

# Rossier Connections

## **Debra Bradley**

I received both my Masters and my Doctoral degree from Rossier. My doctorate is in Policy, Planning and Administration. The experiences I had during the program and the knowledge gleaned assisted me in my professional career in educational administration spanning a career over 35 years where I served as a High School Principal for 7 years followed by serving as a Superintendent of Schools in 3 school districts in Santa Barbara San Bernardino and Marin Counties totaling 25 years.

While serving as Superintendent of Schools in Sausalito (Marin County) our district worked closely with the Marin Community Foundation and received a multi-million-dollar grant focused on racial equality which took a team of us to Harvard where we met Dr. Noguera when he was serving as Executive Director of the Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools. Later, Dr. Noguera was brought to Marin County by the Marin Community Foundation as a consultant to assist school districts in Marin County with transformational leadership.

I have had numerous experiences ranging from working and traveling with military personnel at Vandenberg Air Force Base, teaching at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and working with students, parents and school district staff in 3 districts ranging in size from 400 to 54,000 students. All these experiences have been remarkable and I attribute my successes to a strong foundation that came from the instruction, professors and colleagues I met while at Rossier.

## **Jo Ann Conley**

I graduated from the USC School of Education before it was named Rossier School of Education. I taught third grade for several years for the Inglewood Unified School District and the Vista School District in San Diego County while my husband was serving in the Military. I worked in my husband's office for over thirty years who was a USC trained dentist. My professors at Rossier were an inspiration and supportive to me in my work as a student.

## **Sally Edwards**

I also received my Bachelor of Science Degree from the School of Education. However, it was in 1965 before it was called the Rossier School of Educ. Fortunately, in those days, we were able to get our degree and the teaching credential in four years. I was so impressed with the Educ. dept. that I requested my Town and Gown Scholarship to go to a student in education.

### **Carol Fox**

I had two cousins (L'Cena Rice and her sister Una Mae Naulty) who graduated from Rossier as undergraduates in the 1950's. I later earned my Master's degree from Rossier, and eventually joined the Board of Directors of the *Educare* support group. I served as President of the Education Alumni Association, *Educare*, and the Rossier Alumni and Support Association (ASA). I am currently on the Rossier Board of Councilors and served terms as both Chair and Vice Chair of that group. My Rossier education served me well as an administrator for preschool to postgraduate levels for multiple school districts and universities in southern California, including serving as an Adjunct Associate Professor at Rossier, where I had Town and Gown President-Elect Beth Petak-Aaron as a student. I was deeply touched to twice be honored with awards from Rossier, receiving a ROSE (Recognition of Outstanding Service for Education) award in 2007 and the Centennial Alumni Service Award in 2019. Former Dean Karen Gallagher nominated me for the USC Alumni Association Board of Governors, which started the journey that led to serving as Board of Governors President and on the USC Board of Trustees. My son Chris worked at Rossier in the Alumni, Development and Public Affairs Office and at a Rossier based research center for two years following his graduation from USC. Carrying on the family tradition, another cousin (Debbie Elder) earned her Ed.D. from Rossier in 2020 through our wonderful online program.

### **Carol Greenhalgh**

It was a fortuitous day when I chose to attend USC to earn my Masters Degree and Administrative Credential from the School of Education, now Rossier. The classes were challenging but a great learning experience.

I note some of my professors who made a difference in my life. Professor Leo Buscaglia, known as Dr. Love and a prolific author. His teachings created an atmosphere of caring and love. Dr. Dan Dawson who brought the administrative side of education to light. Dr. Laurence Peter, noted author of the Peter Principle. Dr. Michael who made the study of statistics understandable. Dr. Nasland whose Curriculum Class was known as one of the most difficult ones and it was; however, it benefited me most.

All these experiences helped me in my career as a teacher, a Coordinator of a Gifted Program and a Principal. I also joined other educational programs such as Educare which broadened my professional associations. Most of all, I became a member of the Trojan Family meeting new friends and participating in alumnae groups, particularly Town and Gown of USC.

### **Chris Gregg**

A year filled with excitement and eager anticipation as I received notice of my acceptance into the USC Masters of Science in Education and Secondary Teaching Credential Program. How could I have been so fortunate? The program was perfect for me! The USC Rossier School of Education program offered me the opportunity to do a dual major in which multiple classes could be applied to both the Masters and Teaching Credential program.

My time in the program presented me with two outstanding professors that were influential in shaping my desire, determination, and dedication to the field of education. Dr. Hasterok and Dr. Buscaglia were the two professors whose teachings and interactive discussions sparked my growth and development as an educator. To this day, I share with colleagues and friends my memories and invaluable experiences of being a student in their classes.

My successes in the areas of Special Education, School Counseling, Elementary Principal, and OCDE Leadership Coach, I owe to the guidance, support and professional training I received at the USC Rossier School of Education.

### **Marilyn Kezirian**

I received my BS from the Marshall School of Business in 1960 and continued directly to the Rossier School of Education for my MS in 1962. I also completed my requirements for a teaching credential in business through Junior College. I returned to my own high school, John Marshall High School, in Los Angeles and taught Business Economics and Business English. Thus, I was on the faculty with my former principal and teachers. Wonderful experience! My advisors at the Marshall School of Business (Dr. Richard Mead and Dr. William Himstreet) and the Rossier School were excellent as was the faculty of my high school enabling me to have a thoroughly enriched, satisfying, and successful journey.

### **D'Arcy McLeod**

I received my Bachelor of Science in Education in 1978 and my teaching credential in 1979 from Rossier. Loved the school and the education I received that prepared me so well to teach elementary school for several years...and so fortunate to be a Town and Gown scholar through the process.

### **Thelma Orr**

It's been fun reading the many stories from the Town and Gown ladies about their experiences with the Rossier School of Education. My story is as "the wife of the

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Dean of the School of Education” (pre Rossier). John was dean from 1981-1989. I was still working as the director of physical therapy at Rancho Los Amigos Hospital in Downey. Many days I would change from my “work clothes” to “wife clothes”, drive into USC or wherever, and enjoy the program with education friends.

For me, probably the highlight of my association with the School of Education was to accompany John on visits to School of Education teaching programs on military bases in Germany, Japan, and South Korea. At that time the School was offering graduate programs in Educational Administration and Early Childhood Education under contracts with the US Department of Defense.

The School also had an active educational development project –under Professor Bill Rideout--in Cameroon, West Africa. I never visited Cameroon, but John did. We were thrilled to be part of a program that was making such a huge difference. I felt almost regal when John and I hosted a luncheon to honor the President of Cameroon—a big fan of the School of Education project--during his visit to the USC campus.

I retired from Rancho in 1993 and became involved in Town and Gown. John retired from teaching and as Director of the School of Religion in 1998. He became involved in the Retired Faculty Association and the Center for Religion and Civic Culture.

When I became president of Town and Gown in 2000, John became the “husband of the president”. He attended most of the monthly luncheons and enjoyed a glass of wine in the patio with former faculty and students.

Those were many exciting and memorable years.

### **Beth Petak-Aaron**

I received my bachelor of science degree in Liberal Art and Education from the School of Education in 1980. (Not yet called Rossier). There I had the opportunity to meet Carol Fox who was one of my professors at the time. From there we have created a lifelong friendship.

### **Judy Pohlmann**

I graduated in 1964. I taught 12 of my 14 years with LAUSD in the inner city. Years later, I was a member of the Rossier Board of Councilors. I took my teaching skills to a mutual fund where I conducted seminars for brokers and the public. I was the national corporate training director for a Fortune 500 company. Last but not least, I became a career management counselor for a national

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company and then formed my own company. The basis for all my positions was the ability to teach and train, all thanks to Rossier!

### **Alli Solum**

I graduated with an MA in Business Education from Commerce in 1959-60. While I was doing my undergraduate work, I did work study with the Dean - Robert Dockson. He became a dear friend and suggested that I go the extra year so that I could teach at the college level. Good decision! My faculty mentor was Bill Hlmstreet (his wife was a member of T&G). Conrad and I became good friends with Bill and his wife. The Business Education aspect was affiliated with the School of Education.

At that time - 1955-1960 -I was one of only 3 women in the Business School. Barbara Dohrman and Mary Coates were the other two that I knew of - both eventually T&G members!

My Practice teaching as an undergraduate was at Manual Arts High School and Roosevelt High - the stories I could tell you about my adventures at those LAUSD schools!

### **Bonnie Suffridge**

My father, Keith Hilliard earned his Masters of Education degree in the late 1950's from USC. Fun fact, when my son was an undergraduate at USC he went to the library and checked out his Grandfather's Master's Thesis so he could read it. He brought it to a USC football tailgate and shared it with my father, it was a very touching moment for the two of them.

My daughter in law achieved her Master's of Education and secondary teaching credential from Rossier in 2016 and is now teaching high school biology in Oregon.

### **Pat Whitman**

I received my doctorate, with a major in education administration, from Rossier in 1984. My time at Rossier was and is my favorite educational experience. My professors were fantastic--knowledgeable and supportive in every way and challenging me to do my best. In addition, I once taught a class at Rossier, subbing for Carol Fox who was unable to teach her class one semester.

### **Carol Wright**

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My aunt received her masters in education in the early 60's. She taught in LAUSD for over 35 years.

My daughter in law received her masters degree from Rossier in 2017.

My god-Daughter will receive her masters degree this May.

**Marjorie Zickfeld (Deceased)**

Marjorie graduated from the USC School of Education in 1945, and taught elementary school and music in Los Angeles schools. She served on the Board of Councilors for many years. Marjorie was a strong advocate for the Town and Gown Scholarship program and served as an Advisor for the program for many years. She was President of Town and Gown from 1982-1984.