President’s Message:

Dear Town and Gown of USC,

Thank you all! Thank you for Zooming in to our general meetings by the many hundreds. Thank you for your kind and helpful emails, texts, and phone calls. Thank you for the generosity for our monthly opportunity drawings. Thank you for your support for our Inspiring Hearts and Minds Benefit honoring Ruberta Harwell Weaver. Her Endowment Fund has been established. In our May newsletter, we will send a final list of all donors and the wrap up on this tremendously successful Benefit.

I’d like to end the year writing about our Town and Gown of USC Leadership Team - our Past Presidents and Board of Directors. Our team held a clear vision this year; To fulfill the mission of our 501(c)(3) and to provide our membership with as much content and connection as is possible in a digital world. These leaders have built-in decision-making muscle. They are tremendously talented and business minded. I inherently trusted their skill sets as well as their judgement. This has been a year of innovation, and creativity, with an agile group of committed leaders.

AND, I’d like to single out the Past Presidents. From my vantage point each and every one of these Past Presidents holds a key to our present success.

Thank you all. It has been, and continues to be, a privilege to volunteer with you.

Sincerely,

IN MEMORIAM

Cathleen Cochran
Life member of Town and Gown of USC

Ann Elmore
Life member of Town and Gown of USC

Edna LaBriola
Life Member of Town and Gown of USC

Barbara Orechoff
Annual Member of Town and Gown of USC, Board of Director, and member of the Governance Committee 2020-2021

Edward Wopschall
husband of Life member of Town and Gown of USC  Kandi Wopschall
Dear Town and Gown of USC member,

First of all, we send you a warm and heartfelt thank you for your loyalty to Town and Gown of USC! In a virtual year, Town and Gown awarded 150 scholarships to deserving students and also made a generous donation toward campus enhancements. Our Fifth Vice Presidents, Programs created online meetings with interesting speakers that were viewed virtually by hundreds of people each month. Our 2021 Benefit was virtual as well and we endowed a scholarship for our very own beloved member and Past President, Ruberta Harwell Weaver. What a year!

We look forward to seeing you back on campus in the fall. We are waiting for the green light from the University regarding meetings on campus and we remain optimistic! We will keep you apprised when we know more details.

The Programs committee is already meeting this spring to create another terrific year of speakers for you to enjoy. This upcoming school year, we hope to be able to award approximately 170 Town and Gown of USC scholarships. Our Second Vice Presidents, Scholarship, and their committee members have already received close to 500 applications and have diligently interviewed worthwhile and amazing students.

**It is now time for you to renew your membership to Town and Gown of USC!** As you may know, in addition to the events named above, your membership supports 30% of our annual administrative budget and we appreciate each and every one of you!

Please go to our website to renew your membership at [www.townandgownofusc.org](http://www.townandgwnofusc.org). You will see the renewal forms after logging in and clicking on “Renewal”. Deadline to renew is June 30, 2021.

Also, please don’t forget to indicate the committees you would like to join (maximum of two) and let us know if you have had an address or information change.

If you have any questions, please let our administrator Kari May know by email at karidmay@gmail.com or by calling her at 213.626.9070. Thank you for your membership renewal! We look forward to another successful and enjoyable year at Town and Gown of USC.

Fight On!

Virginia Naeve  
Fourth Vice President, Membership  
Vsnaeve@mac.com

D’Arcy Dietrich McLeod  
Fourth Vice President, Membership  
Darcydmcleod@gmail.com
Tuesday, May 4, 2021 General Meeting and Zoom Speaker Series

Please join us for our General Meeting and Zoom Speaker Series including the Installation of Officers of the Board of Directors and Honoring Town & Gown of USC Life Members.

When: Tuesday, May 4, 2021; 12:15pm optional virtual Zoom Social*, 12:30pm General Meeting, 12:45pm Speakers (all PST).

Who: Robert “Bob” Shrum: Director, USC Dornsife Center for the Political Future, Carmen H. and Louis Warschaw Chair in Practical Politics
& Michael Murphy: Co-Director, USC Dornsife Center for the Political Future

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. Learn more about the USC Dornsife, Center for the Political Future by subscribing to their newsletter, click here.

How: Please RSVP through the email invitation link, Town & Gown website Members Only portal, or click here.

*Zoom Social – To get the best connection, and if you are safely gathering with friends for the Zoom Social, please share one computer or use one device per room.

We hope you, your friends, and guests will join us!

Thank you and we look forward to virtually seeing you on March 2nd.

Patti Jamgotchian and Colleen Stroyke
Town & Gown of USC Programs Chairs
programs@townandgownofusc.org
Congratulations and welcome to our newest Town and Gown of USC members who were approved at our March board meeting! We look forward to getting to know these accomplished women:

**Carolyn Barrett (Los Angeles)**
Born and raised in Los Angeles, Carolyn received her MBA from the USC Marshall School of Business where she made lifelong friends and fell in love with marketing. Post business school, Carolyn has worked in the beauty industry for 15 years and has spearheaded strategic vision and led comprehensive marketing and merchandising initiatives for Huda Beauty, Algenist, Guthy Renker, Kate Somerville Skincare, and Tria Beauty in North America, Europe, and Asia. In her spare time, Carolyn loves visiting museums and other cultural institutions and enjoying all that our beautiful city has to offer!

**Cyn Low (Anaheim)**
Outside of the family business (Hotel/Entertainment, Property Development) her passion for investments and health/wellness has led her to leadership and advocacy for women talking about investments and creating an environment where women can naturally let go. Aside from expanding her business interests, Cyn is involved with charitable causes such as Working Wardrobes, SCervice and many others. Philanthropy is an area in which she would like to increase her participation.

**Leslie Veje (Hancock Park)**
Leslie and Thomas Veje have two children, Sophia (24) and Finn (21). They live in Hancock Park. Her son attended Loyola High School. Her daughter attended Immaculate Heart. Both attended the University of Alabama. Her husband is a guest lecturer at USC and is an Executive Vice President of Construction at Caruso. Leslie is a talented party planner, cook, and loves to garden. She and her family have a passion for animals and love to travel.

Kathie Johnson and Virginia Naeve
VPs, Membership

**DID YOU KNOW...**
Carolyn Franklin was President of Town and Gown from 1980-1982. Thanks to Caroline and her husband Dr. Carl Franklin, a Vice President of USC, the scholarship program was greatly expanded due to their untiring efforts courting prospective donors with dinners and home visits. If an emergency occurred, they dropped all plans (even a vacation) to help the donor in need. They exemplified what the Trojan Family really means. They also promoted lifetime annuities. When the person died, the gift was placed in the Town and Gown Endowment Fund, with the annual income used to provide scholarships in the name of the donor. The endowment went from $175,000 to over 12 million at the time of Carolyn’s death in 1993.

Physical Facilities Co-Chairs
D’Arey McLeod
Marilou Hamill
Justin Chang
Senior – USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences
Dual Degree: BS – Human Biology, BA – Political Science

Justin wrote the following note when asked if he would agree to be featured in the April newsletter, “I just wanted to say thank you again for this amazing opportunity to be a Town and Gown scholar for the past three years. It’s been such an honor and I’m extremely appreciative of everything Town and Gown has done for me. It is also quite an honor to be featured in the newsletter so thank you for this opportunity”.

What is exciting and interesting, or currently challenging you, in your major field of study?
During my time at USC, I’ve been fortunate enough to be able to engage in a multitude of different experiences that shaped my career aspirations today. As a dual degree candidate in Human Biology and Political Science, I am passionate about the role that public policy has in influencing healthcare, and I hope to advocate for the physical, social, and mental wellbeing of individuals from marginalized communities. Today, there are so many individuals that don’t have access to affordable healthcare, and I’ve seen this firsthand, volunteering and supporting low-income communities through my experiences as a COPE Health Scholar and Alpha Phi Omega.

Describe clubs or other on campus activities in which you participate.
I joined Alpha Phi Omega (APO), a national service organization as a freshman here at USC. We have over 200+ active members and an Executive Committee of 25 undergrads and graduate students. Last year, I was elected to serve as President of APO. Throughout my presidency, I was able to increase awareness of student support services, including USC Student Health's mental health/wellbeing resources and events. I educated members on the electoral voting process to try to increase civic engagement for the 2020 California Primary elections in March. One of my proudest achievements was spearheading Alpha Phi Omega’s COVID-19 response, in which we were able to continue chapter operations by providing members with remote service opportunities, many of which support organizations aiding coronavirus relief efforts. We were able to fundraise and donate over $800 to the Hollywood Food Coalition, one of the nonprofits we work with, in a matter of a few weeks. We have also been offering unique service opportunities during this time. For example, our members have folded 2000+ origami cranes for Cranes for Cancer and 100+ hand-drawn cards for hospitalized kids.

Last semester, I joined Sigma Eta Pi, an entrepreneurship society. There, I completed a 10 week accelerator program called Founders Education where I created Catalyst, an online platform that curates high school level internship, research, and volunteer opportunities for high achieving high school students, while providing them with a strong social network of peers and mentors. At the end of the semester, we pitched to a panel of judges at the Sigma Eta Pi Demo Day and won seed funding for our startup!
Describe any work (paid or volunteer) or off campus associations in which you participate.

Last year, I served as a Resident Assistant (RA) for a sophomore residential college in the USC Village. It was one of the most rewarding experiences I've had at USC, as I was able to develop close relationships with many of my residents and become close friends and mentors with them all. As an RA, I had the opportunity to be involved with the Bohnett Board Community Investment Fund, which donates $20,000 a year in grants to non-profits in LA. The group I worked on create a case for Project Ropa, which provides showers and free clothes for those experiencing homelessness in LA.

I decided to continue working this year with the Residential Education department as a Virtual Peer Mentor. As a VPM, we simulate the residential college experience with online events and one on one talks with first year students at USC! I’m proud to be a VPM for McCarthy Honors College this year and really enjoy being a mentor for these first years, showing them how to navigate through college before they come onto campus for the first time next year.

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

I am currently involved in the lab of Dr. Lindsey Schier here at USC. Our lab conducts research projects on feeding behavior and obesity in rodent models. Many of the projects that I’m involved with study a nerve called the vagus nerve, which serves as the main communication method between the gut and the brain. We manipulate the vagus nerve to examine different ways that the rodent will respond, in terms of feeding behavior.

I also serve as the Program Coordinator for UC Irvine’s Intubation Program, where I’ve created a hands-on curriculum that teaches young students about the anatomy of the lungs, various medical techniques (e.g. intubation), and the harms of smoking. I’ve published an abstract in the Journal of Investigative Medicine, detailing how the program is able to increase interest towards healthcare in healthcare in 74% of our students. I even had the opportunity to present my published data in a research presentation at the Western Medical Research Conference in Carmel, CA in January, 2020.

List any new information we should know about your current status, your involvement at USC, or your future plans.

While I am currently applying to medical school, I hope to fill my gap year with a variety of political experiences to gain some more experience with public policy. At the moment, I am applying for a variety of internship positions with different members of Congress. With this background, I hope to gain a firsthand view on how legislation is passed through Congress and experience the world of public policy through a Congressional office.

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. •