



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!



PROGRAMS - A DAY OF TROJAN SPIRIT!

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!



Coach Lincoln Riley



L to R: Beth Petak-Aaron, President, Lincoln Riley, Bonnie Suffridge and Debbie Wong, VPs of Programs



The Trojan Marching Band Entertaining Guests in the Town and Gown Ballroom



Incoming 2023-2024 Town and Gown of USC Board of Directors



Outgoing Town and Gown of USC Board of Directors



Scholar Speaker, Madison Johnson, and her mother, Christy Johnson

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



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL HAPPENING NOW!



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



Membership committee members, Angela Bennett and Colleen Jester, distributing Life member roses.



TOWN AND GOWN OF USC SALUTES OUR LIFE MEMBERS

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

(list as of 4-20-2023)



TOWN AND GOWN OF USC HISTORY

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



FUND DEVELOPMENT NEWS!

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

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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