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,

Spring is here and Town and Gown of USC has started it off with much excitement! Our last meeting of the year was a busy one. I’d like to thank our VPs of Programs for such a great way to end our fiscal year. They have provided great luncheon speakers all year long for all of us to enjoy.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, we look forward to seeing you in the fall and wish you all a wonderful summer.

Until then, Fight On!

Beth Petak-Aaron
CEO/President 2022-2024
president@townandgownofusc.org

MEMBER NEWS

On April 14th, Jennifer Handler, a new Town and Gown of USC member, and her family joined her son, Charles Handler, (a Dornsife Junior) in the Town and Gown of USC ballroom where he was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society Epsilon Chapter.

Congratulations and thank you for sharing this with us!
Our May 2nd General Meeting & Luncheon was a sold-out event that featured Lincoln Riley, the Head Football Coach for the USC Trojans. It also included a performance by the Trojan Marching Band, and our Town and Gown Scholar speaker was Madison Johnson, a member of the USC Spirit Leaders. We recognized the outgoing Board of Director members and installed the incoming Board of Directors for 2023-2024. The afternoon was filled with positive energy and Trojan “Fight On!” Spirit. Coach Riley was both entertaining and informative as we learned a little bit about him as well as his coaching philosophy and what the future holds for our football team. He was a great speaker to wrap up our year!

A recording of this program is available on the Town and Gown of USC website.

Congratulations to our Opportunity Drawing winners: Lindsay Lynch Lytle, A Dodger Gift Basket and Nancy Tafoya, A $250 American Express Gift Card, both donated by Town and Gown of USC.

UPCOMING EVENTS:
Keep a lookout this summer for our announcement about the programs for next year!

Thank you and Fight On!
Bonnie Suffridge and Debbie Wong
5th Vice Presidents, Programs
Our annual Membership Renewal period is underway! Thank you to those who have already completed their renewal and update. We ask all members to log in and update information, choose committees, and answer a few questions for our records. Both Life and Annual members must complete the renewal by June 30, 2023 to be included in the Member handbook. Thank you for your prompt attention. Click here!

Now is an excellent time for NEW members to join Town & Gown of USC. If you know someone who has been considering joining, please encourage them to join before the next year starts. Our New Member Orientation will be in the fall.

At the May 2 meeting with Coach Riley, we honored our Life members. Those in attendance received a wrapped red rose. We are extremely appreciative of our Life members and appreciate their commitment to Town & Gown of USC. If you have already renewed and would like to become a Life member, please call Kari May: 213-626-9070.

Fight On!

D'Arcy Dietrich McLeod and Colleen Stroyke
4th Vice Presidents, Membership
TOWN AND GOWN OF USC SALUTES OUR LIFE MEMBERS

Franci Agajanian
S. Diana Agajanian
Alice Anderson
Joann Anderson
Wallis Annenberg
Shelly Atkinson
Penny Baisley
Paula Baker
Adriana Balaban
Jeanine Ball
Tamar Baringer
Barbara Bartner
Modesta Joan Bassity
Anne S. Bates
Susan Beall
Diane Becket
Melanie Behrens
Jill Behrle
Jane Bensussen
Sarah Lauren Margaret Berbos
Kay Berg
Yvonne Biller
Eloise M. Blanton
Diane Bleak
Jennifer Bleuett
Joan Bogaty
Yvonne Bogdanovich
Lisa Bohanan
Lois Booth
Lara Boyko
Terri Boyle
Debra Bradley
Alice Bragg
Rosalind Breen
Ann Brizius
Dora Jane Brockway
Diana Brooks
Hana Bui
Mary Bulgarelli
Kelly Busia
Lynn Busia
Yuriko Byers
Kathleen Campos
Connie Cashin
Susan Checcio
Paula Ciarрамitano
Mary Coates
Suzanne Cobb
Maureen Cochi
Jennifer Cohen
Juel Collins
Jo Ann Conley
Maggie Connelly
Megan Cooper
Hillary Crahan
Kathryn Creagan
Margaret Elmore Darnell
Sandy Davidson
Gloria de Olarte
Patricia DeBernardi
Nancy Denlea
Sheila Derrig
Norva Lee Dietrich Devereux
Rosemary Di Sano
E. Janeune Dimpel
Sharon Dolezal Wood
Dana Dornsife
Ann Dorr
Candy Duncan
Jacqueline Dupont
Suzanne Dyer
Elise Ebert
Janet Eddy
Sally Edwards
Judith Emmons-Allison
Michele Engemann
Marylynn Evans
Rita Evans
Kate Farlow
Debbie Felix
Jordan Felix
Shane Fermeila
Jean Feynbus
Marion Stromwall Fije
Beverly M. Fitch
Kay Follett
Emily Barclay Ford
Carol Fox
Janie L. Franklin
Robyn Freedman
Marian Fukuda
Karen Gallagher
Carmel Gardner
Kathie Geary
Diana Geosano
Jean Getchell
Patricia Getze
Rhona Gewelher
Oksana Giebeler
Sandra Gilbert
Shari Gillespie
Linda Giuvin
Shana Glassman
Catherine Goldinger
Carol Greenhalgh
Christine Griffith
Angel Grigorian
Lisa Grode
Betty Gross
Vivian Guminber
Mary A. Hall
Marilou Hamill
Barbara Hance
Najwa Nabi Hanel
Dale Harbour Day
Lisa Harden
Catharina Hare
Elizabeth Harris
Patricia Harris
Lucy Hartford
Peggy Hentschke
Barbara HiraBayashi
Laurel Hitchcock
Elaine Holtzman
May Honkauga
Joanne Horne
Barbara Horowitz
Joyce Hotra
Bettyanne Houts
Ginger Hu
Lisa Iannini-Goddard
Christina Jabarian
Lori Jackson
Patti Jamgotchian
Elizabeth Jeffbia
Carolyn Johnson
Kathryn Johnson
Sandy Johnston
Lynette Jones
Wandy Jung
Gretchen Kasai
Margaret Kaufman
Bridget Gless Keller
Heather Keller
Frances Kelley
Barbara Kelly
Kathryn Kendall
Karina Keshishian
Lianne Koeberle
Barbara Koffman
Carol Kreisle
Katharine Kremp
Carol Krosche
Leslie Kurtz
Carol LaBrIola
Holly Lamb
Vivian Landau
Regina Lande
Diane S. Lapa
Kim Le Coq
Alexis Marissa Le Guier
Regina Leimbach
Tiffany Lemons
Sarah Leon
Joan Levis
Deena Lew
Nadine Leyton
Anna Liborovsky
Hali Gewelher Lieb
Lesley Lilly
Kathrine Lingle
Rose Lizzano
Carmen Long
Helaine Lopes
Carla Loue
Susan Lynch
Patti Madden
Fontaine Malisos
Jeanne Mannes
Patricia Tom Mar
Diana Martin
Deborah Massaglia
Liz Matheny
Weta Mathies
Taylor McAllister
Betty Jane McBride
Kelley McBride
Irene McCormick
Jeanne McDonald-Powers
Deborah McIntosh
D’Arcy Dietrich McLeod
Christine McQuinn
Lynn Mehl
Marilyn Mickaelian
Christine Mikusak
Ruth Milch
Trini Miller
Bevery Mitchell
Rose Brooks Mitchell
Laure Molina
Carol Mollett
Natalie Monger
Rachel Morford
Diane Morgan
Robin Morgan
Francesca Morris
Darlene Mour
Stacy Mungo
Virginia Naeve
Jeri Nagelberg
Melody Nishida
Christine Marie Ofiesh
Martha Oropesa
Thelma Orr
Robbin Oshita
Kathleen Owen
Mary Pallares
Ann Palmer
Georganna Pappas-Bailes
Bianca Patterson
Cynthia Patton
Rosalee Pechersky
Beth Petak-Aaron
Pamela Peterson
Sara Pfirrmann
WIlma Pinder
Julie Pircher
Patti Poon
Lilli Praisam
Barbara Prieto
Sandra Quan
Nancy Ramage
Sharon Ramage
Christel Rasso
Marilynn R. Ratigan
Lorna Reed
Susie Rhodes
Jo Ann Ridenour
Victoria Rizo
Marita A. Robb
Sandra Robinson
JoAnne N. Rogers
Miriam Louis Rosa
Elaine Rosen
Jeanne Rosenthal
Mary Tooien Roskam
Roger Rossier
Catherine Ruddy
Jennifer Russo
Cheryl Sacco
Bonnie Sadrpour
Gloria Salomen
Kathryn Sample
Rosie Sapia
Diana L. Schell
Sharon Schmidt
Jessica Schned
Suzi Schomer
Beverly Schwartz
Cheryl Schwartz
Holly Schwartz
Marsha Scully
Kimberly Shah
Pamela Shimizu
Sumiko Shimono
Kathryn Shirley
Sandy Sidwell
Ayako Siegel
Naney Silver
Candace Smith
Ruth Solorio
Heidi Stern
Carlin Stroyke
Colleen Stroyke
Carol Styx
Marilyn Atha Suazo
Patricia Sullivan
Mary Syanton
Linda Swick
Nancy Tofaya
Elizabeth Tanner
Carol Thueson
Laurie Hunter Tiedemann
Charla Tindall
Jaki Tonkonovich
Janet Tonkonovich
Tanie Tran
Pamela Turchi
Leona Valone
Elizabeth J. Van Hunnick
Susan Vessels
Barbara Vinson
Melisa Volpicelli
Kristen von Kleinsmid
Tracy Walder
Diane Wallace
Caren Walley Edler
Cristen Walley Lebsack
Nadine Watt
Cheri Wechsler
Meredith Weiss
Ellen Weitman
Irene Welch
Carroll Wendland
Merilyn Wessendorf
Florentina West
Suzie Wheeler
Patricia Whitman
Cynthia Wise
Dianne Wilson
Evelyn Wilson
Lauren Wing
Susan Wingard
Diana Witt
Bonnie Wong
Deborah Wong
Karen Wong
Sarah Woods
Julie Woolley
Kandi Wopschall
Carol Wright
Bonnie Yamaoka
Norene Zapanta
Leslie Zentner

(list as of 4-20-2023)
We have learned so much about our beloved Past Presidents this year and have loved sharing these ladies’ memories with all of you. We look to the past to understand the power and strength that these women found and supported Town and Gown of USC and our 501(c)(3).

We are closing this year with two extraordinary women who led Town and Gown in the 1900s and who recently passed.

Mrs. John C. Weaver, Ruberta, was President from 1990 to 1992. When Dr. John Weaver came to USC in 1977 as a Visiting Distinguished Professor of Geography, his wife Ruberta came with him. How fortunate for Town and Gown of USC! When the Weavers decided to remain in Los Angeles, Ruberta became active in Town and Gown of USC and served in almost every capacity. House renovation and housekeeping became emblematic of the early days of Ruberta’s Presidency.

“The flimsy doors and windows on the south end of the Foyer were in bad condition and we replaced them with massive equipment now in place.” Railings were installed at the edge of the steps leading down into the dining room and a microphone was placed at the podium. This was the first step in upgrading the sound system. Handicapped access soon became available with a ramp at the south side of the building and a restroom that was appropriately equipped.

“Ruberta remembered vividly the appearance of Jane Goodall, who was new to the campus and spoke about her world-renowned research on gorillas. Gayle Wilson was the Benefit Honoree and California Governor Pete Wilson dropped by to say hello, as well!”

Ruberta left us this year at the age of 106. Gracious and warm and engaging until the day she passed. We all will remember her dedication and love for the Town and Gown of USC Scholars and our legacy.

Our second extraordinary Past President was Mrs. Conrad Solum, Alli, who was President from 1996 to 1998. Alli was recently celebrated at our 2022 Annual Benefit honoring the legendary “Women of Vision” who negotiated the acclaimed AGREEMENT between USC and TOWN AND GOWN OF USC establishing our indispensable partnership with the University and our donors.

The Solums are another fiercely loyal Trojan Family. Alli earned an undergraduate degree, as did her husband Conrad, who was also a USC law school graduate. Other members of the Solum family are Trojan as well as grandchildren! During her presidency, the work on Town and Gown of USC continued and increased endowments funds which provided scholarships assistance to 200 students a year. This was a growing program in which Alli took great pride. The Foyer and the Courtyard were maintained, furnished, and beautified. The Benefit Honorees during her term were Diane Keaton and USC’s own Marilyn Horne.

Alli left a long legacy of stewardship and support for her beloved alma mater.

We celebrate Alli’s and Ruberta’s lives and will continue to champion and support USC through scholarships for students, building and campus enhancements, and cultural programs.

Fight On!

Lisa Up de Graff and Kate Farlow, Physical Facilities/Historian Co-Chairs

Source : History of Town and Gown 1904-2004
The purpose of Fund Development is to foster a relationship with our Donors and Town and Gown members by conducting activities that encourage our members to consider donating through individual appeals, other fundraising campaigns outside of the annual benefit as well as utilizing matching funds programs and grants proposals. Last year, Fund Development formed a Fund Development Council made up of some members of the Board of Directors. The purpose of the Council is to develop a working relationship with other Vice Presidents and Committee Chairs within the Town & Gown structure. The Council is working in a collaborative way to determine the areas we do very well as well as the areas we can improve upon.

This year, Fund Development has worked on formulating a Town and Gown Strategic Plan to be presented to the Board at a later date. We enlisted the help of our Fund Development Council members, gave them a Goal and asked for their Objectives and their corresponding Action Items and Timelines. We had wonderful cooperation in accomplishing this task. The Fund Development Vice Presidents are utilizing all this data to present a comprehensive Town and Gown Strategic Plan to be presented to the Board, before the end of this fiscal year. If approved, the strategic plan will go into effect and will be reviewed and updated every two years.

In addition, this year we implemented a new donor level of annual giving called Millennium Circle Donors. This donor level is for the members of Town and Gown of USC. The annual information is collected through the Donor Portal and donations to the Benefit. On May 2, 2023, prior to our beautiful luncheon, Fund Development hosted a Donor reception honoring our Town and Gown Endowed Donors (those who have endowed scholarships) and the Millennium Circle Donors (those who gave $1,000 or more from May 1 through April 30). The reception was held at Moreton Fig and was well attended by many of our donors.

If you are interested in joining our committee for 2023-2024, have any questions, or would like to know more, please email us at funddevelopment@townandgownofusc.org.

Fight On!
Marilyn Kezirian and Carol Wright, Third Vice Presidents, Fund Development

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**SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT**

**Brendon Chou, Keck School of Medicine MD '24**

*What is exciting and interesting, or currently challenging you, in your major field of study? Describe clubs or other on campus activities in which you participate.*

Learning medicine is an exciting and challenging endeavor where I am constantly learning. I treat every patient case as a puzzle to piece together through investigative work and quality patient care.

This past school year, I served as VP of Radiology Student Interest Group where I served as a liaison for medical students and the USC Radiology department to host opportunities in imaging workshops, research, review sessions, and shadowing. I also served as Community Outreach Chair for Keck Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association and organized service opportunities for medical students to provide health education to local seniors and high schools within the San Gabriel Valley community.

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

I am working with Dr. Nasim Sheikh-Bahaei and Dr. Alexander Lerner on imaging of structural and functional changes in the brain in Alzheimer’s disease and migraine, most notably on perivascular spaces in the brain and their role as potential imaging biomarkers for such diseases.

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

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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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