



Town & Gown
OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

November 2021

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.

President's Message:



Dear Town and Gown of USC,

As we know, our mission drives all of our business decisions for this Corporation.

We are pleased to announce that the Board of Directors voted to increase the amount of the merit-based award for graduate scholars to \$15,000 annually.

Thanks to the education and guidance from our First Vice President, Investments, Laurie Hunter Tiedemann, the decision to increase this merit-based award was unanimous.

As of 6-30-2021 our Fund 1 has a value of \$69,200,000.

Our 501(c)(3) will be able to offer 170 merit-based scholarships, again, in the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Undergraduate students will receive \$10,000 annually and the graduate students will receive \$15,000 annually.

Another donation was approved at the October Board of Directors meeting. The Physical Facilities Committee: Kathleen Campos Co-Chair, Jody Zuvich Co-Chair, Wilma Pinder, and Marilou Hamill presented a request from USC to the Town and Gown of USC Board of Directors. Please read their article in this newsletter for more exciting details.

Thank you for supporting our opportunity drawings. Thank you for supporting our Benefits.

Thanks to your support and loyalty, our 501(c)(3) is as strong as ever.

We are grateful to each and every one of you for believing in the mission of our 501(c)(3).

On behalf of our Past Presidents and Board of Directors we wish you and yours a very joyous Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Hilary Crahan
CEO/President 2020-2022
president@townandgownofusc.org



MISSION MOMENTS FROM SOME OF THE TOWN AND GOWN OF USC PAST PRESIDENTS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

“Not only am I thankful for all the wonderful, warm-hearted friends that I have made at Town and Gown, but also for all the knowledge that I have received by being on the Board of an efficiently run, successful 501(c)(3) nonprofit.”

~Linda Swick

I am thankful that Town and Gown of USC provides an opportunity to serve as a volunteer for a worthy philanthropy. I am thankful that one doesn't need to be an alumna in order to be a member of Town and Gown of USC because otherwise I would not have had all the years to be involved. I am thankful that when I was prepared to take on additional responsibility, that serving on the Board of Directors allowed me to develop strategic management, operational, and communication skills and have a much deeper appreciation for all that we do as a 501(c)3. I am especially grateful to have interfaced with the incredible students we select to be our scholars by being part of the Scholarship Committee. And of course, I am grateful to have met so many wonderful women who have become such great friends. ~Sara Pfirrmann

Town and Gown of USC makes me thankful that I am able to give back through service as a way to improve the lives and trajectory of our scholars. I am grateful that I am part of an organization surrounded by astute and distinguished women doing great service for humanity. ~Linda Dankwa

I am grateful for our remarkable Women of Vision, our 2022 Benefit Honorees: For their wisdom, leadership, dedication and perseverance in creating the "agreement" with USC which has made a significant impact on the strength, influence and mission of our 501(c)(3) Town and Gown of USC! ~Chris Gregg

*Thankful
Outstanding
Women
Notable
&
Grateful
Optimistic
Warmth
Nurturing*

~Ann Palmer

“I am thankful for the resilience and humor of Town and Gown of USC. Despite Everything, we are resourceful women who moved forward and delivered with smiles on our faces whether in person or on zoom.”
~Kathleen Campos



PROGRAMS

Our LUNCHEONS are **BACKKKK!**

November marked the return of our LUNCHEONS in our stunning Town & Gown ballroom. Our November 2nd General Meeting & Luncheon featured Karen North Ph.D, Clinical Professor of Communication at USC Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism. She engaged the filled room with her captivating presentation “Exploring the Digital Social Media World: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly”. The audience could not get enough of her remarks and many wished she had even more time to share her insights on the digital social media world. One member remarked, “Wow! I could have listened to Dr. Karen North all day!” Luke Scorziell, a senior from USC Annenberg, was the featured scholar speaker.



Karen North, PhD



Scholar Luke Scorziell
with members

A recording of this program is available on the Town & Gown of USC website, or [CLICK HERE](#).

Congratulations to our Opportunity Drawing prize winner:
Lindsey Lytle - \$500 American Express Gift Card, donated
by Town & Gown of USC



5th VPs Programs Colleen Stroyke &
Bonnie Suffridge with speaker Karen North



UPCOMING EVENTS

Our December Holiday Luncheon is SOLD OUT!

On Monday, December 6, 2021 our Annual Holiday Luncheon will be held at the California Club in downtown Los Angeles. We are pleased that the Town & Gown of USC time honored tradition of festive holiday decorated table tops has returned. Due to space limitations, this event has SOLD OUT. We wish you all very Happy Holidays!

Coming Soon in the New Year:

On January 11, 2022, our General Meeting & Luncheon features keynote speaker Grant Kirkpatrick, FAIA, Founding Partner & Principal KAA Design Group. Prepare for a visual delight as he shares his firms' award-winning architectural designs, and explains why Southern California is the worldwide epicenter of “The New Renaissance”.

Thank you and Fight On!



Colleen Stroyke & Bonnie Suffridge
Town & Gown of USC
5th Vice Presidents, Programs



2022 ANNUAL BENEFIT - SAVE THE DATE!



This year, I am so pleased to announce that we will have a Fabulous Robert Ellis Fashion Show as our Benefit entertainment!



Robert Ellis has the perfect outfit for every occasion, for every woman! Please [click here](#) to view the Robert Ellis video announcing this amazing news. We love seeing some of our Past Presidents, Board of Directors, and members wearing beautiful timeless classic clothing and accessories from the Robert Ellis Boutique in Studio City.



Be sure to also click on the links below to view other Benefit Promotional Videos featuring our Benefit Honorees, Board of Directors, and Scholars:



[Click here](#) - Adaline Narula and Wilma Pinder

[Click here](#) - Katherine Wechsler and Sally Edwards



[Click here](#) - Ashley Cavecche and Carol Fox

[Click here](#) - Salvatore Russo and Carol Greenhalgh



Don't forget to check our Town and Gown of USC website and Social Media posts often for more information about our Benefit and our fabulous Honorees!

We look forward to seeing you on April 5th, 2022, at the beautiful Beverly Hills Hotel!

Edie Etmekjian
Benefit Chair 2022
edieetmekjian@gmail.com



www.townandgownofusc.org/



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INFORMATION ON LOCAL HOTELS FOR APRIL 5TH BENEFIT

For those guests who wish to stay in the Beverly Hills area either prior to or after our April 5th Benefit, The Beverly Hills Hotel is offering a 10% discount for guests. Those wishing to take advantage of this offer should state that they are attending the Town and Gown of USC Benefit when making their reservations.

Other hotels in the area where guests may wish to stay that offer other price options include the following: The Beverly Hilton, Maison, Sixty, SLS Hotel, Avalon, Sonder, Sirtaj, and the Hotel Beverly Terrace. These hotels are not being recommended by Town and Gown of USC, but are provided as a listing of other hotels in the area. For further information, contact the websites for each hotel.

Thank you.

Valerie Gumbiner Weiss
Benefit Hotel Liaison

BOARD DIRECTORS OF NEWLY FORMED FUND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AT ITS INAUGURAL LUNCHEON MEETING ON NOVEMBER 12



In order to streamline the Fund Development (FD) Activities, Marilyn Kezirian and Chris Gregg, 3rd Vice Presidents, Fund Development, created a Council consisting of Board Directors whose positions focus on fundraising and setting annual financial goals. Thus, Fund Development will oversee two entities: Fund Development Council and Fund Development Committee. The FD Council will act as an umbrella group to ensure all solicitations are coordinated and recorded. The FD Committee will assist in fulfilling the activities and functions that are the sole responsibility of Fund Development outlined in our proposed strategic plan.

Marilyn and Chris hosted the event at Marilyn's home



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Angela Bennett: (Manhattan Beach)

Angela, a graduate of SDSU, is an entrepreneur who owned her own fitness studio and now runs wellness retreats. Former president of NCL and PTSA. Her daughter is a current USC Student and her husband Taylor is a USC MBA Alumni.

Colleen Jester: (Manhattan Beach)

Colleen and her husband Christian (USC alumnus '91) are proud Trojan parents of their son, Chandler, who is a sophomore at USC. The couple also has two daughters in high school. Colleen graduated from UCLA with a BS in Psychology. Residing in Manhattan Beach, Colleen enjoys long walks on the beach and time spent baking and crafting. Colleen has devoted considerable time to philanthropy work including National Charity League and Amigos Unidos.

Nancy Mills: (Foothill Ranch)

Nancy Sharp Mills graduated from USC in 1985 with a BS in General Science. While at USC, she was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority and fell in love with an Architecture student, Jon Mills. After graduating, Nancy received her Master's at CSUF and went on to teach 1st grade for 11 years in Anaheim. Nancy has two daughters. Nancy grew up in Newport Beach but has lived in Foothill Ranch (near Mission Viejo) for almost 30 years.

Lucy Hartford: (Los Angeles)

Lucy graduated USC with a BS in Economics. She currently works in Commercial Real Estate focusing on Industrial assets. She has supported Children's Hospital Los Angeles for over a decade as well as Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena.

Pamela Erickson Herr: (Laguna Niguel)

Pamela graduated from USC in 1984 with a BS degree in Education. She recently retired from teaching and is active in the TSO charity organization. She also has extensive volunteer and charity work in Guide Dogs for the Blind and American Cancer Society.

Tiffany Lemons: (Santa Barbara)

Tiffany graduated from the University of Arizona with a BS in Marketing and Personnel Management. She has worked in the nonprofit community in Los Angeles, Park City, and Santa Barbara in various positions for the past twenty years. She has developed a strong sense of devotion for the nonprofit sector through her experience as a member of the National Charity League, Women's Giving Fund, the Luminaire's Juniors, and the Junior League of Los Angeles. Tiffany and her husband, Mark, currently live in Santa Barbara with their three daughters, Brooke (Freshman at USC), Courtney, and Ashley.

Alicia Lind: (Westlake Village)

Alicia currently serves as President of ISPC. She has also focused her volunteer years in fundraising for Chaminade College Preparatory HS. Before having children, Alicia was Regional Sales Manager in Publishing, working in advertising sales and marketing. Alicia graduated from UMass Amherst with a BA in Mass Communications. She is also a Trojan Parent of two alumni.



Lynn Mehl: (Altadena)

Lynn received her BS, MS and PhD all from USC. After 44 years at Occidental College where she has served in a variety of positions from Director of Athletics to chair of Kinesiology and Psychology she will be retiring at the end of the academic year. She has extensive volunteer experience serving in leadership roles with Pasadena Showcase for the Arts, Pasadena Senior Center, Assistance League of Pasadena, Assistance League (National), San Marino League and Trojan League Los Angeles.

Alisa Chanpong-Amateau: (Pasadena)

Alisa graduated from USC in 1994 with a B.S. degree (with emphases in Entrepreneurship and Business Communication) from the Marshall School of Business. Today, she is a Senior V.P., Wealth Management Advisor with Merrill Lynch in Pasadena and has been with the Firm for 22 years. Alisa has recently been named in Forbes' "America's Top Women Wealth Advisors" in 2020 and 2021." Working Mother Magazine also listed her in their Shook Research's "Top Wealth Advisor Mom's" list in 2020 and 2021. Alisa is also a member of Tournament of Roses, Trojan League of Los Angeles, Pasadena Showcase House of the Arts and Pasadena Gamma Phi Beta Alumni.

Kimberly Doder: (Westlake Village)

Kimberly graduated from USC in 1985 and was a member of Delta Gamma. She and her husband have two children, Nicholas and Victoria. Kimberly has volunteered for National Charity League, Assistance League of Los Angeles, Operation School Bell, Junior League of Los Angeles, and is currently an active member of Trojan League of Los Angeles, Les Amies and Las Bonitas. She is looking forward to meeting new friends and being involved with USC.

Patricia Hamra: (Yorba Linda)

Patricia is a proud parent and spouse of Trojans. She has always loved volunteering for her local schools including Servite, Santa Margarita Catholic High School and St Francis of Assisi Catholic School. She loves meeting new friends and working with other volunteers. She has a degree in International Relations/French and Business and is a Top Agent Loan Officer in San Diego/Orange County areas.

Submitted by

Fourth Vice Presidents, Membership; Virginia Naeve and D'Arcy McLeod



EYE ON THE TOWN AND GOWN OF USC WEBSITE

The Town and Gown of USC website is a treasure of helpful information for current and potential members, current and potential scholars, donors, our guest speakers, and more.

Each month, we will highlight updates or particularly valuable pages to check out. But take the time to explore the website on your own, too! You may be amazed with what you learn about our organization, our history, scholars, members, past and upcoming meetings, and donors.

Recommended viewing for November:

★ **Events.** At the top of the Home Page, you will find:

- ◆ An easy link on the day of Live-Streaming Meetings: [Live Stream](#)
- ◆ The 2021-2022 calendar of **Programs and Events:** [Monthly General Meetings](#)
- ◆ News about the April 5, 2022 **Annual Benefit:** [2022 Annual Benefit](#)
- ◆ **Past Events.** Re-live the **December 2020 Online Holiday Tour of Geary's, Beverly Hills**, and get ready for your 2021 holiday decorating. Be inspired by tabletop tips and how to make what you already own look like new. Look at *Events/Archives/December 1*, or visit this link: [December 2020 Holiday Zoom](#)

★ **Impressive Numbers.** Also on the Home Page, see the number of “Scholarships Offered” this year, the new value of the “Fully-Endowed Scholarships,” (up from \$62 million), and more. [Town and Gown of USC](#)

★ **Student Scholarship Information.** The deadline for the Town and Gown of USC Scholarship Application is **December 1, 2021**. Find essential information (Scholarship Eligibility Requirements and the Online Application) at [Student Scholarship Information](#)

Enjoy!

The Town and Gown of USC Website Committee



DID YOU KNOW...



Town & Gown of USC luncheon in the 1930's

That the Town & Gown of USC Physical Facilities Committee has the privilege of researching the imminent needs of our historic Town & Gown Ballroom. With proceeds from last year's opportunity drawings, we are so grateful to be able to announce that this year the ballroom will undergo a brilliant transformation, the installation of an Elation Professional LED Moving Head Spot Fixture with Zoom Capabilities! This state-of-the-art system will replace pin spot lighting on the ceiling and is adjustable at the touch of a phone app. The current pin lights must be manually adjusted and require a large scissor lift! Lights, camera, action!

Kathleen Campos Co-Chair, Physical Facilities/Historian

Jody Zuvich Co-Chair, Physical Facilities/Historian

Wilma Pinder and Marilou Hamill, Physical Facilities/Historian Committee Members

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

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