "It's a social phenomenon produced by humans, for the most part."

Finch has been studying brain health for decades. In experimental studies, he and his team have shown that air pollution damages some parts of the brain that also are vulnerable to Alzheimer's







disease. Multiple factors influence the odds someone will develop Alzheimer's disease. "There's no silver bullet—it's a machine gun," Finch says. An individual's risk can be a combination of several things, and air and chemical pollution are high on that list.

Tracking Pollution's Impact Across the Lifespan

Within the Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center at USC, program leaders Chen and Herting work at opposite ends of the age spectrum to pinpoint the environmental determinants of cognitive decline.

Increasingly, evidence shows that older people are more likely to develop dementia if they live in places that have high PM2.5. Chen's research has shown that women in their 70s and 80s are particularly vulnerable to structural changes in the brain and memory loss, for reasons not yet fully understood.

Chen also has found that PM2.5 particles are tied to the disproportionate number of Black Americans affected by dementia, partly because people of color are statistically more likely to live in neighborhoods near polluting facilities. Even when researchers accounted for the incidence of cardiovascular disease and other factors, Black women were twice as susceptible as non-Hispanic whites to dementia risk from air pollution. "That is a puzzle we still have to solve," Chen says.

Air pollution also can affect children's brain development. "One of the young brain's most important jobs is creating efficient pathways," Herting says. These pathways are critical because they form the essential brain circuitry that supports future learning and life skills. Lately, she's focusing on kids 9 to 10, ages at which, she says, brain cells proliferate and prune themselves as kids head into adolescence. Herting's team has demonstrated that kids exposed to noxious air have smaller areas in their brains associated with cognitive function and larger areas associated with emotion than kids breathing less-polluted air.

Her work is part of the national Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study, the largest investigation of its kind in the U.S. "We're adding the environmental factor, one of the least-investigated areas," she says.

To understand the bigger picture across the lifespan, Chen and Herting collaborated with Salminen, instructor of research neurology at the USC Mark and Mary Stevens Neuroimaging and Informatics Institute, to create the ENIGMA-ENV Working Group. "We know things like air pollution can increase dementia risk and vascular problems decades after exposure," Salminen says. "But we have so much to learn about the processes that underlie those changes."

Together, they are pooling brain scans from more than 60,000 people worldwide, who span all ages and range from healthy to those diagnosed with neurological disorders. The scientists rely on geospatial technology to map each participant's home location and pollution exposure.

This global study builds on the success of ENIGMA Consortium, an international medical network of neuroimaging researchers studying major diseases of the brain, led by USC Stevens Associate

Director Paul M. Thompson. "The ENIGMA-ENV Working Group is a truly global quest to identify environmental factors that help or harm our brain," says Thompson, one of USC's leading Alzheimer's researchers. "Comparing data worldwide should reveal what factors help our brains develop and age, and what protects us against mental illness, which may ultimately guide public health policy."

With this big-picture effort, USC is reaching beyond its Los Angeles roots to examine air pollution across all ages and sources. "We're excited to be able to get more specific about what we mean when we say 'air pollution,'" Salminen says.

Protecting Ourselves Now and Beyond

What can we do to protect our brain health? Moving away from highly polluted areas may be the ultimate protective strategy, but that option isn't open to everyone. So USC scientists are on the hunt for other defenses.

In a study published in August 2020, Chen and his fellow authors looked at the protective powers of eating fish loaded with omega-3 fatty acids. "We found that women with higher blood levels of omega-3s had larger volumes of white matter in their brains," he says—even women living in locations with higher PM2.5 levels. White matter, most of the brain's volume, represents a vast system of neural connections. Its loss is considered an early marker of Alzheimer's disease.

Next, Chen and Finch plan to expand their search for pollution counterbalances into supplements such as vitamins B, C and E. But they expect that any potential formula will not be one-size-fits-all.

The data generated at USC could have lasting implications for clean air standards and other regulations. Chen would like to see laws restricting placement of assisted living facilities near freeways much as is done now with schools. Herting wants air pollution facts to empower people to make their own decisions, "including who they want to elect to represent them on this life-critical issue," she says.

She moved to Los Angeles from Oregon, where she was an avid runner. She's mostly given that up. Now expecting her first child, she has been studying the locations of day care centers and schools in relation to L.A.'s byways.

When Finch arrived at USC in 1972, the federal Environmental Protection Agency was just 2 years old, and L.A. was infamous for its thick, hazy air. For decades, air quality officials warned the public to stay indoors on high smog days. Finch searched the L.A. Basin for a place with cleaner skies, eventually landing in northern Pasadena.

He lives there still and considers that health decision as important as the ones made about diet and exercise. When he drives, he keeps his car vents closed. A little self-protection goes a long way, he says, "but you can't walk around the city with a scuba tank filled with oxygen on your back."

In many ways, he's optimistic about the future, inspired by the energetic brain-health collaborations at the university. "I could not imagine," he says, "being able to do this kind of multidisciplinary work anyplace outside USC."

**AN
INDIVIDUAL'S
RISK CAN BE A
COMBINATION
OF SEVERAL
THINGS, AND
AIR AND
CHEMICAL
POLLUTION
ARE HIGH ON
THAT LIST.**



In a Landscape

By Elisa Huang



AS THE SUMMER afternoon started to fade over Vista House, a historic building perched along Oregon's Historic Columbia River Highway, Hunter Noack '11 was playing his 9-foot grand piano. Two hundred people listened to his outdoor concert against the sweeping backdrop of the Columbia River Gorge. Then, the USC Thornton School of Music alumnus remembers hearing a distant rumbling rising from the highway.

"Suddenly, a gang of Harleys roared up and did circles around the piano," says Noack, a classically trained pianist. "It was the juxtaposition of everything that isn't supposed to go together. But it felt so striking and perfect."

Classical music concerts aren't usually accompanied by motorcycles or staged outdoors along a highway. But when those elements combined that summer day, they captured an energy and spontaneity that would be hard to replicate, an ultimate "you had to be there" moment. An older friend later told Noack it was one of the top five experiences of his life.

These outdoor performances that connect people with music are exactly what Noack hopes to create with *In a Landscape*, his piano concerts that are performed at ranches, farms, state parks, managed timber forests and historic sites across the West. "I'm like the background soundtrack," he says. Audience members listen through wireless headphones so they can stand, stretch, dance or wander during the concert.

Noack was inspired by the federal Works Progress Administration's music and theater programs during the Great Depression. The government agency, later renamed the Work Projects Administration, put thousands of artists and musicians to work staging free performances in public spaces. "Arts were part of our country's overall health just as much as roads," Noack says.

When he first started *In a Landscape*, he wanted to offer a new way to enjoy classical music. But with each performance, he realized something more was going on. People of various ages, backgrounds and beliefs found a sense of connectedness. Some were moved to tears. Others felt a deep peace. Many were energized. "It really showed the power, even magic, of music and nature," he says. "How many opportunities do we have to find meaningful and healing moments in fellowship with 200 or 300 other people?"

So far, his concerts have been mostly in Oregon and the West, but Noack hopes to expand. He also plans to continue offering low-priced and subsidized tickets so more people can attend. "I get so excited and want to go everywhere and perform for more people," he says.





After a performance, audience members often leave feedback. A sampling: “I haven’t found peace like this in a long time.” “Ecstatic music in an ancient landscape ... Divine!” “Best musical experience of my life.”

Concertgoers listen using wireless headphones so they can move around freely. “You can experience the music in whatever way is most comfortable to you,” Noack says, “but it won’t take away from another person’s experience.”





Page 32 ©Cameron Edens/Summer Lake Hot Springs, Oregon.

Page 34 From Top ©Joey Hamilton/Mt. Bachelor, Oregon.

©Zach Lewis/Fort Rock State Natural Area, Oregon.

Page 35 ©Arthur Hitchcock/Fox Creek Ranch, Hollister, California.

Pages 36 and 37, Clockwise From Left ©Eric Schmidt/
Summer Lake Hot Springs; Arthur Hitchcock (2)/

Top Smith Rock State Park, Oregon; Bottom Lesley Miller
Dunes Meadow Park, Oregon.

Too





Cities are getting hotter, and that means dire consequences for our physical and mental well-being—more so for some. Trojan experts respond with community collaboration, climate curricula and cooling strategies.

By Cristine Hall
Illustrations by Kathleen Fu

During a particularly brutal Southern California heat wave in September 2020, the Fonseca house in North Hollywood wasn't just uncomfortable. It was downright life-threatening.

The temperature topped 111 degrees in some parts of Los Angeles. To then-17-year-old Jenifer Fonseca and her family, it seemed even hotter. "I put my shirt in the freezer," she says. The heat and the humidity irritated her little brother's eczema and was dangerous for her siblings' diabetic father. The house is air-conditioned, "but it's too expensive to have on all day," she says, "so we only do it when it's majorly hot."

During oppressive heat waves, temperatures rise faster in big cities than in rural areas. But climate scientists are only just beginning to quantify these dangerous spikes. Cities with heat-absorbing surfaces such as asphalt, buildings and dark roofs—and a deficit of trees and parks—create what is known as an "urban heat island effect," zones in which temperatures are warmer than surrounding areas and are slower to cool at night.

In these islands, temperatures average one to seven degrees Fahrenheit hotter during the day than other places in the same geographic area and two to five degrees warmer at night, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In some instances, temperatures in heat islands have registered as much as 27 degrees warmer than outlying areas, according to a 2014 study of 60 of the largest cities in the U.S. by Climate Central, a nonprofit organization that reports on climate change science.

Extreme heat, driven by climate change, is more than our bodies are designed to handle, exacting a physical and mental toll. Heat is the No. 1 weather-related killer in the country, causing heat exhaustion, heat stroke and heart attacks, according to the EPA. It fuels wildfires that produce toxic air, which can lead to respiratory issues and other health problems. Studies also show a significant increase in hospital admissions for mental or behavioral health disorders during heat waves, an increased use of emergency mental health services for depression and suicidal ideation, and an uptick in suicide rates, says Lawrence Palinkas, the Albert G. and Frances Lomas Feldman Professor of Social Policy and Health at the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work.

The health effects of urban heat islands disproportionately impact poor residents and communities of color, largely because of a practice called redlining, the discriminatory federal policies that deemed some neighborhoods poor real estate investments primarily because of their racial makeup, according to an October 2021 data analysis by the Los Angeles Times.

"The communities that face the highest burden of environmental pollution and who are most vulnerable to the effects of that pollution are also the same communities that have more pavement, fewer trees, are less likely to have air conditioning and are more likely to see and experience these extreme heat events," says Jill Johnston, assistant professor of environmental health and director of community engagement in the environmental health division of the Department of Population and Public Health Sciences at the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

USC researchers across disciplines, including public health, social work, engineering and architecture, are studying innovative ways to cool down and cope with our ever-warming planet. A crucial first step is to figure out just how hot it gets in L.A.

'DATA THAT NEEDS TO EXIST DOESN'T EXIST'

Johnston's community engagement team was to begin distributing temperature sensors this spring throughout Pacoima, one of the

hottest neighborhoods in the Los Angeles area. The team is seeking to answer the "how hot" question in collaboration with Pacoima Beautiful, a grassroots environmental justice organization that partners with the department of population and public health sciences.

The USC team will train Pacoima Beautiful's staff and community members to log temperatures, ideally for a year, to identify patterns and answer basic questions about areas that experience extreme heat and areas where it's cooler, and whether land use can inform actions that promote climate resilience.

"For us, a lot of the data that needs to exist doesn't exist," says Yesenia Cruz, youth programs director for Pacoima Beautiful.

During the first phase of USC's collaboration with Pacoima Beautiful, community residents and staff placed air pollution monitors throughout the city. In Phase 2, they will collect temperature data.

"We know there can be drastic changes in temperatures" depending on land use, shading and trees, Johnston says.

"A lot of our work around climate change has been driven by community-based organizations where we provide tools so they can understand the science coming out and use that in their community organizing for healthy places to work and play."

Fonseca, now a high school senior, won't soon forget that miserably hot day in North Hollywood. She volunteered as a youth member of Pacoima Beautiful to fulfill her community service hours for high school, but the more she learned, the more determined she became to make a difference. "I fear climate change," she says. "I feel sad that we're basically ruining the Earth. That's why I joined these programs, and I always bring my friends so we can learn what's happening."

TRAINING STUDENTS TO BE CLIMATE RESILIENT

The mental health consequences of extreme heat are as varied as post-traumatic stress disorder, which can lead to depression and anxiety, and existential anxiety about the long-term impacts that young people like Fonseca face.

According to a 2021 study in the British medical journal *The Lancet*, more than 45% of the 10,000 participants, who live in 10 countries and are 16 to 25, said climate change distress affected their daily life. Seventy-five percent described their future as "frightening" and felt powerlessness, helplessness and guilt about the climate.

These feelings have names: "eco-anxiety," extreme worry about the harm humans are inflicting on the environment; "ecoparalysis," the inability to respond to the climate crisis; and "solastalgia," the feeling of loss associated with the destruction of one's environment, Palinkas says.

Palinkas and his colleagues are working to create climate-informed schools that address the physical and mental health needs of communities at risk for extreme weather. Together with the Los Angeles Unified School District and the USC Neighborhood Academic Initiative, they are designing an environmental health curriculum for middle and high school students, mental health services and training, and green neighborhood projects.

The hope is that having social workers trained in these interventions, and using them to prepare teachers and administrators for coping with acute events such as heat waves and longer-term issues such as eco-anxiety, can improve students' mental health and wellness and simultaneously improve academic performance, Palinkas says.

"By offering these services in schools ... in urban heat islands, we're hoping we can use the schools as a health promotion platform in their respective neighborhoods so the benefits that accrue

to the students ... will eventually extend to [their] neighborhoods or communities," Palinkas says.

EVEN A ONE-DEGREE INCREASE MATTERS

An interdisciplinary project involving the Department of Population and Public Health Sciences, the Dworak-Peck School of Social Work and the Viterbi School of Engineering is studying mortality related to heat and air pollution.

"There is a large amount of scientific literature demonstrating an increase in health risks with increased temperature—even a one-degree increase," says Erika Garcia, an assistant professor of population and public health sciences who is examining death certificates statewide to determine whether the cause of death correlates with the increased heat. "Even a small increase could impact a large number of people, including those vulnerable to health impacts of heat, such as the elderly, pregnant women and people with chronic health conditions."

Scientists need to be creative and mindful of which groups the climate crisis is affecting disproportionately, Garcia says, including those working in restaurant kitchens or warehouses with no air conditioning, or people working outdoors who suffer from the heat.

"We're not going to prevent this from happening—we're already seeing hotter days and nights," Garcia says. "Now it's about adapting and protecting people and studying the problems so that the interventions we implement are useful and have an impact."

COOL PAVEMENTS, TREE CANOPIES

A team of USC environmental engineers, formerly led by the late George Ban-Weiss, is looking at heat-mitigation products, such as

cooling pavements, roofs and other surfaces, says Kelly Sanders, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering.

"A good analogy is if you're wearing a white shirt, you reflect a lot of the heat that you would otherwise absorb if you were wearing a black shirt," says Sanders, who is the Dr. Teh Fu Yen Early Career Chair in the Sonny Astani Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. "It's the same idea with heat-mitigation techniques."

Cool pavements can reduce surface temperature, and more important, air temperature, says Joseph Ko, an environmental engineering doctoral student who is publishing a study on the topic. Pavements are cooled with a seal-coating material or made with concrete that has higher albedo—or solar reflectivity—levels. If less energy is absorbed in the pavement, less energy is released into the environment, he says.

But there are trade-offs and complications.

When cool pavements erode—because of natural soiling or vehicle travel—they reflect less sunlight and their heat mitigation efficacy is reduced, Ko says.

"There are also concerns that increased reflection of sunlight at the ground level may potentially decrease thermal comfort in certain scenarios, despite the reduction in air temperatures," Ko adds. "These potential issues with maintenance and uncertain impacts on thermal comfort suggests that perhaps the technology has room for improvement and further investigation before real-world implementation."

Mother Nature may offer a less problematic option: trees.

It can be 50 degrees cooler under the shade of a tree, according to the USC Urban Trees Initiative, led by the USC Dornsife Public Exchange. The interdisciplinary initiative provides science-based guidance for L.A.'s Green New Deal, which calls for increasing, by 2028, the tree canopy in low-income heat zones.

"People are waking up and recognizing that yes, our green space, our green infrastructure actually can make a significant impact on our physical health, our mental health and our climate resilience," says Esther Margulies, associate professor of practice in the Master of Landscape Architecture + Urbanism program at the USC School of Architecture and a member of the Urban Trees Initiative. "Trees are the most cost-efficient way to combat extreme heat."

But trees should be chosen for more than their seasonal beauty.

"Trees with sticky, hairy leaves are better at accumulating [fine particulate matter] than those with either smooth or sparse leaves," Margulies says. "What we're trying to measure is individual tree species with potential for air filtration in highly polluted areas because so many of our hot areas are also highly polluted from freeways and other sources."

For Fonseca, who graduates from high school this year, environmental activism is more than a potential career choice in her future; it's a necessary part of life.

Before joining Pacoima Beautiful and working with USC, she occasionally used Instagram to post about climate change.

"I just don't think that's enough now," Fonseca says. "I'm not just a virtual activist. I actually go out there and do what I got to do."





Scholarships *change lives.*

"My scholarship has allowed me the freedom to pursue the best opportunities that the Keck School of Medicine has to offer. I have been able to volunteer in the East L.A. community and work on a research project among the medically underserved incarcerated community."

Tyler Gallagher
Salerni Collegium Endowed Scholarship
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FAMILY

FIGHT AND MARCH ON

The Trojan Marching Band swelled to more than 1,000 for Homecoming 2021, when alumni returned to play with the band and to honor Arthur C. Bartner, who directed the group for 50 years. USC beat Arizona, 41-34.



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN GUNNING

Stronger Together

The USC Asian Pacific Alumni Association celebrates four decades of advocacy and leadership.



The APAA, at a homecoming event with President Carol L. Folt, awarded 80 scholarships.

During the fall of 1981, campus-wide demonstrations called for ethnic studies programs and advocacy for Black, Latinx and Asian Pacific American students. Students staged sit-ins outside the USC president's office and took to Trousdale to demand change.

Their voices were heard. New programs launched the following year, including the Asian Pacific American Student Services center, which has since offered generations of Trojans mentoring opportunities, academic resources and meaningful alumni connections. It was from this group that the USC Asian Pacific Alumni Association (APAA) branched off to focus on alumni services.

"It started out as a grassroots effort with many in the community who supported us," says Grace Shiba '77, executive director of APAA. "Now, we're blessed to work with talented individuals and leaders who represent alumni worldwide."

Though the group focused on keeping alumni connected to USC, helping the next generation of scholars was always part of its mission. It took a few years to raise money for about five scholarships—not bad for a newly formed group that had no university funding. But as momentum increased, a

scholarship endowment was established in 1984—"a major milestone for us," Shiba says.

Last year, the group proudly awarded 80 scholarships totaling \$200,000 to undergraduate and graduate students. Each recipient demonstrated exceptional academic merit and a commitment to serving the Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

"Not having to work extra hours because of the scholarship I received has been invaluable," says Justin Kawaguchi '21, a 2019 APAA scholar pursuing a master's in health administration. As an undergraduate, he was able to study global health while working as a campus tour guide and Japanese American National Museum docent.

The group's other signature programs include the Scholarship and Awards Gala celebrating student and alumni achievement and the USC Asian Pacific Film Fest, hosted in collaboration with the USC Asian Pacific Cinema Association, which showcases student work. A young alumni council focuses on programs for Trojans under 35 and a working advisory board reserves two seats for students to share what's happening on campus.

Looking ahead, the group will continue expanding networking programs.

Two regional programs launched in Orange County and the Bay Area, and Shiba has been collaborating with alumni clubs in Asia to facilitate connections. "I often get requests from students, alumni and faculty traveling to Asia," she says. "It's been remarkable because our alumni worldwide appreciate being recognized and having a chance to meet other Trojans." She hopes to work with overseas clubs to launch an APAA Global Lifestyles program with discussion topics ranging from cooking to entertainment.

As the group celebrates its 40th anniversary, Shiba believes that it has stayed true to its roots. "We have a lot of firsts through APAA," she says, pointing to Mitchell Lew '83, MD '87 and Rod Nakamoto '83, MBA '94, the first Asian Pacific Americans to serve on USC's Board of Trustees. In 2018, Jaime Lee '06, JD '09, became USC's first female Asian Pacific American trustee. All started their service to the university through APAA.

"One of the victories is to have a seat at the table," she says. "We're so grateful that our voices and struggles are represented. People are listening." **ELISA HUANG**



On April 1, 2022, honorary degrees were awarded at a ceremony in Pasadena, California, for descendants of Nisei students who were forced into internment during World War II. For more information, email niseispr@usc.edu.

A Long-Awaited Tribute

Eighty years after being forced to leave USC, Nisei students will receive honorary degrees.

The last student group photo displayed in the 1942 edition of *El Rodeo* shows the Japanese Trojan Club. Sharply dressed, the students pose on the steps of Doheny Memorial Library. In the back row stands law student Frank Chuman, shoulder-to-shoulder with fellow Nisei students—the sons and daughters of Japanese immigrants. Virtually all were forced to abandon their college education in the early part of World War II.

Chuman, who would come to play a historic role in the story of the Nisei generation, was one of about 120 Nisei students attending USC when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 in February 1942. In the wake of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the order was used to expel

120,000 Japanese immigrants and their American-born descendants to detention centers. Chuman spent a year at what was then called Manzanar War Relocation Center on the eastern edge of central California.

There were about 2,500 Nisei college students in the western United States. After the war, they and their children pushed for academic recognition. In 2009, California colleges and universities were required to award degrees to Nisei students, but private universities were exempt.

In 2012, USC conferred about a dozen honorary degrees to living Nisei students. Frank Chuman, who had moved abroad after retirement, was not among them.

When USC President Carol L. Folt decided to confer honorary degrees to all eligible Nisei students last fall, it seemed likely that most would receive those degrees posthumously. Still, Grace Shiba, executive director of the USC Asian Pacific Alumni Association, held out hope.

“From the very beginning of this initiative, I was optimistic that I would find a surviving Nisei student, so I began to research the students that were on file,” Shiba says. “Fortunately, I was delighted to find that Frank Chuman was living in Thailand. We managed to get in touch with him through our Trojan network. The rest is now history.”

The man in the back row of that historic photo resumed his education in 1943, first at the University of Toledo and then at the University of Maryland, where he was the institution’s first Asian American law student. Chuman earned his law degree in 1945 and passed the California bar in 1947.

Throughout a legal career that spanned more than a half-century, Chuman became a renowned advocate for human rights, challenging discriminatory laws and court decisions. His strategy was crucial to the successful effort that led the courts to overturn the conviction of Fred Korematsu, who was imprisoned after he refused to go to a detention facility in the early 1940s.

Once Shiba made contact with Chuman in mid-December, the university rushed an honorary degree to his home in Thailand, along with a video from President Folt dressed in full regalia.

“Your activism in civil rights and involvement in the landmark constitutional cases argued before the Supreme Court show what is just and right about the United States,” President Folt said. “You’re a shining example that our students of today will aspire to follow.”

Chuman’s Nisei classmates were to receive their posthumous honorary degrees at a gala on April 1. They’ll also be honored at the USC commencement ceremony May 13.

RON MACKOVICH-RODRIGUEZ



A photo from the 1942 USC yearbook shows Frank Chuman, circled in back row, then a law school student. When President Franklin Roosevelt signed an order sending Japanese Americans detention camps, Chuman went to Manzanar. After his release, he completed law school in Maryland and returned to California, where he passed the bar. At 104, Chuman, living in Thailand, received his honorary USC degree in December 2021, by video, from President Carol L. Folt.

Celebrating Service, Spirit and Sisterhood

Four generations of Helenes look back on 100 years of Trojan pride.



A century of service: The Helenes have a proud history of volunteering their time for the betterment of the university and the community.

As storied histories go, the Helenes have a 100-year legacy of Trojan pride to draw upon. Starting out as the Amazons, the group was formed by Arabella De Oliveira Conger with her classmates. Inspired by Helen of Troy, the group, which adopted their current name in 1969, remains one of the oldest service organizations on campus. As the official hostesses of the university, Helenes honor USC's traditions through three pillars: service to the community, school spirit and sisterhood. To celebrate the group's century of service, former members share how the Helenes changed their student life—and beyond.

SERVICE

When Kathryn Dullerud arrived at USC as a freshman from Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, she found college life in a big city a bit overwhelming. Remembering her service-oriented high school years, Dullerud's sister, a fellow Trojan, thought joining the Helenes might help Kathryn find her footing. Soon, Dullerud was waking at sunrise to volunteer with the Helenes at the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. Now a senior, Dullerud served a term as president and continues to dive into the organization's volunteer activities at Community Services Unlimited/Expo Urban Mini Farm, the

32nd Street School and the Downtown Women's Center.

It was the Helenes' volunteering opportunities like these that spoke to Alyson Kil '10, MD '14, too. "Not only do I have a deep love for USC, I wanted to continue the tradition of service I'd established in my youth," Kil says. "Learning that the Helenes represent USC in Greater Los Angeles and throughout the state was huge for me."

L'Cena Brunskill Rice '53, MA '59 still has fond memories of the group's service projects, including organizing orientation programs. "To welcome international female students to the university, we'd take them to



If you're a USC alum, visit fightonline.usc.edu on the web to update your profile.

iconic Los Angeles sites—Griffith Park, the Natural History Museum and dinner at El Cholo, Los Angeles' first Mexican restaurant."

For Stephanie Paggi '74, MS '77, EdD '90, joining the Helenes was a way of saying thank you to the university. "I was fortunate to have full tuition with an academic merit scholarship to USC," she says. "Becoming involved in Helenes and participating in the volunteerism was my way of giving back."

SPIRIT

Attend a Trojan athletics event and cheers from the Helenes ring through the crowd. A huge sports fan, Kil signed up for every Gate Call, a lottery system for front row tickets. "My name was chosen for the Washington State game," she remembers. "Not only did I have the privilege of sitting on the sidelines, but the Helenes helped the Trojan Knights guard the Victory Bell." A bonus: "We crushed Washington State."

One of Rice's favorite activities was joining the Trojan Knights at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. "We'd arrive before the gates opened to set up card stunts at the 50-yard-line," she remembers. "We didn't win often during my first three years, so it was important to root the team on. It all paid off though—we beat Wisconsin at the 1953 Rose Bowl."

Since 2017, the Helenes have instituted a new tradition for games against UCLA: Hecuba Watch. "While the Trojan Knights are guarding the Tommy Trojan statue during Rivalry Week, we camp out in front of the Hecuba statue at USC Village and protect her 24/7 leading up to game day," Dullerud says.

SISTERHOOD

While attending a women's awards program at school, Rice heard her name called. She'd been chosen to join the Amazons. "Someone nominated me," she says of the surprise. Little did she know that

she'd meet some of her lifelong friends through the group. Sixty-nine years after her introduction to the Helenes, Rice says, "There are at least 10 of us who continue to volunteer together at USC." She counts this as one of the reasons she recommends joining the organization: "You'll have friends for life."

Kil remembers facing stiff competition to become a Helene: Only one out of every four applicants is accepted. Passing a test about USC traditions and history with at least a 90% score is required. So is an interview with the executive board. It wasn't until she walked into her dorm room and was greeted by a welcome poster that she learned she'd made the cut. "I knew being a Helene would be life-changing," Kil says. "As a sisterhood with a strong pride for USC and an interest in service and leadership, the Helenes embodied my core values."

Paggi's fondest memory isn't of a specific event; it's about people. "The Helenes became my Trojan family," she says. She connected with even more Trojans during alumni events where members helped host campus guests. "Being a Helene gives you unique and beneficial opportunities

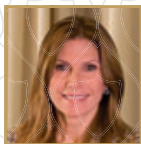
that form you as a person as you go forth into the future."

Dullerud couldn't agree more. "I found my USC family through the Helenes," she says. "It's a wonderful feeling to give back to an organization that has shaped and given so much to me. Especially in this year, our 100th, which is so important in the Helenes' history." **BEKAH WRIGHT**



THE USC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PROUDLY CONGRATULATES
THE 2022 USC ALUMNI AWARD HONOREES

ALUMNI MERIT AWARDS



THE HONORABLE MARY BONO '84
*Former Member, United States Congress
Chairman, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America*



MICHAEL NYEHOLT '78
*Chairman Emeritus, Swim With Mike Physically
Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund*

YOUNG ALUMNI MERIT AWARD

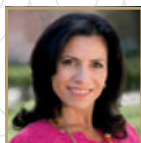


ADAM GOLDSTON '09 AND RYAN GOLDSTON '09
Co-Founders, Athletic Propulsion Labs

ALUMNI SERVICE AWARDS



JULES BUENABENTA '87
*USC Alumni Association Board of Governors
USC Marshall School of Business
Board of Councilors
Longtime University Volunteer*



RAMONA L. CAPPELLO '81
*Former Member, USC Board of Trustees
USC Dornsife College of Letters,
Arts and Sciences Board of Councilors
USC Kaufman School of Dance Board of Councilors*



BETH PETAK-AARON '80
*President-Elect, Town & Gown of USC
Longtime University Volunteer*

88TH ANNUAL

USC
Alumni Awards

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2022



1950s

Richard Lowell Sharp DDS '52 (DEN) celebrated his 100th birthday on March 11, 2021. The Windsor, California, resident served in World War II as a U.S. Army Air Corps second lieutenant and later graduated from USC's dental school. He retired from his dental practice in West Covina, California, in 2005 at the age of 84.

1960s

Ronald S. Barak '64 (LAS), JD '68 (LAW) published *JK's Code*, the fourth in his bestselling thriller series. He was a partner, chairman and co-managing partner at Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP, and later a partner at Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP. He competed in the 1964 Olympics as a member of the U.S. men's gymnastics team and later served as head coach of USC's varsity gymnastics team.

Morten J. Lauridsen III '66, MA '68, DMA '74 (MUS), Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Composition, is an honorary advisory board member of the Oscar Hammerstein Museum and Theatre Education Center and serves as a core member of the Honorary Board of Directors.

Anthony Stella '67 (BUS) started Longhorn Securities, an independent investment company in Reno, Nevada.

Michael Tilson Thomas '67, MM '76 (MUS), a celebrated conductor and Judge Widney Professor of Music at USC, was featured in a *PBS NewsHour* special about mentoring during the pandemic and working with the next generation of musicians.

1970s



Marleen Wong MSW '71 (SSW) was designated a National Association of Social Workers Social Work Pioneer for being at the forefront of child trauma interventions, including developing



TROJAN TRIBUTE

Sam "Bam" Cunningham

A Trojan football legend, Sam "Bam" Cunningham '76 was a former USC All-American fullback and College Football Hall of Famer. His four-touchdown outing in the 1973 Rose Bowl earned him Player of the Game honors before he went on to a record-setting career with the New England Patriots.

In 1970, Cunningham was part of the first fully integrated team to play college football in Alabama and his performance has often been credited with helping integrate Southern football. "They weren't that silent on my first touchdown—it was only seven points—but after a while it got pretty quiet in there," Cunningham later said. "We were bigger, faster, quicker and I'd have to say probably stronger too. We proved that that evening." The sophomore fullback would finish the game with 135 yards and two touchdowns on just 12 carries. The Trojans decimated the Crimson Tide and won the game 42-21.

Drafted 11th overall in the 1973 NFL Draft's first round by New England, he played nine seasons for the Patriots and became the franchise's all-time leading rusher. He was inducted into the USC Athletics Hall of Fame in 2001, the College Football Hall of Fame in 2010 and the Patriots' Hall of Fame in 2010.

Cunningham died on Sept. 7, 2021 in Inglewood, California, and is survived by his wife, Cine, daughter, Samahndi, and brothers Randall, Bruce and Anthony.

policy and creating the first school district crisis team in the country at the Los Angeles Unified School District. She is a professor emerita at the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work and CEO of the Center for Safe and Resilient Schools and Workplaces.

Gary Peterson '72 (LAS), MS '74 (EDU) earned his EdD in leadership in innovation and continuous improvement from Concordia University Wisconsin in May 2021.

Robert Zemeckis '73 (SCA) will develop and produce *Mr. Lucky*, a comedy from screenwriters Aaron and Jordan Kandell (*Moana*, *Adrift*), through his production company ImageMovers.

Dan Woods '74 (LAS), JD '77 (LAW), partner at Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP, was honored with the 2021 Inner City Law Center Katharine Krause Award for his pro bono and volunteer service.

Barbara Gregson ME '76 (EDU) received an Emmy Award as archival producer for the Netflix series *ReMastered*. It was her fourth nomination and first win.

James Fischella '77 (BUS) retired from Azusa Pacific University after 12 years teaching in the School of Business and providing leadership in the university's Business Office. He is an adjunct professor at Citrus College in the School of Business and Management.

Gill Robinson Hickman DPA '78 (SPP), PhD '78 (GRD) received a Nautilus Book Award for her coauthored book *When Leaders Face Personal Crisis: The Human Side of Leadership*. She is professor emerita of leadership studies at the Jepson School of Leadership Studies, University of Richmond, Virginia.

Sidney Kanazawa JD '78 (LAW) was honored with the USC Asian Pacific Alumni Association's 2021 Leadership Award.

David Trachtenberg '78 (LAS) wrote *The Lawgivers' Struggle: How Congress Wields Power in National Security Decision Making*, a study of the executive-legislative branch dynamic.

John H. Daly III MS '79 (ENG) has been elected to the Board of Trustees for Mott Community College in Flint, Michigan.

1980s

Ethan R. "Rick" Allen MPA '81, DPA '84 (SPP) released his second book, *Great by Eight: The Remarkable Power of Early Childhood Development*.

Timothy M. Casserly JD '81 (LAW) joined Judicate West as a professional dispute resolution practitioner.

Robert Donin MPA '81 (SPP) is a member of the advisory council for the USC Institute for Genetic Medicine Art Gallery at the USC Health Sciences Campus.

Mary Thomas '81 (ENG) joined the Institute for Defense Analyses as an adjunct research staff member in the Information Technology and Systems Division.

Todd Black '82 (DRA) produced the Netflix film about playwright August Wilson's *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, which was nominated for an Academy Award.

Sally Ruth Bourrie MA '83 (ART) published *Oregon Loves New York: A Story of American Unity After 9/11*, which tells the story of everyday Americans courageously coming together to help others.

Dwight S. Hughes MS '83 (ENG) published *Unlike Anything That Ever Floated: The Monitor and Virginia and the Battle of Hampton Roads, March 8-9, 1862*, an account of the battle between the USS Monitor and the CSS Virginia.

Michael Abels '84 (MUS), a co-founder of the Composers Diversity Collective, was interviewed in *Variety* about composers of color in the film industry. He also received two 2021 Emmy nominations for his work on HBO's *Allen v. Farrow*.

Brian Rokos '84 (SCJ) was presented the First Amendment Award by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino for continuing coverage of the 2015 terrorist attack in San Bernardino.

Ute Van Dam '84 (SCJ) was re-elected to her fourth term as vice president on the Moorpark Unified School District Board of Education in California.

Colleen Aycock PhD '85 (LAS) wrote *The Magnificent Max Baer: The Life of the Heavyweight Champion and Film Star*.

Charles "Chris" Isleib '85 (LAS) helped create the national World War I memorial in Washington, D.C., which honors 4.7 million American veterans.

Mary Hill-Wagner '86 (SCJ) is the author of *Girlz 'n the Hood: A Memoir of Mama in South Central Los Angeles*.

Kevin Greutert '87 (SCA) is executive producer of *Spiral*, a horror film written by **Josh Stolberg MFA '97 (SCA)**.

Paul Richardson '87 (LAS), JD '90 (LAW) was named senior executive vice president and chief human resources officer of The Walt Disney Co.

Suzanne Roberts MD '87 (MED) received the Morris and Mary Press Humanism Award, which recognizes employees of Children's Hospital Los Angeles who exemplify the institution's mission of creating hope and building healthier futures.

Scott Adamson JD '88 (LAW) joined Arent Fox LLP as a partner in the firm's Los Angeles corporate and securities practice.

Brian Cabrera '88 (LAS), JD/MPA '90 (LAW/SPP) has been named general counsel and chief compliance officer of Quantum in San Jose, California. Previously, he was an assistant United States attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice's Criminal Division.

Noshir Contractor PhD '88 (SCJ) received the ICA Fellows Book Award for *Theories of Communication Networks*.

Rick Jelinek '88 (BUS) was appointed chairman of the board of HealthEdge Software Inc., a health care technology provider. Previously, he was a senior executive at CVS Health and UnitedHealth Group.



Writing for Reform

A Trojan dedicated to chronicling criminal justice issues in California wins the Pulitzer Prize.

For more than three decades, Robert Greene '81 has been a close watcher of the state's criminal justice reforms. He's almost certainly contributed to these reforms as well.

As an editorial writer at the Los Angeles Times, he has used his voice to point out shortcomings, laud progress and spotlight important changes in the state's complex legal system. Last year, his work gained its own exceptional notice, earning him the Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing.

Greene grew up in Woodland Hills, California, and loved literature so much that he majored in English at USC. He earned his law degree at Georgetown University but didn't find the life of an attorney interesting. A career change took him to the Metropolitan News-Enterprise, a newspaper covering law and policy. He credits the paper with teaching him how to be a journalist and sparking his interest in criminal justice issues.

Some of the Los Angeles Times editorials that earned Greene a Pulitzer focused on the way COVID-19 was handled in prisons. Others addressed the criminal justice system as a whole: the legacy of the "war on drugs," the bail system and sentencing for juveniles.

Although many of his stories highlight complex topics that still need solutions, Greene sees signs of progress.

Recent reforms and public advocacy have moved the state toward a more multifaceted approach to criminal justice, he believes. He says L.A. is looking at ways to divert people who have underlying mental health problems away from the court system. The city also hopes to provide alternatives to manage people who have been flagged for at-risk behavior but who have not committed any crimes.

"We're finding out more things, like how people who are in county jail have the right to vote, but they often don't realize it. And the

folks who run the jail, the sheriff's department, really didn't do much to permit them to vote," he says. "Now, because there's more attention, the sheriff's department does a much better job of granting people their constitutional rights."

Greene also points to the launch of a national toll-free number, 988, for mental health crises. Similar to 911, it offers a new way to treat people without calling the police—and before they harm themselves or others. "If you see somebody whose behavior you're concerned about but who you don't think is committing a crime, you can call that number. You can also call if you are feeling suicidal or depressed, or you just need someone to talk to," he says.

It's these types of innovations that excite Greene—and that will no doubt be discussed in future editorials. "It will be an opportunity for a whole new approach to health, but also to justice." MEREDITH MCGROARTY

James Keck PhD '88 (MED) spent two decades in the biotech industry and leads product development in JAX Mice, Clinical & Research Services. He was the organization's first President's Innovation Fellow.

Matt Reeves '88 (SCA) is developing the medical drama *The Human Conditions* for HBO Max.

Rafael Alvarez MS '89 (ENG) is the founder and director of the San Diego City College Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement Program, an academic support program for STEM students transferring to four-year universities. He received the 2021 Outstanding Engineering Educator Award from the San Diego County Engineering Council.

Lucinda Carver DMA '89 (MUS), vice dean of the division of classical performance and composition at the USC Thornton School of Music, has been selected as part of "Artists & Friends" by Bösendorfer, one of the oldest and most renowned Austrian piano manufacturers. The participating artists have played or owned Bösendorfer instruments.

Michael E. Flowers '89 (SPP) is chief commercial officer of WSI, a provider of contract federal sales solutions and consulting services for pharmaceutical manufacturers, medical diagnostics companies and durable medical equipment suppliers. He served 24 years in the active and reserve components of the U.S. Marine Corps, retiring with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

James Middleton MA '89 (SCA) is an executive producer and **Julia Cooperman '12 (LAS)** is a writer on the Netflix series *Jupiter's Legacy*.

Gail Samuel '89 (LAS/MUS), MBA '02 (BUS) is the Eunice and Julian Cohen President and CEO of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the first woman president in the orchestra's 140-year history.

1990s

Tay Fitzgerald 'MS 94 (ENG) is vice president of Advanced Concepts & Technology, leading a group that focuses on cutting-edge tech and research for the U.S. military.

Aaron Kaplan '90 (BUS) is producing Fox's new, untitled multicamera comedy show starring Patricia Heaton.

Timothy Olyphant '90 (ART) returned to USC to officially obtain his degree in 2020. A member of the USC swim team during his first stint on campus, the actor has since appeared in television shows such as *Justified*, *The Mandalorian* and *Curb Your Enthusiasm*.

R. Sebastian Bennett MPW '91 (LAS) published a historical novel, *The Final Yen*, based on his master's thesis at USC.

Jim Bernstein MFA '91 (SCA) won an Emmy for Outstanding Writing Team for a Daytime Animated Program for *Phineas and Ferb The Movie: Candace Against the Universe*.

Pamela Esau MSW '91 (SSW) wrote *You Don't Need to Be Strong: Navigating the 4 Tasks of Grief*.

David Dahl MBA '92 (BUS), CEO of Whittier Trust, participated in the 51st biennial Transpac Race, a seven-day, 2,225-nautical-mile ocean race from Long Beach to Honolulu. He was accompanied by his two sons and six friends.

Gregory Fawcett '92 (DRA), an actor, producer and screenwriter, is in preproduction for *Street Death Fight* and postproduction for *Of God and Kings* and *The Last Victim*. He was also an executive producer and actor in the movie *Street* and has worked on *The New Adventures of Robin Hood*, *Point Pleasant* and *Jack Woody*.

Albert Lee '92 (LAS) was elected to the Board of Trustees at Harvey Mudd College for a three-year term.

Usha Patel '92, MS '95 (ENG) was recognized by the U.S. House of Representatives for her exceptional service to the community and her work promoting women in engineering.

Millicent Borges Accardi MPW '93 (LAS) was a featured writer at Writer's Week at the University of California, Riverside.

Lisa Harrington JD '93 (LAW), co-chair of the USC Gould Alumni Association's Orange

County committee, is chief legal officer at Viant Technology in Irvine, California.

Casey Stone '93 (MUS) received two 2021 Emmy nominations for his sound mixing work for *WandaVision* on Disney+.

Abenaa Hayes MA '94 (SCJ) is practice leader of diversity, equity and inclusion engagement at Real Chemistry, a global health company.

Christopher Martinez '94 (ENG) retired from corporate and management consulting to become chief operating officer of Housing Forward, a nonprofit based in Maywood and Oak Park, Illinois, focusing on homelessness issues.

Edoardo Ponti '94 (LAS), MFA '98 (SCA) will direct the television adaptation of the best-selling 2010 historical novel *Elizabeth Street*.

Jarmal Richard JD '94 (LAW), CEO of JDRLegal, is the subject of *Run the Orways*, an upcoming documentary about long-distance running.

Anthony Sparks '94 (DRA), MA '09, PhD '12 (LAS) is showrunner and executive producer of *Choir* on Disney+, a docuseries on the Detroit Youth Choir. He is also creating a scripted companion series.

Quincy Watts '94 (LAS) is USC's director of track and field and cross-country.

Rich Weingart '94 (MUS) was nominated for a 2021 Emmy award for his sound mixing work on Amazon Prime's *The Boys*.

Kevin Kazuhiro Yoshida '94 (ARC) is on the advisory council of Colorado Creative Industries, a division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade.

Tom Bradley JD '95 (LAW) received the Assistant Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service from the criminal division of the U.S. Department of Justice for his efforts to reduce pretrial detention in West Africa. Since 2015, Bradley has been the resident legal advisor at U.S. embassies in Mauritania, Mali and Burkina Faso.

Laura Galloway '95 (LAS) wrote *Dálvi: Six Years in the Arctic Tundra*.

Sheldon Gen MPA '95 (SPP) published a book, *Nonprofits in Policy Advocacy: Their Strategies and Stories*, detailing strategies of nonprofits engaged in policy advocacy.

Wayne Kazan JD '95 (LAW) was named to Variety's 2021 Legal Impact Report. He is chair of Weintraub Tobin's Entertainment Group and focuses on the video game, technology and entertainment industries.

Christopher Lennertz '95 (MUS) earned a 2021 Emmy nomination for the original song "Never Truly Vanish" for Amazon Prime's *The Boys*.

Lois Leveen MA '95 (LAS) received a research grant from the National Archives Foundation to research Black spies during the Civil War.

Scott Nemes '95 (SCA) is executive vice president of creative acquisitions at Universal Studio Group and runs a new intellectual property unit.

Prentice Penny '95 (SCA) is developing the series adaptation *The Stationery Shop* for HBO. She also signed a multiyear deal with Disney General Entertainment's Onyx Collective.

Jennifer "Jaye" Lopez Van Soest '95 (LAS) started a position as senior director of development for the Fair Food Network.

Jason Shuman '96 (SCA) is executive producer of HBO's drama series based on Jeff Pearlman's book *Showtime: Magic, Kareem, Riley, and the Los Angeles Lakers Dynasty of the 1980s*.

Danny Strong '96 (LAS) is executive producer of Freeform's *Trap Queen*, a drama about a young gay man and the Puerto Rico trap music scene.

Jessica Del Mundo '97 (SCJ) and **David Yi '09 (SCJ)** made the *Good Morning America* Inspiration List for speaking out against anti-Asian violence.

Renée Elise Goldsberry MM '97 (MUS) stars in the Peacock musical comedy *Girls5Eva*,

which follows a '90s one-hit-wonder girl group whose members reunite. She earned a 2021 supporting actress Emmy nomination for *Hamilton* on Disney+, a role for which she won the 2016 Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Musical.

Kyle Killen '97 (SCA) landed Fox's first pilot deal of the development season with his adaptation *The Last Police*.

Bari Newport '97 (DRA) is artistic director of the GableStage theater in Florida.

LaVonda Reed JD '97 (LAW) is dean of Georgia State College of Law. Previously, she was associate provost for faculty affairs and professor of law at Syracuse University.

Nick Stoubis '97, MM '00 (MUS), chair of the studio guitar program at USC, was awarded the Distinguished Faculty Service Award by the USC Academic Senate.

Sean Atkins MBA '99 (BUS) is senior vice president and executive dean of the Western Governors University College of Business. Previously a leader at global companies Bertelsmann and Viacom, he led growth initiatives at leading brands including Discovery, Warner Media, Yahoo and Disney. He also has served as an advisor or board member for LinkedIn, Bain Consulting, BDMI and Evolution Media Partners.

David Pickett JD '99 (LAW) is associate general counsel at Brightline West, a company constructing a private high-speed electric passenger railroad between Southern California and Las Vegas. Previously, he served as in-house counsel for Union Pacific Railroad and the Sacramento Regional Transit District.

Rawson Marshall Thurber MFA '99 (SCA) will direct Netflix's feature adaptation of the video game *The Division*, starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Jessica Chastain.

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Carla Banks-Waddles MFA '00 (SCA) is executive producer and showrunner on NBC's new dark dramedy *Redrum*.

Jonathan Glickman MFA '00 (SCA) is an executive producer on the new *Primates of Park Avenue* series.



Karen Preacely-Hicks '00 (SPP) received the inaugural Los Angeles County School Counselor of the Year award. She has served as a school counselor at Lawndale High School in the Centinela Valley Union High School District since 2011, where she has been a response-to-intervention coordinator, teen parent coordinator, crisis team lead and advisor for the Black Student Union.

Reginald Roberts JD '00 (LAW) was named to the Daily Journal's "Top Labor and Employment Lawyers 2021."

Shashank Bengali '01 (LAS/SCJ) joined The New York Times' London branch as senior editor and correspondent for live news.

Clint Camua MBA '01 (BUS) is regional director and partner at EP Wealth, based in their Los Angeles and Westlake Village offices.

Lana Cho '01 (SCA) wrote an adaptation of a Korean dynasty drama, *American Seoul*, that was bought by Hulu.

Monique Jewett-Brewster JD '01 (LAW) was elected shareholder at Hopkins & Carley, where she is a member of the financial institutions' and creditors' rights practice group and co-chair of the firm's bankruptcy practice.

Lorraine A. McCall DPA '01 (SPP) coauthored and published *Immigration, Assimilation, and Border Security*. She was a charter employee

with the Department of Homeland Security in 2003 and served as a senior advisor and analyst in the federal Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency.

Brian Hom '02 (SPP), JD '05 (LAW) joined Clark Hill PLC's Los Angeles office as a member of the litigation practice. Previously, he was a senior attorney with Morgan, Lewis and Bockius LLP.

Janet E. Hong JD '02 (LAW) is president-elect of the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles.

Michele Prince MSW/MA '02 (SSW) is director of volunteer services at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and oversees the work of 2,500 volunteers.

Pilaar Terry '02 (SCJ) joined the Foundation at Hearst Castle as a member of its board of directors.

Athena Wickham '02 (SCA) is executive producer of Amazon's sci-fi mystery series *The Peripheral*.

Alberlynn "Abby" Woods JD '02 (LAW), MBA '02 (BUS) is co-producing BET's *Twenties After-Show* with Lena Waithe, Rishi Rajani and B. Scott, and is the network's first nonbinary host and executive producer.

Jon M. Chu '03 (SCA) directed HBO Max's *In the Heights*, which also included work by **Alice Brooks '01 (SCA)** as cinematographer and **Mark Russell '79 (SCA)** as visual effects supervisor.

Tamar Laddy MFA '03 (SCA) wrote the Hallmark film *Crashing Through the Snow*.

Sasha Villacis '03 (LAS) was honored as a Platinum Finalist for Best Practices in Fundraising by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. She founded Inspiring Philanthropy, a California consulting company.

Kevin Baxter EdD '04 (EDU) is director of the Mary Ann Remick Leadership Program at the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education.

Michael Hartman '04 (SCA), JD '13 (LAW) is partner at Ziffren Brittenham LLP's film and television group.

Jack Heller '04 (SCA) was a producer of *Mainstream* from IFC Films.

Chase Leavitt '04 (BUS), JD '07 (LAW) is general counsel of Oncternal Therapeutics Inc., a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the development of novel oncology therapies.

Carlos Rafael Rivera MM '04, DMA '10 (MUS) won a 2021 Emmy for music composition for Netflix's *The Queen's Gambit*.

Darryl Sellers MA '04 (SCJ) is director of public relations for Creative Marketing Resources.

Sarah Amos '05 (SCJ) works at Conde Nast Entertainment as vice president of development and production, nonfiction television and documentaries.

Theodore "Teddy" Chadwick '05 (LAS) is chair of the Wisconsin chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

Didier Diels '05 (SCJ) started at Cameo as associate general counsel for business affairs.

Melvin L. Felton II '05 (SCJ) was named a "2021 Rising Star" by Super Lawyers.

Alisia Ford '05 (BUS) is founder and CEO of Glory, a skin health brand for melanin-rich skin. The company was selected to participate in Sephora's Accelerate program, an initiative to help beauty brands grow into global retail labels.

Honey Hamilton '05 (SCJ) was named by Public Relations Society of America Dallas as one of the "Top 40 Under 40" communications professionals.

Vivian Kerr '05 (DRA) wrote, directed and starred in a feature film, *Scrap*.

Jeffrey Nemon '05 (SCA) joined Maniac Productions as the senior vice president of development.

Elizabeth Newman '05 (LAS/SCJ) is vice president and head of Creative Acquisitions at Walt Disney Television.

Sarah Peyre MS '05, EdD '08 (EDU) is interim provost at the University of Rochester. She is on leave from her role as dean of the Warner School of Education and Human Development while the university conducts a national search.

Adam Phillips '05 (BUS) is managing director of portfolio strategy and partner at EP Wealth, based in the company's Torrance headquarters. He was recently appointed to an advisory board position with the Registered Investment Advisor Institute.

Sejal Sonani March '05 (ARC) is managing director of the Los Angeles office of HLW, a global architecture, design and planning firm. Her team designs vibrant communities anchored by sustainable mobility along the city's Metro E Line light rail.

Kirstyn Bonneau '06 (ARC) is partner at PBWS Architects in Pasadena, where she is the first woman to hold the position of partner in the firm's 64-year history.

Carlos O. Cortez PhD '06 (EDU) is chancellor of the San Diego Community College District, the seventh-largest community college system in the United States.

Jessica Hardy JD '06 (LAW) is partner at Walraven & Westerfeld LLP.



Meagan Lopez '07 (DRA) left her career as global digital business director at The New

York Times in Paris, France, to become a filmmaker. She won nine awards for her first short film and is now in postproduction for *Through the Eyes of Others*, her first feature-length documentary.

Shayna Maskell MPW '06 (LAS) published her first book, *Politics of Sound: Washington, DC Hardcore Scene, 1978–1983*.

Julian Meiojas '06 (SCA) will write Warner Bros' new graphic novel adaptation *Chariot*, alongside producer **Shawn Levy MA '94 (SCA)**.

Charlene Riofrio '06, MCG '20 (SCJ) joined Sinclair Broadcast Group as the social media manager of the Tennis Channel.

Greg Schulz Edd '06 (EDU) was named superintendent and president of Citrus College in Placentia, California.

Dan Singer MAcc '06 (ACC) is CEO of restaurant tech company Omnivore and helped lead the organization through challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic. Previously, he was vice president of finance for global privacy company FairWarning.

Ambrose Akinmusire MM '07 (MUS) was featured in an article for Grammy.com about jazz musicians pushing the genre into the future.

Matthew Benedetto JD '07 (LAW) is on the board of Los Angeles-based legal aid organization Bet Tzedek.

Vinnie Dam PharmD '07, MS '07 (PHM), a Rite Aid pharmacy district manager, is co-founder and chief pharmacy officer for Mixlab, which customizes medications for pets.

Aron Forbes '07 (MUS) earned a pair of 2021 Emmy nominations for music direction and sound mixing for *Billie Eilish: The World's a Little Blurry* on Apple TV+.

Margaret Galvan '07 (LAS) is a fellow at the Andrew W. Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography, a Rare Book School program that works to advance diversity and inclusivity in the field of bibliography.

Vallery Lomas '07 (LAS), JD '10 (LAW), a

winner on *The Great American Baking Show*, published *Life Is What You Bake It*, a collection of personal stories and recipes.

Laura Portwood-Stacer MA '07 (SCJ), GCRT '10 (LAS), PhD '10 (SCJ) published *The Book Proposal Book: A Guide for Scholarly Authors*.

Inon Shampanier '07 (SCA) is director and writer of the coming-of-age movie *Paper Spiders*.

Jeffrey Sklar JD '07 (LAW) was appointed to the Pima County Superior Court in Tucson, Arizona, by Gov. Doug Ducey. Previously, he was a partner and commercial litigator at Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP and served as outside general counsel to the Metropolitan Domestic Water Improvement District and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.

Adam Bricker '08 (SCA) is the cinematographer for HBO Max's *Hacks*.

Jess Brownell '08 (SCA) is the showrunner for seasons three and four of Netflix's *Bridgerton*.

Kyle Cabodi '08 (SCJ) is senior director of communication at Outcast Agency.

Robert Dixon JD '08 (LAW) is partner at Sanders Roberts LLP in the firm's general liability and business litigation practice groups. The firm was founded by **Reggie Roberts Jr. JD '00 (LAW)** and **Justin Sanders JD '00 (LAW)**.

Cynthia Finefrock '08 (MED) wrote the children's book *Winston the Traveling Dog*, which won a Purple Dragonfly Book Award for best photography.

Ludwig Göransson GCRT '08 (MUS) followed up his Emmy win last year for *The Mandalorian* on Disney+ with a consecutive nomination for Outstanding Music Composition for a Series (Original Dramatic Score).

Gabriel Morgan JD '08 (LAW), a restructuring partner at Weil, Gotshal and Manges LLP, has relocated to Houston.

Stacie Nyborg JD '08 (LAW) was named of counsel in Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP's Santa Barbara, California, corporate and business department.

Travers Scott MA '08, PhD '10 (SCJ) published a book, *Gay Men and Feminist Women in the Fight for Equality: "What Did You Do in the Second Wave, Daddy?"*

Colin Stutz '08 (SCJ) joined Billboard as a news director.

Abraham Tabaie JD '08 (LAW) is partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom LLP and Affiliates and serves in the firm's Palo Alto, California, litigation division.

Signo Jesse Uddenberg '08 (ENG) and his wife run a high-end restaurant in Quito, Ecuador, called Somos, which was highlighted by National Geographic UK as part of its culinary guide to that city.

Adam Benkato '09 (LAS) is an assistant professor in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at UC Berkeley and is the first holder of the Daryabari Presidential Chair in Iranian Studies.

Andre Mor '09 (SCJ) was promoted to head of YouTube subscription, artist and growth marketing for Latin America and Canada.

Austin Pollet '09 (BUS), JD '13 (LAW), MBA '13 (BUS) is partner at the corporate department of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP's new San Francisco office. Most recently, he had been with Kirkland & Ellis LLP.

Staci Tomita JD '09 (LAW) is president-elect of the Japanese American Bar Association.

Darnise Williams Edd '09 (EDU) is superintendent of Sequoia Union High School District in Redwood City, California.

2010s



Sara Fox '10 (DRA) received an Emmy nomination for her costume design on Disney+'s *The Mandalorian*. Her recent works include the film *Toxic*, ABC Freeform's pilot *None of the Above* and EPIX's *Get Shorty*.

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Sarah Gibson MM '10, DMA '15 (MUS) composed “warp & weft,” which was performed during the Los Angeles Philharmonic’s Hollywood Bowl season.

Jim Moss EdD '10 (EDU) was elected to the Utah State Board of Education for a four-year term. He previously served for three years on the Utah State Charter School Board.

Joseph Park '10 (LAS) joined the College of Podiatric Medicine at Western University of Health Sciences as an assistant professor.

Ryan Smith EdD '10 (EDU) is superintendent of Monrovia Unified School District in Monrovia, California.

Saam Takaloo '10 (LAS) is an associate at Blank Rome LLP in the general litigation group in Los Angeles.

Danielle Dupre '11 (MUS) received 2021 sound mixing Emmy nominations for *WandaVision* on Disney+.

Emily Eckstein MFA '11 (SCA) won an Emmy for her graphics work on the Apple TV+ show *Greatness Code*.

Daniel M. Goldberg GCRT '11, JD '11 (LAW) is a partner in Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz’s Los Angeles office. He serves in the firm’s privacy and data security and advertising technology groups.

Steven McLaughlin EdD '11 (EDU) was named superintendent of Fullerton Joint Union High School District in Fullerton, California.

Cory Welsh '11, MCG '11 (SCJ) joined LinkedIn as a global program manager of sales readiness.

Ashley Williams '11 (SCJ) was an honoree for the inaugural Forbes’ Next 1000 entrepreneurs list.

Brittany Allen '12 (SCJ) is an equity, diversity and inclusion lead at 72andSunny.

Corianda Dimes '12 (SCJ) joined TikTok

as a creative strategy director for the social media company’s Creative Lab.

Connor Flanagan '12 (LAS/SCA) is an executive producer for the movie *The Water Man*.

Shehzad K. Huda JD '12 (LAW) is partner at DLA Piper LLP’s San Diego office, where he is a member of the firm’s National Leadership Group of the U.S. Emerging Growth and Venture Capital Practice.

Zach Kaufer '12 (DRA) is senior manager of professional licensing at Concord Theatricals, where he oversees equity regional and first-class productions of titles from the catalogs of Rodgers & Hammerstein, Tams-Witmark and more.

Gabrielle Lopez '12 (SCJ) is growth marketing manager at Spotify.

Kirsa Rein MFA '12 (DRA) is a writer and producer on the upcoming Apple TV+ series *Shining Girls*. Her recent writing credits include *Dexter: New Blood*, *See* and *Orange Is the New Black*.

Michael Shawver MFA '12 (SCA) is editor of the movie *A Quiet Place Part II*.

Serine Tsuda JD '12 (LAW) was certified as a family law specialist and is a partner with **Lee Salisbury JD '76 (LAW)** at Salisbury, Lee and Tsuda LLP in Pasadena, California.

John Berardo MFA '13 (SCA) is director, producer and co-writer of *Initiation*, which was also produced and co-written by **Brian Frager MFA '13 (SCA)** and featured **Jonathan Pope MFA '13 (SCA)** as director of photography and **Kristina Lyons MFA '13 (SCA)** as editor.

Madison Rhoades '13 (ART) and her husband, Luke, launched Cross Roads Escape Games, which was recently named one of the top 10 best escape rooms in the nation by USA Today for the third consecutive year. Their horror-themed game, The Hex Room, is a finalist in the 2021 Top Escape Rooms Project, which ranks the best escape rooms worldwide.

Gina Luciani MM '13 (MUS) was featured in a campaign for Avid, a company that supplies digital technology for creators and media enterprises.

Kelly Vallon JD '13 (LAW) is partner at Ziffren Brittenham LLP’s music group.

Alexander Yebri '13 (LAS), JD/GCRT '17 (LAW) launched Hillcrest Law PC in Los Angeles, which specializes in personal injury, business and real estate law.

Natalie Alvarez '14, MS '15 (ENG), a civil engineer and project manager with Turner Construction, was selected as a “Woman of Influence in Engineering” by the San Diego Business Journal.

Katherine Bigelow '14 (LAS) received a master’s degree in human resources management from Georgetown University.

Carol Ciriaco '14 (SCJ) joined Spotify as a podcast partner manager.

Alex Fullenkamp '14 (BUS) is a senior financial analyst at Apple Corp.

Grace E. King JD '14 (LAW) was promoted to assistant general counsel, data security and privacy at Deloitte LLP.

Will E. Laws '14 (SCJ) joined Sports Illustrated as programming editor and writer.

Madigan Stehly '14 (DRA) received two Emmy nominations for his lighting work on *The 63rd Grammy Awards* and *Friends: The Reunion*. He has two Emmys for lighting design work on Fox’s *Rent* (2019) and *Grease: Live* (2016) and seven Emmy nominations.

Maurice Turner '14 (LAS) graduated from the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine in 2020 and is now a resident at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Kim Warden '14 (SCJ) is manager of kid and family programming publicity at Netflix.

Colin Woodell '14 (DRA) is a series regular on HBO Max’s *The Flight Attendant*, which was nominated for a SAG Award for

Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series.

Samah Al Rawahi MS '15 (SCJ) was promoted to external communications and brand lead at Petroleum Development Oman.

Taelor Bakewell '15 (SCJ) is a commissioner on the Housing Authority Commission for the city of Los Angeles.

Hayley Burgess '15 (SCJ) is communications manager at the California Immigrant Policy Center.

Alex Dumas JD '15 (LAW) is director of employment and litigation at Sony Music Entertainment in New York. He is a member of the USC Gould Alumni Association's New York committee.

Brian Guerrero Edd '15 (EDU) is president of the National Association of Colleges and Employers, a group that connects talent acquisition professionals with college career services practitioners.

Jessica Moulite MS '15 (SCJ) won the 2021 Ainslie Alumni Achievement Award from the Posse Foundation, an organization dedicated to developing future diverse leaders.

Sal Phillips JD '15 (LAW) is lead counsel of privacy incidents at Facebook in Washington, D.C. Previously, he was an associate at Polsinelli LLP's Chicago office.

Candace Rypisi Edd '15 (EDU) is assistant vice provost and director of student-faculty programs at Caltech.

Nickey Woods Edd '15 (EDU) is assistant dean of diversity, equity and inclusion at the USC Gould School of Law.

Anne Branigin MS '16 (SCJ) joined The Washington Post as a rapid-response reporter for The Lily, focusing on news and trends important to women.

Jiedi Chen '16 (SCA/ART) is a storyboard artist on Marvel's *M.O.D.O.K.* on Hulu.

Kaylin Cotton MCG '16 (SCJ) was named chief of staff at Hoorae, Issa Rae's production company.



Jon Hatamiya MM '16 (MUS) received the 2021 Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award from the ASCAP Foundation and the Herb Alpert Foundation. The award recognizes 20 young jazz musicians for their original compositions and arrangements.

Manuel Burciaga Edd '17 (EDU) is executive director of secondary education at Rialto Unified School District in Rialto, California.

Kelley Kali Chatman MFA '17 (SCA) is director and **Roma Kong MFA '17 (SCA)** is producer for the film *I'm Fine (Thanks for Asking)*, the SXSW Jury Winner that was acquired by BET Her.

John Fanestil MA '16, PhD '17 (LAS) published *One Life to Give: Martyrdom and the Making of the American Revolution*.

Maria Martinez-Poulin Edd '17 (EDU) is deputy superintendent of the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

Alexandra McBeath '17 (SCJ) is the senior market manager of strategy and supply at Airbnb.

John Reyes Edd '17 (EDU) is director of research, program evaluation and innovation at Boston College's Roche Center for Catholic Education.

Jeremy Allam MS '18 (ENG) cofounded Exo-Space, a space technology company whose first launch into space is booked for 2022.

Diana De Los Santos MPL '18, GCRT '18 (SPP) launched a bilingual stationery company, Rose Splash Creations.

Nitya Devireddy '18 (MED) began her first year of medical school at Penn State College of Medicine.

Sophie Flay '18 (SCJ) started the podcast *Always Hungry* with her father, Bobby Flay.

Lisa Ummel Garcia GCRT '19, MPA '19 (SPP) is director of loss control and compliance for the Salvation Army, Western Territory Headquarters in Rancho Palos Verdes, California.

Brittany Hope '18 (SCJ) joined KCRA News as a journalist.

Corinne Jones MA '18 (GRN) was appointed to the California Disability & Aging Community Living Advisory Committee by Mark Ghaly, secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency.

Mathew Neal Edd '18 (EDU) is superintendent of Woodland Park School District in Woodland Park, Colorado.

Ashley Sheppard-Quince MCG '18 (SCJ) was featured in The Hollywood Reporter as one of six selected for the Black Entertainment Executives Pipeline program created by Diverse Representation, a group dedicated to increasing diversity in the sports and entertainment industries.

Hannah Vega '18 (SCJ), a talent management and strategy specialist, launched the Chip and Joanna Gaines' Magnolia Network.

Emily Weisberg Edd '18 (EDU) was elected to the Burbank Unified School Board in Burbank, California.

Remi Wolf '18 (MUS) was selected among 25 rising artists as part of the Fender Next Class of 2021, a program designed to elevate musicians who are pushing guitar forward in music and culture.

Alexander Blake DMA '19 (MUS) was featured in The New York Times as founder of Tonality, a Los Angeles-based choral ensemble that aims to increase racial equity in the classical

music industry. He is also one of the writers of the Black Voices Matter pledge to foster anti-racism in choral practice.

Aerial Ellis EdD '19 (EDU) is president of the Public Relations Society of America Foundation, an independent charitable organization dedicated to advancing diversity and inclusion in the communications profession.

Jensen McRae '19 (MUS) was named one of 21 artists in #YouTubeBlackVoices Class of 2021. The artists in the program will receive funding to develop their YouTube channels as well as training, workshops and networking opportunities.

Scott Rieker DMA '19 (MUS) was a semifinalist in the American Prize in Composition's choral music division for his setting of five poems by former U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser titled "Ted Kooser Suite."

Savannah "Sabby" Robinson '19 (SCJ) works at The Washington Post as an assistant producer.

Nagham Wehbe MCG '19 (SCJ) was featured on Arab America Foundation's "40 under 40" list.

2020s

Amber Carrington '20 (SCJ) is marketing coordinator at Apple Music and Podcasts.

Brianna Devons '20 (SCJ) joined NBCUniversal as a producer and editor.

Boaz Gerstl '20, MCG '20 (SCJ) received the Outstanding Lambda Scholar Award from the USC Lambda LGBT Alumni Association.

Jené Kemp MA '20 (SCJ) joined Variety as a strategic partnerships coordinator.

Jonathan Kwortek JD '20 (LAW) received an honorable mention in the 2020 Beverly Hills Bar Association's Rule of Law competition for his entry, "Guilty Beyond a Reasonable Vote: Challenging Felony Disenfranchisement Under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act."

Adrienne Lawrence MA '20 (SCJ) published *Staying in the Game: The Playbook for Beating Workplace Sexual Harassment*.

Vivien Li MA '20 (SCJ) joined Misfit Media Inc. as an account manager.

Angela Lu MCG '20 (SCJ) is a digital marketing coordinator at 518, LLC, a multimedia digital agency.

Jennifer Quezada EdD '20 (EDU) is a governing board member for Fontana Unified School District in Fontana, California.

Mirelle Raza GCRT '21, JD '21 (LAW) was awarded the 2021 Miller-Johnson Equal Justice Prize at USC Gould School of Law for her commitment to the cause of civil and social justice.



Nina Shekhar MM '20 (MUS) was selected to be the Young Concert Artists' composer-in-residence for 2021. The composer, who also plays flute, piano and saxophone, has performed in the Detroit International Jazz Festival, the USC Thornton Symphony and the Lublin Philharmonic in the Poland International Piano Festival.

Samantha Traches MA '20 (SCJ) is a media coordinator at Grad Media, an advertising agency specializing in student communities.

Danny Umanzor '20 (SCJ) joined Nickelodeon Animation as an executive assistant for preschool development and production.

Ethan Ward '20, MPD '21 (SCJ) joined KPCC and LAist as their reporter covering unhoused communities.

Nathaniel J. Williams DSW '20 (SSW) received an honorary doctorate from Kutztown

University in Pennsylvania at its 2021 spring commencement ceremony.

Tiffany Wong '20 (LAS/SCJ) and **Bonnie Wong '20 (SCJ)** were part of a Pulitzer Prize-winning team at The New York Times for their coverage of the coronavirus pandemic.

Cate Young MA '20 (SCJ) won first place at the L.A. Press Club's National Arts & Entertainment Journalism Awards for her commentary on how Hollywood is grappling with policing.

Dae An '21 (SCJ) joined L'Oréal as a marketing coordinator.

Emily Bratt JD '21 (LAW) received the Student of the Year award for the C. David Molina First Generation Professionals Program, a mentorship partnership for first-generation students at USC Gould School of Law.

Amanda Clark JD '21, GCRT '21 (LAW), Tyler Dobberstein JD '21 (LAW), Qianru Kara Du JD '21 (LAW), Forest Lieberman JD '21 (LAW), Danielle Luchetta JD '21 (LAW), and Sara Zollner JD '21 (LAW) received the 2021 Edward and Eleanor Shattuck Award, given to USC Gould School of Law students who have demonstrated the greatest potential for becoming outstanding members of the bar and whose actions have improved the general quality of life at the school.

Miguel Angel Garcia '21 (DRA) stars in the Netflix film *Blue Miracle*, opposite Dennis Quaid.

Abdulrahman Abdul Hamdi GCRT '20, LLM '21 (LAW) and Itzel De La Torre MSLW '21 (LAW) are winners of the USC Gould School of Law Graduate and International Programs Award, which recognizes their support of, and positive impact on, the student community.

Forest Lieberman JD '21 (LAW) joined Inner City Law Center in Los Angeles, where he focuses on tenant defense.

Camryn Pearson '21 (DNC) and **Shayna Weintraub '21 (DNC)** joined the Schwerin ballet ensemble.

Matthew Perko '21 (DNC) is a company dancer at Mainfranken Ballet Würzburg.

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Alexandra Policaro '21 (DNC) joined BalletX as a dance fellow.

Nina Rosser GCRT '21, JD '21 (LAW) received the 2021 Mason C. Brown Award, given to a USC Gould student for their commitment to public interest law and talent for trial work.

Evan Sagadencky '21 (DNC) joined Ate9 as a company member and appeared in a national campaign for Lexus.

Simon Schuh '21 (DNC) joined ODC/Dance.

Sophie Sylla JD '21 (LAW) received the 2021 Dean Dorothy Nelson Commemorative Prize for her work toward improvement of the administration of justice.

Galen J. Williams MFA '21 (DRA) starred in two-time Emmy Award-nominated digital series *The Gaze*.

MARRIAGES

Kristofer O'Dowd '10 (LAS) and **Alexandra Costa**

Jeffrey Jancuska '11 (LAS) and **Jennifer Crisp '13 (ENG)**

Nerses Aposhian '14 (LAS/SCJ) and **Kathryn Mgrublian**

Melanie Kaplanek '14 (MED) and **Cory Anderson '15 (LAS)**

Mackenzie Ralston '14 (LAS) and **Michael Dwyer**

Esther Chang '16 (SPP) and **Thomas Tai DPT '18 (BPT)**

Connor McCreary '16 (MUS) and **Laura Russell '19 (LAS/SCJ)**

Stephanie Castro MPA '18 (SPP) and **Ramses Diaz GCRT '18, MPA '18 (SPP)**

BIRTHS

Jaime Colmenares '95 (BUS) and **Cecily**

Olson '99 (SCJ), a daughter, **Ava Cecily**

Chester Barry Fernando '04 (LAS) and **Katrice (Quijano) Fernando '07 (LAS)**, a daughter, **Nina James**

Alex Holmes '04 (LAS) and **Lesley Holmes '07 (LAS)**, a son, **Alexander**. He joins sister **Seraphina**.

Annelise McQuay '08 (LAS) and **Colin McQuay '09, MBA '16 (BUS)**, a son, **Logan Clark**

James Chan '09, MS '10 (ENG) and **Leilani Dimond '09 (LAS), MD '14 (MED)**, a daughter, **Zoe Moana**

Ian Livie PhD '10 (LAS) and **Lana Adlawan**, twins, **Fiona Jane** and **Graham David**

Cameron Roth '12 (BUS) and **Rebecca (Gilbert) Roth '13 (ARC)**, a son, **Levi Sanford**

Brooke (Romine) Nankervis '15 (LAS) and **Ryan Nankervis**, a son, **Hudson Alike**

Benjamin Robinson MS '16 (ENG) and **Audrey Robinson**, a daughter, **Ramona Maxwell**

IN MEMORIAM

ALUMNI

Jack McClellan '42, PhD '56 (EDU) of Alhambra, California; May 3, 2021, at the age of 102

Marian Jackson Patterson '46 (LAS), MS '49, EdD '81 (EDU) of Canton, Ohio; July 10, 2021, at the age of 97

Kenneth H. Fox DDS '47 (DEN) of Auburn, California; Nov. 17, 2020, at the age of 95

Robert Unruhe '47 (LAS), '51 (EDU) of Ojai, California; May 11, 2021, at the age of 97

John Duffy '48 (LAS) of Aliso Viejo, California; April 15, 2021, at the age of 94

Ann Longyear '48 (LAS) of Pasadena, California; May 21, 2021, at the age of 95

Leslie Burke MA '49 (LAS) of San Francisco, California; June 2, 2021, at the age of 102

Alice H. Goldberg '49 (ENG) of Seattle, Washington; March 16, 2021, at the age of 94

William F. Hillier '49 (BUS) of Long Beach, California; May 25, 2021, at the age of 96

Clark McQuay DDS '50 (DEN) of Pasadena, California; Oct. 15, 2021, at the age of 97

David Smith '50 (LAS), '51 (EDU) of Encino, California; Feb. 24, 2021, at the age of 95

Donald Anderson '51 (ENG) of Redondo Beach, California; Dec. 24, 2019, at the age of 93

B. Edward Harver '51 (LAS), MS '52 (EDU) of Spring Valley, California; Jan. 7, 2021, at the age of 95

Frits van Oppen '51 (BUS) of Mercer Island, Washington; Nov. 24, 2020, at the age of 101

Samuel J. Brown '52 (LAS) of Durango, Colorado; Jan. 7, 2021, at the age of 91

Philip Field '52 (ENG) of Bakersfield, California; Jan. 23, 2021, at the age of 91

Leslie Holve MD '52 (MED) of Santa Rosa, California; May 5, 2021, at the age of 94

Byron Richard "Dick" Marsh JD '52 (LAW) of San Marino, California; July 3, 2021, at the age of 93

James "Jim" Norris '52 (LAS) of Jackson, California; June 3, 2021, at the age of 90

Walter White Ashcraft Jr. '53 (BUS) of Anderson, South Carolina; Aug. 19, 2020, at the age of 91

Robert Bell '53 (ENG) of Palos Verdes, California; Feb. 2021, at the age of 92

Samuel C. Longo Sr. '53 (ENG) of La Cañada, California; Dec. 20, 2020, at the age of 91

Milan L. Brandon MD '54 (MED) of San Diego, California; April 10, 2021, at the age of 93

Robert W. Zakon LLB '56 (LAW) of Sherman Oaks, California; Jan. 22, 2021, at the age of 90

Frank Besag '57 (LAS), MS '63, PhD '65 (EDU) of Jacksonville, Florida; April 25,

2021, at the age of 85

Barbara Hancock Reynolds '58 (LAS) of Hilton Head, South Carolina; June 5, 2021, at the age of 84

Donald Frank PharmD '59 (PHM) of Palm Desert, California; Sept. 2021, at the age of 86

Joan Gardner '60 (EDU) of Marietta, Georgia; March 22, 2021, at the age of 82

Rino J. Patti MSW '60, DSW '67 (SSW); Sept. 16, 2021, at the age of 85

Stanley E. Barlow '61 (LAS) of Laguna Woods, California; May 19, 2021, at the age of 94

Wayne Stuart Chronister MD '61 (MED) of Los Gatos, California; June 12, 2021, at the age of 86

Chester Lawrence Ward MD '62 (MED) of Union City, California; May 31, 2021, at the age of 88

Richard Gabriel PhD '63 (LAS) of Long Beach, California; Feb. 17, 2021, at the age of 92

Brent W. Berry '64 (BUS) of Fullerton, California; Aug. 9, 2021, at the age of 80

Robert "Bob" Leon Childress MBA '64, DBA '67 (BUS) of Stillwater, Oklahoma; April 7, 2021, at the age of 81

Joan Glenna King '64 (LAS) of South Gate, California; May 5, 2021, at the age of 79

Roger W. Krauel '66 (LAS) of Escondido, California; June 11, 2021, at the age of 77

Arlene Marie Karp Magnus MS '67, PhD '74 (EDU) of Reading, Massachusetts; March 27, 2021, at the age of 83

Renaldo G. Parisi '68 (LAS), DDS '68 (DEN) of Pasadena, California; Jan. 20, 2021, at the age of 84

Wayne A. Keup '69 (LAS) of Grantham, New Hampshire; March 28, 2021, at the age of 73

William Zidbeck MA '69 (LAS) of Imperial Beach, California; March 14, 2021, at the age of 88



TROJAN TRIBUTE Tom Morey

Surfer and inventor Tom Morey '57 helped revolutionize the surfing industry in the 1970s with his Boogie board design. Millions of boards based on his original design have been sold, creating one of the world's most popular watersports and spawning professional competitions.

Morey's bachelor's degree in mathematics from the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences and

knowledge from several engineering and manufacturing jobs helped him invent a steady stream of surfing-related items including deck chairs, life preservers and even a ukulele with a fiberglass shell. He launched the Tom Morey Invitational Nose Riding Championships, generally recognized as the world's first professional surfing contest, at the famed California Street surf break in Ventura. In 2005, he earned a star on Huntington Beach's Surfing Walk of Fame, and he was inducted into the Surfing Hall of Fame.

Morey died on Oct. 14, 2021, at the age of 86.



Robert J. Harmon '71 (LAS) of Grand Rapids, Michigan; June 28, 2021, at the age of 75

Gayle Lensing Rimerman '71 (EDU) of Calistoga, California; March 12, 2021, at the age of 71

Terry (Medearis) Amos '72 (DEN) of Pagosa Springs, Colorado; April 2019

Marsha Brunner '72 (DEN) of Indio, California; June 9, 2021, at the age of 70

Charles Louis Baecker '73 (LAS) of Laguna Niguel, California; June 25, 2021, at the age of 69

George Handtmann III '74 (LAS), MBA '76 (BUS) of Carpinteria, California; April 10, 2021, at the age of 68

Timothy Allan Quon '74 (LAS), DDS '78 (DEN) of Torrance, California; Feb. 2, 2021, at the age of 67

Romayne J. Thompson MLA '74 (LAS) of Lawndale, California; May 28, 2021, at the age of 92

Robert Elftman '75 (LAS) of Vernon, California; Jan. 18, 2021, at the age of 68

Neal Roberts PhD '75 (EDU) of Salt Lake City, Utah; Oct. 17, 2020, at the age of 92

Joseph Shumard '75 (SPP) of Alexandria, Virginia; Oct. 17, 2020, at the age of 67

David Richard Smith MA '76, PhD '81 (LAS) of Rockville, Maryland; July 25, 2021, at the age of 76

James Allen Edwards '77, MM '82 (MUS) of Youngsville, North Carolina; March 10, 2021, at the age of 65

Karen "Indiana" Reed '77 (LAS) of Durango, Colorado; June 17, 2021, at the age of 66

Mary Rooney '77 (LAS), JD '80 (LAW) of Newport Beach, California; April 30, 2021, at the age of 65

Leolin Theodore Brush Jr. DDS '78 (DEN)

of Folsom, California; May 25, 2021, at the age of 68

Lawrence H. Townsend '78, MPA '79 (SPP) of Los Angeles, California; Nov. 2, 2020, at the age of 76

George B. Hughes Jr. '80 (LAS) of Warren, New Jersey; March 7, 2021, at the age of 62

Scott B. Tolman MA '80 (LAS) of Mead, Washington; May 25, 2021, at the age of 76

David Eugene Funston '81 (BUS) of Prescott, Arizona; April 1, 2021, at the age of 61

Carole Marie Jones MPA '81 (SPP) of Rogue River, Oregon; July 22, 2021, at the age of 74

Luke Elbert Williams Jr. '83 (LAS) of Springfield, Massachusetts; July 27, 2021, at the age of 59

Derek Kawika Wood '86 (BUS) of Dallas, Texas; Jan. 4, 2021, at the age of 58

Ronald Bennett EdD '90 (EDU) of Trabuco Canyon, California; March 14, 2021, at the age of 78

Kathi Beratan PhD '90 (LAS) of Durham, North Carolina; March 21, 2021, at the age of 64

Darren Schenck MPW '00 (LAS) of Middlesex, New Jersey; May 24, 2021, at the age of 49

Harold Cenidoza PharmD '04 (PHM) of Cerritos, California; Aug. 29, 2021, at the age of 43

Jason V. Christofferson MS '15 (LAS) of Los Angeles, California; March 31, 2021, at the age of 38

Theresa Coble MSW '15 (SSW) of Lyons, Colorado; Sept. 9, 2019, at the age of 68

Samuel David Miller '19 (LAS) of Sarasota, Florida; April 15, 2021, at the age of 24

FACULTY AND FRIENDS

George Ban-Weiss of Los Angeles, California;

Oct. 29, 2021, at the age of 40

Paul Jerome Geiger of Sebastopol, California; Aug. 9, 2021, at the age of 91

Steve Riley of Laguna Hills, California; Sept. 16, 2021, at the age of 68

LEGEND

ACC	USC Leventhal School of Accounting
ARC	USC School of Architecture
ART	USC Roski School of Art and Design
BPT	Division of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy
BUS	USC Marshall School of Business
DEN	Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC
DNC	USC Kaufman School of Dance
DRA	USC School of Dramatic Arts
EDU	USC Rossier School of Education
ENG	USC Viterbi School of Engineering
GRD	USC Graduate School
GRN	USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology
IYA	USC Iovine and Young Academy
LAS	USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences
LAW	USC Gould School of Law
MED	Keck School of Medicine of USC
MUS	USC Thornton School of Music
OST	USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy
PHM	USC School of Pharmacy
SCA	USC School of Cinematic Arts
SCJ	USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
SPP	USC Price School of Public Policy
SSW	USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

Julie Tilsner, Matt DeGrushe, Kristy Ly, Jane Ong, Tatiana Overly, Alex Rast, Justin Wilson, Leticia Lozoya, Stacey Wang Rizzo, Katie Maloney, Maerve Harding, Amanda Decker, Deann Web and Cecile Oreste contributed to this section.



Stepping Into the Roaring '20s

Ask Trojans about their proudest, most memorable day at USC, and for many, the answer is the same: commencement. After two years dominated by COVID-19, graduates should be doubly proud for having persevered through some tough times. As journalist Bina Venkataraman told the 2021 graduating class, “You’ve been forged in the fire of history.”

Throughout history, USC students have shown their mettle during their university years and later. In 1918–19, a different pandemic swept the world. The Spanish flu killed an estimated 50 million people. About 45,000 U.S. soldiers died of the disease, among the approximately 20 million people who died in World War I, which overlapped with the pandemic. Between the two events—young men serving their country and a pandemic—USC football took a hit. It ended its season with a 1–2–2 record.

As the world healed, life at USC began to normalize. By 1924, USC prepared to send off 800 undergraduate and master’s students, but it had had outgrown the campus facilities that once had hosted commencement ceremonies. To accommodate this, the largest graduating class in school history, administrators turned to a new neighbor: the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. The stadium, which seated 75,000 and was the world’s largest stadium at the time, became the home of Trojan football team in 1923, the year the arena opened. USC hosted Pomona College on Oct. 6 of that year, winning 23–7.

The Coliseum, which has hosted numerous events in its fabled history—Super Bowls, Olympics and even a World Series—became the site of the 1924 USC graduation.

“Invitations have been sent to many of the Southland’s best-known citizens, and Sunday is expected to prove a significant day in the university community,” the Daily Trojan reported in June 1924.

On the big day, students gathered in their caps and gowns in front of Bovard Auditorium. Walking in a procession to the stadium, graduates entered through the peristyle and marched “down the greensward on the field of the giant bowl.” Music students and the marching band provided musical accompaniment, and faculty members and administrators awarded degrees from a decorated pavilion.

The event was a hit. The historically large Class of 1924 kicked off a Coliseum commencement day tradition that lasted until 1950.

The USC graduation ceremony was far from the only tradition that expanded because of the influx of students. In 1924, the Daily Trojan congratulated the editors for an unheard-of feat: the completion of a 700-page yearbook.

For USC and the rest of the world, the 1920s roared. In 1924, the university’s school of international relations was established; three years later, the College of Engineering became the newest kid on the block. In 1929, USC’s School of Citizenship and Public Administration opened, and the Department of Cinematography was established.

In October 1929, the world again tilted on its axis. The stock market crash was the beginning of an economic disaster that lasted a decade. On Sept. 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland, marking the start of World War II and once again demanding the best that USC Trojans had to offer. **ELISA HUANG**

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Her real estate advice doubled as family counseling.

The lake house was where the family felt most connected and now our father was selling it to keep from tearing the family apart. Better to let it go, he believed, than for his children to fight over it after he was gone. But one glimpse of a framed photo of my brothers and me at the house was all it took for Rebecca to see how it brought the family together. She showed us options to keep the house in the family that didn't involve leaving it to any one of the kids. Rebecca could see the big picture because she stopped to take notice of the **the little things**.

— Molly, Lake Tahoe




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