



## *President's Message:*



Dear Town and Gown of USC Members,

We look forward to seeing you at 12:15pm on October 6th at our General meeting and luncheon featuring Winston Crisp. We will also hear from one of our scholars, **April Banayan, M.D. Candidate** - Keck School of Medicine, **M.B.A Candidate** - Marshall School of Business, **M.S. Global Medicine** - Keck School of Medicine, **B.S. Health Promotion & Disease Prevention** - Keck School of Medicine.

Please meet the following Directors serving for the first time on the Town and Gown of USC Board:

### **Mary Hall**

Mary always wanted to be a teacher. She loved school, admired her teachers - and always wanted to be like them. When she became a teacher, she found it to be as exciting and rewarding as she had thought it would be. As a teacher and as an administrator, she enjoyed helping students learn, working with parents, and community agencies to provide services for families. As a result of her fathers "prodding" and her husband's patience, Mary completed both a masters and a doctorate degree.

She is a grandmother of 4 and great grandmother of 1 and her teaching and learning continues.

### **Marilyn Kezirian**

Marilyn earned her BS from Marshall and was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, the business honor society. She was a Helene (then called Amazons) and collegiate president of Alpha Omicron Pi. She received her MS from Rossier and returned to her own high school to teach.

She was married to Aram Peter Kezirian, MD., an OB-GYN, and settled in Los Angeles where they raised five sons before his unfortunately, untimely death in 1996. She also lost her oldest son, Peter, in 2012.

A committed volunteer, Marilyn served eight years on the national board of the American Medical Association Alliance including a term as National Secretary, following presidencies of the LA County and California Medical Association Alliances; President of the Harvard School Parents Association and then the first president of the Harvard-Westlake Parents Association; presidencies of LA Panhellenic Alumnae, LA Philharmonic Committee, hospital guilds; and on boards of The Beach Club, Les Amies, Assistance League of LA and its Nine O'Clock Players. She served a three-year term on the Board of Governors of the USC Alumni Association. She was President of USC Trojan League of LA and USC Trojan Guild of LA. She received the Widney Alumni Award and was recently named a member of the Skull and Dagger Society.

Fun Fact: two of Marilyn's sons are members of the USC faculty; Prof. Eric Kezirian, MD, a USC Doctor, will speak at our March 2 luncheon.

### **Becky La Forge**

Born and raised in the Bay Area, Becky went to college at Santa Clara University where she received a BSC degree in Business Management and also met her future husband. She worked for Activision for 5 years and Apple for 6 years before raising their 2 sons. Becky has held many volunteer positions such as room mom, team mom, was in charge of the Yearbook for 8 years, and was actively involved in Boy Scouts as a Den Leader, Advancement Chair and District Commissioner. Their oldest son played water polo for Stanford and you can imagine his shock at his younger brother choosing to go to his rival school, USC! Both boys got Undergraduate and Master's degrees in Engineering at their respective colleges and both live in San Francisco. Becky and her husband of 36 years split their time between homes in San Clemente and Healdsburg.



### **Barbara Orechoff**

is an Independent Financial planner / Investment Advisor with international credentials. She has worked and lived in Paris, France for many years running the Futures Seat on the Paris Stock exchange for Citibank. She has her degree in International Business Administration from American University of Paris, has a post graduate certificate in Financial Planning. She speaks fluent English, French, Polish, and some Russian. Her practice has two offices 1 in Camarillo and 2nd in Santa Barbara but has clients nationwide. Barbara has been married to Michael for 32 years and has 2 children Alex 31 and Marie. Marie went to heaven and became an Angel at 27. Barbara is currently President of Trojan League Associates of the Valleys. Barbara is yester-year ballerina and still loves to attend and watch any and all dance.

### **Colleen Stroyke**

is a USC alumna and Business major, graduating in 1986. Happily married 28 years to a fellow Trojan, she has 3 daughters in their early 20's and the youngest is a senior at USC and a Town and Gown of USC Scholar. Her daughter's freshman year, she became a member of Town and Gown and additionally joined the boards of ISPC and her daughter's sorority Parent's Club. Through the years she has served on Boards of National Charity League, the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Los Angeles and multiple PTAs. Her involvement at T&G is most gratifying because of her daughter's own scholar experience and because it allows her the ability to give back to the organization and the school, she holds so dear. She loves to spend free time in Montana with her family, and (among many other things) dreams of a Dodgers World Series win!

### **Bonnie Suffridge**

Bonnie began her involvement at USC when her son started as a freshman in the fall of 2007. Bonnie has been involved in many Trojan organizations throughout her years: USC Parent Council, USC Trojan Marching Band Parent Association, Trojan Guild of Orange County, Inter Sorority Parent Council, Gamma Phi Beta Parent Club, and ACC to name a few. Both of Bonnie's children were in the Trojan Marching Band and her daughter is a Gamma Phi Beta. Bonnie is also a USC Gamma Phi Beta. Bonnie's son is a Triple Trojan earning his BS, MS, and PhD from USC. Her daughter graduated with her BA and now works at the University in the office of Cultural Relations and University Events. Bonnie lives in Dana Point with her husband Phil.

### **Carol Wright**

Carol has been married to her husband, Brad, who she met at USC, for 41 years this month. They have 3 children, Jess who graduated from USC with her MPH in 2012, Christopher who graduated from USC with his MHA in 2015 and Stephen. Jess and Christopher's graduations from USC have made them 4th generation Trojans in the Wright Family. Carol and Brad have 2 grandsons age 2 and 1 with two more grandchildren on the way.

Carol is a life member of Town and Gown. Brad's grandmother, Merle Wright, endowed a scholarship with Town & Gown (The Arthur C and Merle Wright Scholarship). Merle was an active member of Town and Gown and Carol is so happy to follow in her footsteps by serving as Scholarship Vice President with Ann Palmer this year.

After college, Carol worked in the hospitality industry as a Restaurant Manager. Once her daughter was born, she worked part time in her father's medical office, scheduling surgeries and tests for his patients. After the birth of her sons, Carol became a stay at home mom and a "professional" volunteer; serving as room mom for a variety of grades and Benefit Co-Chair for the annual fundraiser at her children's elementary school. At her sons' high school, she and her husband served on the Parent Association Board for 8 years, twice serving as Co-Parent Association President. Carol was a 16-year volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America, serving as cub leader, membership chair, Pack Committee Chair, Troop Committee Chair and, in 2013, chaired Pasadena's Troop 4 Centennial Celebration. Carol is a past member of the Junior League of Pasadena and a founding member of National Charity League, Pasadena Area Chapter, serving on the founding Board as Treasurer. Carol is also a member of USC Trojan Affiliates, serving as co-President and Parliamentarian and a member of USC Trojan Guild of Los Angeles. Last year she was Scholarship Program Chair for ACC. For the past last 10 years, Carol has been an Independent Consultant with Arbonne International, a botanically based health, wellness and skincare company.

Though she and her husband love to travel, her most favorite activity is spending time with her children and grandchildren at the family's home in Lake Arrowhead.



## Jody Zuvich

Jody graduated from USC in 3 ½ years with a BA in Journalism ('84). Jody (Gamma Phi Beta) met her husband (SAE) of 30 years on the Row. While at USC she was selected for the cover of "The Women of USC" monthly calendar. Upon graduation, Jody worked for McLarand, Vasquez & Partners, an architectural firm, where she was an Associate and Marketing/Business Development Director for 12 years. She was the President of the Business Development Association of Orange County and received a PROTOS Award from the Public Relations Society of America. She and her husband, 25-year members of Cardinal and Gold, started the "Beat the Bruin Annual Golf Classic and Fundraiser" held the week of the USC/UCLA football game.

Jody has an extensive background in fundraising. She worked on the Executive Committee for the George Michael Concert benefitting the Adam Walsh Foundation. Jody also chaired the annual fundraising efforts for The Mission School in San Juan Capistrano for 10 years securing over \$1 million to support Catholic elementary education and scholarships. Additionally, she has written two children's books and a cookbook.

She and her husband have three boys. Peter (26) attended Chapman University on a football scholarship (BS in Accounting) and Wake Forest (MSA). Luke (24) attended USC, two years Trojan Baseball, Sigma Chi fraternity, graduated Cum Laude in '19 (MS in Real Estate, Accounting Minor), received his MSA from USC, Magna Cum Laude ('20). Mark (21), is a junior at USC who plays Trojan Football, #67, Offensive Lineman, who is a Real Estate major with a Risk Management minor, also a Sigma Chi.

Jody is an Alumni Ambassador for the USC Annenberg School of Journalism, a member of Legatus and the Women's Forum as well as a 10-year breast cancer survivor!

On behalf of our entire Board of Directors, we THANK YOU for caring about Town and Gown of USC.

Fight on!



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## 2021 - 2022 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

All Town and Gown of USC Members have the opportunity each year to nominate outstanding, qualified leaders for our Board of Directors. This year's nominees will be for the following Director positions:

President Elect  
CFO  
2nd VP Scholarship  
3rd VP Fund Development  
4th VP Membership  
5th VP Programs  
Two Nominating Committee Members

Mark your calendars now that Call For Nomination Forms will be emailed/mailed at the end of September and to be returned by October 30, 2020. Board Position Description Summaries for each elected position can be found in the Town and Gown of USC Handbook.

Sincerely,  
Chris Gregg  
Nominating Chair



# SAVE THE DATE!

## 2020-2021 Monthly Programs & Events



Tuesday,  
Oct 6, 2020

### WINSTON B. CRISP

Vice President for Student Affairs of USC

**Virtual Zoom Speaker Series: "How Student Life is Changing"**

Hear how USC and student life are adapting and thriving in this ever-changing world.

**Lords & Ladies Day**



Tuesday,  
Nov 3, 2020

### Special Introduction by: PRESIDENT CAROL FOLT

President of the University of Southern California

**Virtual Zoom Speaker Series: "USC Update"**

"USC is where big dreams are nurtured and incubated and where dreams can become impactful, even world-changing, achievements."

AND



### TRACY SCHANDLER WALDER

Former CIA Officer and FBI Special Agent

**Virtual Zoom Speaker Series: "Life as a CIA Operative and Female Empowerment"**

From USC student, to U.S. Intelligence Community agent, to mentor for young women, she will share her story of *The Unexpected Spy: My secret life chasing down some of the world's most notorious terrorists.*

**Holiday Boutique: TBD**



Tuesday,  
Dec 1, 2020

### ANNUAL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Save the Date! Watch for details on this wonderful event.



Tuesday,  
Jan 12, 2021

### DR. MARISSA PEI

Organizational Psychologist; Award-winning Author & Speaker

**Speaker Series: "Don't Worry, Choose Happy!"**

An upbeat, humorous, and inspiring presentation based on the book, *8 Ways to Happiness from Wherever You Are.*

**Honoring Past ACC Chairpersons & Current ACC Presidents**



Tuesday,  
Feb 2, 2021

### DEAN GEOFF GARRETT

Dean of USC Marshall School of Business

**Speaker Series: "Future of Business Education" and "How Can Business be Part of the Solution"**

A warm welcome back to one of the University of Southern California's newest leaders. Learn how he turns challenges into opportunities.

**Honoring Town & Gown Scholars and Donors**





**Tuesday,  
Mar 2, 2021**

**ERIC J. KEZIRIAN, MD, MPH**  
Professor, USC Caruso Dept. of Otolaryngology; Sleep Surgeon  
&

**VALTER D. LONGO, PhD**  
Director, USC Longevity Institute; Professor of Biological Sciences  
*Speaker Series: "Keys to Health & Wellness"*

Two renowned doctors, who are experts in their specialized fields will present their tips for health and wellness.

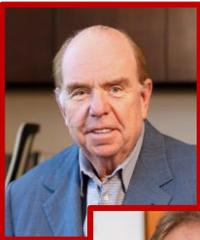
*Honoring Town & Gown Past Presidents*



**Tuesday,  
Apr 13, 2021**

**ANNUAL BENEFIT & LUNCHEON**

Join us for the Spring Benefit & Luncheon, featuring special guests and entertainment! Location of the Benefit this year will be at The California Club, an elegant venue in downtown L.A.



**Tuesday,  
May 4, 2021**

**ROBERT SHRUM**

Co-Director, USC Dornsife Center for the Political Future  
&

**MICHAEL MURPHY**

Co-Director, USC Dornsife Center for the Political Future  
*Speaker Series: "The Changing Political Landscape"*

Longtime Democratic political strategist Robert Shrum and veteran GOP strategist Michael Murphy lead the Center devoted to bipartisan explorations of the biggest issues facing our country and community.

*Installation of Officers & Honoring Life Members*



# ZOOM SOCIAL EVENTS

## October 6, 2020 General Meeting and Zoom Speaker Series

Please join us for our **General Meeting and Zoom Speaker Series**:

**When:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020; 12:15pm optional virtual social, 12:45 General Meeting, 1:00pm Speaker

**Who:** **Winston Crisp, Vice President of Student Affairs**, will speak about “How Student Life is Changing”

**How:** Please RSVP through the email invitation link, Town & Gown website Members Only portal, or [click here](#).

*We hope you and your friends will join us!*

Please keep in mind that you must have a Zoom account already created to join a meeting so make sure to set that up ahead of time. If you download the app to your computer, cell phone, or tablet, it will be easy to join the meeting by clicking the Zoom link in this email (and entering in the passcode, if prompted).

If you join without previously downloading the app, you must use the following browsers: Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, or Chromium Edge and you must have an account created to access the meeting from your browser. Again, click the Zoom link in this email and follow the prompts to open from your browser or the app.

For more information on Zoom access, please visit: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/214629443-Zoom-Web-Client>

- OR -

use this link for helpful videos (<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-video-tutorials>).

If you need help with logging into Zoom, please contact one of our wonderful Programs committee volunteers listed below:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Ronna Berlin	(310) 702-0793	ronnaberlin1@gmail.com
Beth Saul	(323) 633-4148	bethsaul2002@yahoo.com
Bonnie Vogel	(310) 739-0443	bvogel@qsiproduce.com
Valerie Weiss	(626) 449-2746	valkgw@yahoo.com
Debbie Wong	(213) 500-1812	sethetamom@gmail.com

Thank you and we look forward to virtually seeing you on October 6th.

***Patti Jamgotchian and Colleen Stroyke***

Town & Gown Programs Co-Chairs

[programsvp@townandgownofusc.org](mailto:programsvp@townandgownofusc.org)



## SCHOLAR Q & A



### **Drew Black**

#### **What is exciting and interesting, or currently challenging you, in your major field of study?**

My department is currently facing the challenge of remote work during COVID-19. Video games are something that can pretty easily be created entirely online, and we are hoping to develop practices that have longstanding impacts on the way the industry functions.

#### **What is exciting and interesting, or currently challenging you, in your major field of study?**

Since I have been at USC I have imagined a dozen different "dream jobs" and I'm confident the job I want right now is not the job I will probably end up doing for the rest of my life. But that is what I love about Hollywood and the entertainment industry. You can do anything and everything. Writing sitcoms, directing a feature, even developing a video game are all possible jobs I may have accomplished by the time I retire. I don't think I want one job for the rest of my life. I want to be able to do what I want creatively and wear multiple hats. I want to continue to learn and grow and reinvent myself and contribute to the next generation of storytelling in a

variety of ways. The education I have received has prepared me for this as I've been fortunate to work on lots of different types of projects in many different roles and I've learned from the best faculty who are always pouring into us with their wisdom and knowledge. The currently changing production climate is going to be a wild ride, but I'm ready, because I'm a Trojan!

#### **Describe any work (paid or volunteer) or off campus associations in which you participate.**

I am active in volunteer organizations. I have built houses in Mexico for families in need, helped at food banks, and participated in the USC march in support of BLM. In terms of work, I am working part-time this summer at Endemol Shine Entertainment. My hours were cut due to COVID, but I am still able to work two days per week. I was lucky enough to have developed a relationship during my internship this past spring, and they allowed me to stay on for the summer months.

#### **List and describe any internships you've had this past year.**

I interned at Chernin Entertainment last summer of 2019 where I was reading and doing coverage on scripts, books, podcasts etc. Covering a script is basically reading a script that had been sent to the company, summarizing it in a page, and then giving your thoughts on the project, if it should or shouldn't be made, and then giving it a grade. I also got to meet all the executives and give notes on projects they are developing as well as pitch my own project and receive their creative feedback. The summer before I worked full time as a production assistant on The Masked Singer. This spring I interned at Endemol Shine, another production company, and I worked in the production accounting division, assisting them on various reality television shows.

#### **Are you involved with any research at the moment? If so, please briefly describe that experience.**

Research could be defined in a lot of ways. I am currently working on developing a web series with other USC students and we are writing episodes for an entire season and during this process I definitely research ideas, background information, etc. to stay as accurate and relevant as possible as I write. We hope to finish writing the first season soon and shoot the web series sometime in the fall (if possible, depending on restrictions).



## DONOR'S CORNER

Kathie Johnson is an esteemed, endearing, exuberant Board member of Town and Gown. She is also a Scholarship donor. I had the opportunity to engage in a lovely discussion with her the other day.

Words of wisdom from Ms. Johnson-to-Scholars: "Take advantage of any opportunities that come your way."

She is enthusiastic about Town and Gown, its sense of community, cherishes the relationships she has formed over the years, and enjoys the inspirational speakers we have. She did say she is partial to Marshall School of Business...hint: she graduated from there.

Over the years, Kathie has served as Programs Chair, Benefit Chair, and currently is our Membership Chair. Kathie is proud to be grandmother to Jackson and Poppy.

2020 has been an interesting year. Kathie noted one main drawback...disappointment at not being able to personally interact with our Scholars. She commended our organization for keeping members informed, and the Board connected via zoom, and our newsletter.



Here is a round of applause for Kathie Johnson, her faith, her loyalty to our Scholars, Town and Gown, and the USC family.

Elle Feldman  
Vice-President, Fund Development

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Do you have any news to share with Town and Gown? Please email Kari May, karidmay@gmail.com.

*Town and Gown of the University of Southern California is a nonprofit philanthropic organization whose purpose is to support USC through scholarships for students, building and campus enhancements, and cultural programs.*

• Please remember to share your pictures on Facebook and follow us on Instagram. •



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