



*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 Members,

From our entire Board of Directors, we wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving.

We are thankful for all of you and the contributions you bring to our organization. Our mission is what drives us and because of you and our leadership we are continuing the tradition of scholarship, beautification and personal enrichment. So, as we approach our Thanksgiving Day, know that I am thankful for all of you.

All the best and Happy Thanksgiving!

Fight On!

Beth Petak-Aaron  
CEO/President 2022-2024  
[president@townandgownofusc.org](mailto:president@townandgownofusc.org)



# PROGRAMS

On November 1st, we had an outstanding meeting and luncheon which featured Town and Gown Scholar, Catherine Ames, and Keynote Speaker, Professor Susan Kamei, whose presentation was educational and thought provoking. We also presented sashes to three of our Town and Gown of USC Scholars that will graduate in December. Prior to our luncheon, we held our Holiday Boutique in the Town and Gown of USC Courtyard with the ACC groups. It was a day full of friendships, positivity, and thoughtfulness for all in attendance.



Debbie Wong, VP Programs, Susan Kamei, Keynote Speaker, Patty Arra, Programs Committee Member, Bonnie Suffridge, VP Programs



Professor Susan H. Kamei, Keynote Speaker



Town and Gown of USC Scholar, Catherine Ames, shared her inspirational story with us.



Town and Gown of USC Scholars graduating in December received their sashes.

A recording of this program is available on the Town and Gown of USC website or click [here](#).

Congratulations to our Opportunity Drawing winners:

Lisa Rapp won a \$250 American Express Gift Card donated by Town and Gown of USC  
Lindsay Lynch Lytle won a Gift Basket donated by Town and Gown of USC

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Tuesday, December 6, 2022 Annual Holiday Luncheon



A beloved tradition, join friends and the USC community at our cherished holiday luncheon, featuring festive tabletop decorations.

### Tuesday, January 11, 2023 Monthly Meeting and Luncheon



Please join us for our January meeting and luncheon featuring keynote speaker, Dain Blanton, Head Coach, and two-time National Championship winning coach of USC Women's Beach Volleyball.

*Honoring Past ACC Chairs and Current Chair, and Current ACC Presidents*

***Please join us!***

Thank you and Fight On!

Bonnie Suffridge and Debbie Wong  
5th Vice Presidents, Programs



## SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT



### Samantha Sparacino BA '23

Double Major: Human Development and Aging (Leonard Davis School of Gerontology); Business Administration (Marshall School of Business)

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

Not many people know what Gerontology is, yet, it's a field of study that has become incredibly relevant and important in recent years. Not only is the global population of older adults rapidly increasing, but individuals are also living longer, resulting in a greater need to anticipate the consequences of these changing demographics and to provide support for this growing population.

As I think about the future of this field, what's most exciting to me is the recent advancements made in Alzheimer's research. Through the USC Gerontology classes I have taken and my experience volunteering with older adults, I have gained a deeper understanding of how important Alzheimer's research is and the incredible impact that dementia and Alzheimer's has on patients and their families. I am optimistic and extremely excited about the advancements and possible treatments that are emerging in Alzheimer's research and I hope to help provide these life changing treatments to patients in my future career.

#### List any recent travels - either for study abroad or other USC related opportunities.

This summer I took a Maymester in Italy through the Leonard Davis School of Gerontology studying longevity and death among ancient and modern European populations. We visited Rome, Florence, Orvieto, and Tarquinia. It was an incredible experience traveling to different cities, learning about Italian afterlife practices, and eating amazing food along the way. I also was able to stay a week after the Maymester ended to visit the Amalfi Coast which was an absolute dream!

---

## 2023 ANNUAL BENEFIT - OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

The Opportunity Drawing is always a special way to participate in the "fun" raising for the Benefit. To make the Opportunity Drawing successful, it is critical to receive amazing donations. **So - we need your help with donations!** You could contribute something as small as a gift card to as magnanimous as a getaway stay at your vacation home. You may know someone who has tickets to special events or connections to obtain donations from businesses, retailers, hotels, restaurants, or special venues and activities that you frequent. We hope to offer very special items for this part of the fundraising efforts.

THANK YOU for any assistance you can offer for exceptional donations to the Town and Gown of USC Benefit. Your help is vital to making our benefit a success! We will provide a receipt for all donations.

Contact Carol Styx, Opportunity Drawing Chair at 562.201.7581 or email her at [cstyx004@gmail.com](mailto:cstyx004@gmail.com)



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS



**WELCOME  
NEW MEMBERS!**

Huge thanks go to the new members who attended our New Member Orientation before the November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Members were given an overview of our organization by President/CEO, Beth-Petak Aaron, and also by various Board members who introduced themselves and described their committees. They also met Kari May, our Executive Associate, and heard a bit about the independent contractors who support our 501(c)(3). New members are the heart of our organization and we encourage our membership to bring friends to meetings and to inspire their membership to Town and Gown of USC.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

### **Becky Arias (Whittier)**

Becky graduated from USC with a BA in Communication Arts and Sciences. Recently retired, she is looking forward to devoting more time to volunteer opportunities. She has experience as an administrator, teacher, and youth leader.

### **Susan Arth (Pacific Palisades)**

Susan graduated from UC Berkeley and UCLA Law. Two of her three children are currently attending USC, one in the Real Estate Development program and one at Gould School of Law. She has volunteer experience with many organizations in Pacific Palisades.

### **Jeannine McManigal-Ball (Long Beach)**

Jeannine is one of 7 Trojans in her family, including her son. She has served on the Personnel Commission of Long Beach City College for 16 years, and is Vice President of her neighborhood association. A die-hard Trojan, she attends all USC football games, home and away. As a retired teacher, her biggest classroom moment was a surprise visit from USC coaches Pete Carroll and Ed Orgeron.

### **Bianca Bao (Somis)**

Bianca is a proud parent of a 2-year USC Song Girl and spouse of a Trojan alumni who was a member of the Trojans' 1988 and 1989 Rose Bowl Teams. She has a BA degree and is actively involved with the Song Girl program. Bianca is the Owner/President of three companies in the antiques and design field with prominent global clients including royalty and renowned collectors. She is multi-lingual, a watercolor artist and calligrapher, enjoys tending to her self-designed, nationally award-winning garden and indulging in her passion for football. Bianca is the founder of a 184-member woman's lifestyle group in So Cal with a focus on living life beautifully.

### **Beverly Boyce-Lumm (Mission Viejo)**

Beverly graduated from USC with a BA in journalism and an MPA in Public Administration. Beverly worked for the Orange County Sheriff's Department and for the Riverside District Attorney's Office. She is currently employed part-time as a civilian investigator for a local city police department in the Los Angeles area. Beverly also served in the military at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside County. She has experience in interviewing, professional writing, and event planning.

### **Sandra Campero (Irvine)**

Sandra Campero serves as the Assistant Vice President for Gift and Data Services at USC. She is a thought leader in the field of advancement and has served on the board of Association of Professional Researchers for Advancement (APRA), the California Advancement Researchers Association (CARA), and most recently became a founding member of the newly created Latin American regional council for the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). She has been a frequent presenter for these organizations. A native of Los Angeles, Sandra's depth of engagement at work extends beyond her official capacity to provide leadership and mentorship to Latinx students. As a first-generation college graduate, she finds it incredibly important to share her experiences and career path with students as proof that hard work, resiliency, and courage continue to pave the road forward.

### **Michelle Dao (Brentwood)**

Michelle Dao joins the USC Associates team as the Senior Associate Director of Development. She received her degree in business administration from the University of San Francisco, and holds a graduate certificate in nonprofit management from the University of San Diego. As a scholarship recipient, she is passionate about providing pathways to educational mobility in higher education through philanthropy.

### **Cindy Hill (Burbank)**

Cindy graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration at USC in 1984. She is active in Commercial Real estate sales for over 35 years and loves mentoring young women in business and helping feed the hunger in her local community.

### **Kelly Jacobs (Manhattan Beach)**

Kelly worked in advertising for 8 years in Media Planning on corporate accounts. She left to pursue her MBA at USC in 1999 to 2001. Kelly graduated with an MBA from the Marshall School of Business in 2001. She subsequently worked at Toyota Motors Sales for nearly 5 years in Strategic Research and Marketing. Kelly left the working world in 2005 to raise her children.



[www.townandgownofusc.org](http://www.townandgownofusc.org)



[www.facebook.com/townandgownofusc](http://www.facebook.com/townandgownofusc)



[@townandgownofusc](https://www.instagram.com/townandgownofusc)

### **Ramona Petak (Rancho Palos Verdes)**

Ramona worked at USC for 20 years coordinating continuing education for pilots while working within the Safety and Systems Management program. Ramona is a registered RN. Her three children graduated from USC and her grandson graduated from a graduate program. Ramona is a true Trojan and enjoys Town and Gown and their mission.

### **Jessica Schned (Simi Valley)**

Jessica is a USC and a Gamma Phi Beta alumna. She is a past chapter and district officer of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Currently, Jessica is The Executive Director, Business Affairs for Twentieth Television.

### **Michelle Straton (Torrance)**

Michelle is originally from Northbrook, Illinois and now lives in Torrance with her husband, John, her son, Asher, and her two Korean rescue pups Kia and Koda. Her daughter, Gabrielle (USC '21) was a Town and Gown Scholar double majoring in Econ/Math and Business Administration. Gabrielle currently lives in San Francisco and works for Bain And Company. Michelle graduated from Claremont McKenna College with degrees in Psychology and Political Science. She worked at Toyota Motor Sales HQ. She enjoys travel, cooking, photography and event planning. She's excited to join Town and Gown and thanks the organization for the scholarship her daughter received.

### **Kathy Takayama (Los Angeles)**

Kathy recently earned her Master of Business for Veterans degree from USC Marshall (her military background is as Naval Nuclear Power School Instructor). She is now a part-time professor at USC's business school after a 20-year career at Hewlett Packard. Kathy says she is thrilled to be living her lifelong dream of sharing decades of business experiences with future business leaders.

### **Kathy Thomas (Huntington Beach)**

During her career at Rockwell International Kathy organized and executed VIP tours and events which included diverse international dignitaries including Queen Elizabeth II and President Ronald Reagan. More recently she supported the Bolsa Chica Conservancy in the planning and execution of fundraising events. Kathy is also a recognized elite athlete who held a US record in swimming, and finished tenth in the LA Marathon.

### **Nancy Zwemer (Pasadena)**

Nancy graduated from USC with a B.A. in Psychology, and a Pharm.D. from the School of Pharmacy. She has been volunteering with the TMBAA (band alumni) and Pasadena Humane. She enjoys staying active with friends, family, and SC football!

FIGHT ON!

D'Arcy Dietrich McLeod and Colleen Stroyke  
4th Vice Presidents, Membership



•••

Do you have any news to share with Town and Gown of USC? Please email Kari May, [karidmay@gmail.com](mailto: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. •



[www.townandgownofusc.org](http://www.townandgownofusc.org)



[www.facebook.com/townandgownofusc](http://www.facebook.com/townandgownofusc)



[@townandgownofusc](https://www.instagram.com/townandgownofusc)