

# 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Town & Gown  
*of the*  
University of Southern California  
*Founded 1904*

MEMBER  
NEWSLETTER  
September 2023

*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,

Welcome back!

The Board of Directors of Town and Gown of USC has been working diligently over the summer! We have fabulous General Meetings ahead.

If you have not already noticed, we are starting to celebrate our 120th birthday! It will be a huge celebration on April 2, 2024 and is being held in our own ballroom! The Town and Gown of USC ballroom is the perfect place to celebrate our birthday!

I look forward to seeing you all in October at our first General Meeting where we will be hearing all about USC baseball!

Fight On!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth".

Beth Petak-Aaron

CEO/President 2022-2024

[president@townandgownofusc.org](mailto:president@townandgownofusc.org)



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



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## PROGRAMS

Happy Fall!

We have had a very busy, but productive summer, planning wonderful Town and Gown of USC programs.

We revealed our programs to the Board of Directors on Tuesday, August 22nd, 2023 and then promptly notified our Programs committee. The membership was informed the very next day. We have received very positive feedback thus far on our fabulous and exciting programs for 2023-2024.

We are thrilled to kick-off our first program of the school year, which will be Andrew Stankiewicz, the Trojan baseball coach who has had a super successful first year as head coach and was recently named among one of the coaches for the USA Olympic baseball team. The Trojan Marching Band will also be there to help kick-off our first program of the year. Invitations will be in your email soon, so be sure to register! We look forward to seeing you on October 3rd, 2023.

Debbie Wong and Lisa Up de Graff  
5th Vice Presidents, Programs



## INVESTMENTS UPDATE

Great news! Thanks to the generosity of past and present donors, our Town and Gown of USC University Endowment Fund I is valued at over \$62 million as of May 31, 2023.

We are also pleased to announce that Town and Gown of USC has awarded \$2.1 million worth of merit-based scholarships to 189 students for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Each of the 127 Undergraduate scholars will receive \$10,000 annually, and each of the 62 Graduate (Progressive, Masters, Doctorate) scholars will receive \$15,000 annually.

Thank you for your support in our Opportunity Drawings. With your assistance, our 501(c)(3) gifted \$15,000 to the Computer Relief Fund. This Computer Relief Fund awards incoming freshmen and transfer students with the funds to purchase a computer if they cannot afford one.

Thank you for making a difference!  
Patti Jamgotchian  
1st Vice President, Investments

## BACK TO SCHOOL CELEBRATION

A group photo of the scholars who attended the Back To School Celebration on September 10th, 2023.



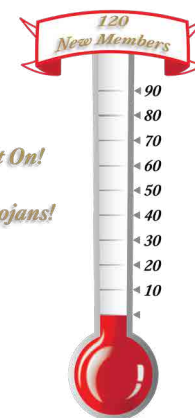
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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Bring a friend and potential NEW member to our October 3rd meeting! Register [here](#)!

Help us achieve our 2023-2024 goal of **120 New Members**!

The Fall is a *great* time for members to join, and we encourage you to help us in our **120** Membership drive. Stop by the Membership table in the Courtyard before the meeting! See you then!



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

### Noël Corbin (Beverly Hills)

Noël Corbin '12, '21, is a lifelong Angeleno and Trojan fan. Following her studies at USC, she joined the fundraising team at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering where she now serves as a Senior Director for Advancement. This year she is pleased to be volunteering on the USC Young Alumni Council and the USC Staff Assembly. In her spare time, she enjoys playing tennis and reading biographies.

### Susan Duncan (Rossmoor)

Susan was the first family member to attend USC. She was quickly followed by her sister, and, most recently, her son. Susan graduated from USC with a BS in Business Administration. She rose to the title of Executive Director at CIBC Oppenheimer and is now retired. Susan has served on the boards of Peninsula Heritage School and the El Camino Community College Foundation.

### Ann Fragen (Santa Monica)

Ann graduated with a BS in Business Administration with a Marketing Emphasis. Ann worked in the finance field for many years with Wells Fargo Bank where she managed a team focused on operational risk issues. Ann currently enjoys yoga, reading and walks with her labradoodle, Chloe.

### Joan Lima (Las Vegas)

Joan is a 1989 USC graduate with a BS in Journalism/Public Relations. She is a Development Manager for HELP of Southern Nevada where she raises funds for HELP's housing and assistance programs for the homeless. She is an active member of Junior League of Las Vegas, Nevada Women's Philanthropy, and Chi Omega Alumnae of Southern Nevada.

### Kim Sase (Northridge)

Kim is retired from the Admissions Dept. at College of the Canyons in Santa Clarita. She has worked in the Press Box at the USC Football home games for the past 18 years as well as USC Men's and Women's Basketball for the past two years.

### Kellen Soloman (Santa Monica)

Kellen graduated from USC with her BA in Psychology and her MS in Teaching. She currently works at USC on the Parent Giving and Engagement team within University Advancement. She has experience in fundraising / development and event planning.

Special thanks to our members who recently sponsored a NEW member:

*Rachael Beal~Lola Reyes~Carol Kroesche~Leida Neidecker~Michelle Dao~Kadee McCorkle~*

*Valerie Sampson~Cathy Yee~Patti Poon~Lori Middleton(x2!)*

***We appreciate your support!***

### Fight On!

Colleen Stroyke and Bonnie Suffridge  
4th Vice Presidents, Membership





## BOARD DIRECTORS NEEDED TO LEAD US IN THE NEXT 120 YEARS!

### CALL FOR 2024-2025 BOD NOMINATIONS COMING SOON

One of the many fulfilling ways to serve Town and Gown of USC is to hold a position on the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee has its eye set already on the 2024-2025 Board, and the committee will be looking soon for current members to join next year's Board.

The two-year positions to be slated for next year: Secretary; 1st VP, Investments; 2nd VP, Scholarship; 3rd VP, Fund Development; 4th VP, Membership; 5th VP, Programs; and Governance Chair. In addition, the Committee will fill two one-year positions on the Nominating Committee.

We invite you to read the position descriptions in the Town and Gown of USC Handbook. The Call for Nominations form will be sent to all members in October.

Also in October, the information will be available in the Members' Portal on our website, [townandgownofusc.org](http://townandgownofusc.org). In the meantime, please think about who might be right for the positions and consider nominating them — or, remember, you may nominate yourself! All nominations will be due on November 7, 2023.

For more information, please contact Patti Johnson, Nominating Chair, at [ppjpve@aol.com](mailto:ppjpve@aol.com) or (310) 710-7079.

## MEMBER NEWS

Member, Sandy Sidwell, and her husband Jack celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in July!

Congratulations, Sandy and Jack!

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

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• Please remember to share your pictures on Facebook and follow us on Instagram. •



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