

USC Readers PLUS

Spring 2005 Newsletter

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[www.http://www.usc.edu/readersplus](http://www.usc.edu/readersplus)

Saying Good-bye

The end of the spring semester is the always the hardest part of the year for me. Although it means that summer is just around the corner, it also means that we will have to say good-bye to many amazing students who have dedicated a number of years, and who have made countless contributions to our program and our community.

This year, in particular, we have had a group of twelve students who have been with our program for three and a half years or more—nine of them having started with us their very first semester as freshman here at USC! These twelve people are remarkable in their dedication to not just their job, but to the children and community members whose lives they have touched.

I am one of those people who hates “good-byes”. However, saying good-bye is a necessary part of any relationship, including the mentoring relationships that you have developed with your students. As we wrap up the semester, here are just a few things to keep in mind as you prepare your students for the end of your shared time together.

Whether the ending of the relationship is temporary as you head home for the summer and plan to return with us for the fall semester, or permanent as you graduate and head out into the real world, it is important for you to communicate this with your students.

- This is a good time to reflect on what your students have accomplished, and what you have gained from knowing them and working with them. You and your student might also reflect on what else they hope to accomplish in your absence, and you might share with them what you plan to do as you move on.

- Your students should feel proud of the work they have done. You might prepare a special portfolio of some of their best work, “publish” one of their pieces of writing to remember you by, or compose a joint poem about your special relationship with one another.

- Before closing your mentor relationship, provide your students with appropriate, encouraging feedback and wish them well. Let them know that they will succeed if they continue to work hard, and remind them that you will remember the time that you spend together.

Following this advice myself, I would like to recognize all of our graduating seniors as well as all of our students leaving the program for internships or other responsibilities. Deserving of special recognition are **JESUS DÍAZ, ELISE ALANIS and ADAMAH ANWARZAH** from Norwood Elementary School; **JENNIFER ROGUE** from Weems; **PATTE GONZALEZ and MONICA MZA** from Vermont; and **RICHARD RAMIREZ, BRYAN WENER, GABRIELA ALANIZ, ELIZABETH TOOMER, DOMINIQUE BUCKER** and **MICHELLE NATANS** from 32nd Street for their long-lasting relationships with USC ReadersPlus, their school sites, and their students.

I would like to thank you and commend you for your hard work and commitment. You all have reminded me that not only do young people care, but there are people like you who care enough to make a difference—a BIG difference. We dedicate this newsletter edition to you and the MANY students who will long remember you. We congratulate each of you upon graduation, wish all of you the very best, and hope that you keep in touch with us to share your certain successes.

Peace & Love,

Tina

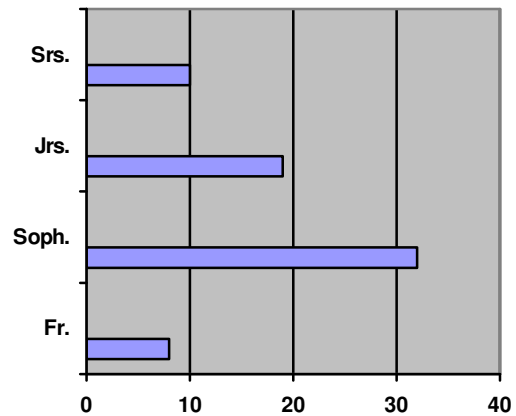
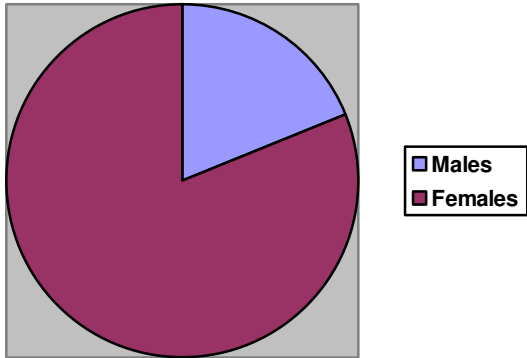
The coordinators were asked:

1. If you could take an all-expense paid vacation to anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?
2. If you could bring ANY three items with you to a desert island (excluding anything that would help you escape...), what would you bring and why?

<p>Cristina Garcia Math Advocate</p> <p>1. Madagascar</p> <p>2. friends, a knife, and a lighter for basic survival</p>	<p>Tina Koneazny Director</p> <p>1. I'd travel all over the world... because I've never been anywhere!</p> <p>2. Jim, Kaylie, and Jonah... they're all I need ☺</p>	<p>Ilene Cooper Science Content Coordinator</p> <p>1. South America - so much to see, so little time... and they speak Spanish!</p> <p>2. My mom, lots and lots of books, and some board games</p>
<p>Pattie Gonzalez Vermont Coordinator</p> <p>1. I know it's a bit plain jane, but I would love to go to London, England. I've always been fascinated by the city and I love the accents :)</p> <p>2. My Winnie the Pooh Blanket (I feel so safe with it on hand and never travel without it), a library full of books (I know I'm cheating, but I need to keep my mind entertained), & a Wilson Volleyball (hey Tom Hanks made it look like a ton of fun!)</p>	<p>Jen Rossmeier Central Coordinator</p> <p>1. I'd probably pick somewhere I would never have occasion to go... like Israel. I think it would be fascinating to go to the Middle East and to see what life is really like over there! Plus, the food and historic culture sound AMAZING!!</p> <p>2. Cases of sunscreen, an iPod, and my Sonicare toothbrush with an unlimited supply of charging capabilities!</p>	<p>Jesus Diaz Norwood Coordinator</p> <p>1. I would go to Machu Pichu, it's supposed to be the most beautiful place on earth and it's a great achievement of the Latino culture. Plus it looked cool in the Motorcycle Diaries.</p> <p>2. I would bring a magic lamp, <u>One Hundred Years of Solitude</u>, and an Ipod w/ speakers for some island jammin'.</p>
<p>Rick Ramirez 32nd Street Coordinator</p> <p>1. South of Spain- I didn't get to go while I was there and regretted it ever since. I mean, they filmed parts of Star Wars there- soo awesome!!</p> <p>2. Ipod; a power generator (for the Ipod); and my guitar, cause I can't live without it!</p>	<p>Danielle Schutz Weemes Co-Coordinator</p> <p>1. I think I'd go to El Salvador, where my mother is from. The older I get, the more I want to go, but I'm afraid I'll never get there. If it was all paid for and taken care of, I'd be there in a heart beat.</p> <p>2. SUN block, SUNglasses, and the SUNday paper!</p>	<p>Jenn Roglá Weemes Co-Coordinator</p> <p>1. I would buy an "around-the-world" ticket and go to at least one country on every continent. I absolutely love traveling and learning about new cultures first hand, so I couldn't just pick one place to go.</p> <p>2. See above - I only want to go to every continent, no desert islands :) But, if I really had to chose: a bed, for my elaborate Swiss Family Robinson tree house I'll build; a lot of books, only interesting ones; a radio, so all my new animal friends and I could dance</p>
<p>Gloria Jimenez Foshay Coordinator</p> <p>1. Cuba, because it sounds like a really interesting cool place to go visit.</p> <p>2. some kind of music; some books; and some deodorant!</p>		

Reader Breakdown

Out of 69 readers, we have 13 males and 56 females!



And we have 8 freshman, 32 sophomores, 19 juniors, and 10 seniors.

Reader Shoutouts!

**“Yeah, I'd like to give a Shout Out to Gloria for being a cool boss and I would like to give a shout out to Mark for being the best colleage/ working buddy ever and for always keeping me on my toes and in the know, especially when it comes to staff meetings. I also like to give a shout out to Angie, for always being so nice!
~Onyi Okoli~**

**“Angie rocks! This newsletter is going to win awards!!”
~Lindsey Charo~**

Readers, Your Favorite Vacation?

“My most interesting vacation was probably when I went to Cannes France with 8 other girls and my ballet teacher. We went to study dance at the Rosela Hightower Centre de Dance where my teacher had taken dance when she was younger. I was 14 and we spent 2 weeks dancing, sunbathing and shopping. We also went into Nice and visited a couple museums that were amazing.”
- Alisa Cohen, Foshay

“My most interesting vacation will occur in September...still gotta call the travel agent, but it's looking like a year-long, around-the-world extravaganza through australia/new zealand/tasmania, indonesia/laos/cambodia/india, over to europe to visit some friends in sweden, austria, switzerland, france, germany, greece...should be pretty fun.”
- Lindsey Charo, Foshay

Recommended Reading for travelers and adventurers

Letters From Felix by ANnette Langen

Ages: 6-8

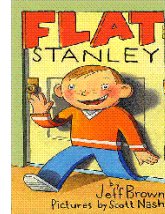


At the end of vacation something terrible happens: Sophie's cuddly rabbit, Felix, disappears in the airport. This is very, very bad, because Sophie and Felix are inseparable. But when school starts again, suddenly a letter for Sophie arrives from London—a letter from Felix!

And that is only the first letter that her cuddly rabbit sends her from his trip around the world. More letters come from Paris, Rome, Cairo, a safari in Kenya, and New York. Felix's humorous and informative letters describing the lands and people he visits are included here in six genuine, stamped envelopes. (as reviewed at Barnes and Noble.com)

Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown

Ages 6-10



When Stanley Lambchop wakes up one morning, his brother, Arthur, is yelling.

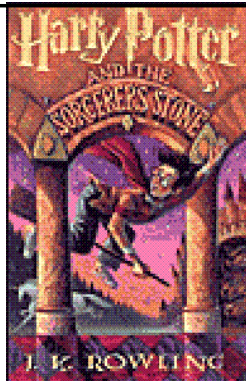
A bulletin board fell on Stanley during the night, and now he is only half an inch thick!

Amazing things begin happening to him. Stanley gets rolled up, mailed, and flown like a kite. He even gets to help catch two dangerous art thieves. He may be flat, but he's a hero! (as reviewed at Barnes and Noble.com)

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K.

Rowling
Ages 9-12

Harry hates living with his Uncle Vernon, Aunt Petunia, and their spoiled-rotten son, Dudley. But then Harry discovers the truth about himself when a determined messenger delivers an enlightening message. It turns out that Harry's mother was a witch,



(as reviewed at Barnes and Noble.com)

his father a wizard. And not only is Harry also a wizard, he's a famous one! But all is not rosy when Harry discovers his true destiny and finds he must once again face the evil one who killed his parents. His survival will depend upon the help of his newfound friends, as well as his own wit and powers.

Volunteer

The Literacy Project!

Seniors, your good work doesn't have to stop with graduation! If you are staying in or around the LA area, you can volunteer through the Literacy Project!

What is the Literacy Project?

The Literacy Project is a program which recruits from faculty, staff, alumni, and grad students to mentor children in the Family of Five schools. The minimum requirement is one hour a week, but you can commit to more if you'd like.

You know the difference that one hour a week can make in child's life, so if you're close to USC and want to stay involved... We'd love to have you!

If interested, please contact Jen Rossmeyer at rossmeyer@usc.edu.

Want to Get Involved?

Here are some places to start volunteering on campus...

- * USC Volunteer Center: programs such as Alternative Spring Break and Friends and Neighbors Service Day
<http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/volunteer_center/>
- * USC Catholic Center: Homeless Ministry every Wednesday
<<http://catholictrcjan.org/>>
- * USC Helenes: an all-female service organization on campus
<<http://www-scf.usc.edu/~helenes/>>
- * WYSE (Women and Youth Supporting Each Other): group which establishes mentor/mentee relationship between college age women and middle school girls to educate and support
<<http://www-scf.usc.edu/~wyse/>>
- * Spirits in Action: holds games similar to Special Olympics every spring
<<http://www-scf.usc.edu/~spirits/home.htm>>
- * USC Troy Camp: organization which mentors underprivileged children and sponsors a week long summer camp excursion
<<http://www-scf.usc.edu/~troycamp/>>

Double Certified

USC Readers^{Plus} Weekly Log
2004
January 24-28, 2005

School: 32nd Street

Reader Name: [REDACTED]

Due By: January 28, 2005

Please chart below the students with whom you have worked throughout the course of this week, the number of hours you have worked with each of them, and the type of tutoring you have provided to them.

Student Name	Grade	Gender	Ethnicity AA, H, O	# of hours of one-on-one tutoring		# of hours of small group tutoring (2-3)	
				Reading	Math	Reading	Math
Tommy Trojan	3	M	O	1.5			
1. Ashley Nolasco	5	F	H		.5		
2. Chris Fernandez	2	M	H		.5		
3.							
4.							
5.							
6.							
7.							
8.							
9.							
10.							
Total # of Students:	2			Total Hrs:	Total Hrs: 1.0	Total Hrs:	Total Hrs:

▪ Afterschool Hours: 2.0

How many of these were...

-one-on-one: _____

-groups of two or three: _____

-groups of more than 3: 2.0

▪ Other Hours (please describe specific tasks): 3.0 Assistant coordinator
tasks: taking inventory of new books, organizing supplies on shelves,
preparing spreadsheet of all Readers, collecting and reviewing paperwork

An example of a good worklog-
notice how **all** of the information is filled in!