



Paula Ciaramitaro

## *President's Message:*

Happy Spring! As we wind down this year with our last Spring Luncheon on May 7th, I reflect on all the things that Town and Gown has been a part of this "season." There have been countless board and committee meetings, seven luncheons, one benefit, the Day of SService, our first Fireside Chat, a night of dance at Kaufman, and our first Basketball Game watch. WOW!

Thank you to all of you who participated in Dollars for Scholars and the Benefit. Thanks to your generosity, we are able to establish yet another scholarship in our endowment.

We have one more general luncheon on May 7<sup>th</sup> at which we are privileged to have motivational speaker, Air Force Master Sgt. Israel Del Toro, Jr. as our guest. He will speak to us about overcoming the odds and his amazing life journey. This is also the luncheon at which we honor all of our Life Members.

I look forward to seeing all of you there!

## PAST & FUTURE HAPPENINGS

Town and Gown has been busy!

On March 5th, George Geary, author of L.A.'s Legendary Restaurants, entertained all of us with stories and photographs of many of Los Angeles' iconic restaurants. It was fun to see the "before" and "after" pictures of so many of these famous landmarks. George stayed on after for photographs and book signing.



Mar. 17<sup>th</sup> Pat Nixon Day of Service

On March 9th, Town and Gown hosted over 150 people, including many NAI students and our Town and Gown Scholars, for the USC Alumni Day of SService. Participants made beautiful necklaces that were delivered to patients at Norris Hospital, complete with inspirational notes written by our scholars. We celebrated at the end of the day with pizza and desserts!

On March 17th, Town and Gown was invited to participate in the first Pat Nixon Day of Service at the Nixon Library. Pat Nixon was an alumna of USC and was also our Benefit Honoree in 1972. Thank you to the Nixon Foundation for inviting Town and Gown to participate in this very special day.

On March 19th, Town and Gown hosted our first ever "Fireside Chat" with Interim President Wanda Austin and her husband Wade Austin MS. The chat was moderated by Willow Bay, The Dean of the Annenberg School of Communication. The setting, the hor d'oeuvres and free flowing wine were all wonderful! The open dialogue during Q&A was a unique opportunity for our

Town and Gown members to get up close and personal to the events going on at USC. President Wanda was poised, transparent and very informative. We look forward to hosting many more events like this in the future.



## PAST & FUTURE HAPPENINGS

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On April 2nd, the Annual Benefit was held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. What a wonderful day!

Guests shopped at the vendor boutique, bid on one-of-a-kind items at the Silent Auction and were then treated to an amazing Fashion Show with designs by Ali Rahimi of Mon Atelier.

The best news is that the event raised enough money to add yet another scholarship to our endowment! Thank you to everyone who supported this event. The new scholarship will be named “DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS #1.”

On April 24th, Town and Gown was treated to a private tour of the USC Glorvya Kaufman School of Dance and then the Spring Dance Performance at the Bing Theatre. The performance was simply amazing. Bravo Kaufman students! All of us were in awe of your talents!



Apr. 24<sup>th</sup> Spring Dance Performance at the Bing Theatre

## MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

This month, I'd like to introduce you to two more wonderful board members who donate their time and treasures to Town and Gown, our Program Chairs, Kathie Johnson and Chris Griffith. These amazing women are responsible for putting together the incredible slate of speakers we are fortunate enough to meet and learn from at each luncheon.

I have to say that this year our speakers have been the best ever!



Kathie Johnson



Chris Griffith

## SCHOLAR HOLLER!

Meet Diviya Gupta!

Diviya was chosen as one of the Salutatorians for the Class of 2019. USC selects salutatorians based on academic achievement, service and leadership. Congratulations, Diviya!



Meet Emma Rakow!

Emma is one of our scholars graduating this year and headed for Chicago to work at J.P. Morgan. Her work there will be with the Healthcare, Government and Nonprofit group.



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