WE WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD.
Show us how.

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Changing the World

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We Want to Change the World. Show Us How.
These newest members of the Trojan Family have the initiative to seek changes and the perspicacity to see them through.  
BY MEGAN CHRISTOPHER MPW '11 AND ALLISON DOYLE MPW '11

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BY LAURIE MOORE

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BY PAMELA J. JOHNSON

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Aug. 25, 2010, marked the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina’s devastating blow. Andrew Curtis and a team of USC College students are documenting the rebuilding process street by street.  
BY SUSAN ANDREWS

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First student, athlete and physician — now hero — William Stetson ’82 brings arthroscopic surgery to Third World countries.  
BY SUSAN ANDREWS

Trash Talk
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Taking the Emperor’s Reign
Undergraduates laugh, cry and learn during USC College’s first Summer Intensive Program in Japan.  
BY PAMELA J. JOHNSON

Return to Camelot
Bill Deverell leads a team of scholars from USC College and The Huntington to preserve the glory days of Southern California’s aerospace industry for generations to come.  
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Talking to Strangers
The Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics invites the USC community to engage disagreement.  
BY LYN BOYD-JUDSON

Between Drafts
Brighde Mullins, director of the Master of Professional Writing (MPW) Program, discusses the art and craft of writing and the benefits of an MPW degree.  
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Welcome Aboard
Fifteen new members join the USC College Board of Councilors.  

Aimee Bender’s new book, The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake, is rich and multi-layered.  
BY PAMELA J. JOHNSON

Alternate Realities, One America
Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Leonard Pitts Jr. ’77 reflects on the “spin” of our nation.  
BY LEONARD PITTS JR. ’77

Feelings, Oh, Oh, Oh!
BY PAMELA J. JOHNSON
1,000,000+

This is the number of service hours USC students spend in the community annually as participants in the College’s internationally recognized Joint Educational Project (JEP).

The numbers in JEP and other community outreach programs and activities housed in the College are impressive.

Each year thousands of our students and engaged faculty leaders make a difference both near and far by generously applying their expertise, scholarship and compassion to the betterment of the world.

Today, more than ever, freshmen arrive on campus as practitioners of helping others in need; many bringing with them a passion for protecting the natural environment. A few of these extraordinary individuals appear in our cover story.

Our students’ goal is to make a difference. Helping others is what really matters. It’s not just about getting into USC or racking up community outreach activities to pad a résumé.

Our faculty and staff are among the best in helping students develop their outreach toolkits both through education and example.

Our alumni are also great exemplars of giving back and seize the opportunity as both a privilege and a responsibility. You will learn more about a few of these amazing people in this issue.

Giving back takes on many forms: time, expertise, money and other resources. You will find it all here.

The College has the numbers, but more importantly and lastingly, we have the heartfelt connections made throughout the world.

SUSAN ANDREWS AND EMILY CAVALCANTI, OFFICE OF COLLEGE COMMUNICATION

On the Cover

Pictured are six among many USC College of Letters, Arts & Sciences freshmen who bring with them a vast array of talents and experiences that include leadership in community engagement. Their dedication and compassion has already impacted the world around them and they look forward to continuing their work with the help of College faculty and staff. Read more on page 32.

COVER PHOTO BY PHIL CHANNING
You can change the world. We can show you how.

We use this phrase to convey to prospective students the importance and value of a great undergraduate education within USC College of Letters, Arts & Sciences.

The phrase resonates with the extraordinary idealism and ambition of the current group of students who apply to the world’s leading institutions of higher education. The tagline echoes the commitment expressed in our university’s mission statement to play “an increasingly important role in the development of the nation and the world ... for many centuries to come” by ensuring that our research, scholarship and academic programs “advance knowledge and at the same time address issues critical to our community, the nation and the world.”

More recently, I underscored these values within the College community when we initiated our Problems Without Passports program (highlighted in the Fall 2008 issue of this magazine) and our new College 2020 initiative, which you will read about in the pages that follow.

You see, we are not an Ivory Tower. We do not seek to create an insulated community engaged in forms of inquiry that are disconnected from the practical concerns of everyday life. Of course, all scholarly advances depend on an environment of inquiry that is not beholden to calculations of immediate practical benefit. But we are also aware that, in the end, both fundamental and applied research play an essential role in human progress. Underlying all inquiry in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences is the hope that our new discoveries and insights will be the driving force for a better future in our community and our world.

In this issue of USC College Magazine, you will learn more about some members of our community — faculty, students and alumni — who are working to change the world for the better. In some cases, the efforts address challenges that have become urgent in our local community and in our nation, such as immigrant integration and gang violence. In other cases, the expertise we have in USC College has led to efforts to address challenges in other parts of the world, such as the aftermath of the genocide in Cambodia and the need for medical procedures in the developing world.

I hope you enjoy meeting these impressive members of the Trojan Family. But I also want to make a more general point: the role that we play in changing the world is not merely a matter of actual community engagement; it is an essential and everyday feature of every faculty member’s scholarship and every student’s academic experience.

As we look back on history, every development we consider “progress” is linked to some new idea or discovery within the fields of study that characterize the world of Letters, Arts & Sciences. Philosophers, novelists and poets illuminate new ways of thinking about justice, freedom and the goals of a good life. Social scientists give us a new perspective on the importance of social capital, the best distribution of resources and the elements of a well-functioning democracy. Natural scientists establish the foundations for understanding and appreciating the world of physics, biology and chemistry.

Letters, Arts, Sciences. They have always been the path to a better future. This is because, to prepare for making any sort of contribution to our world, it is vital that we understand the changing dynamics of social life, the natural world and the mysteries of the human condition.

My first year as dean I met a young man who had just graduated from USC College and was in his first semester as a medical student. He told me that the most important courses he took as an undergraduate were not his science courses, but were rather his philosophy courses. He was already representing his class on the medical school’s ethics committee, and he believed that he was going to be a better doctor precisely because he was forced to think as hard and rigorously about questions of ethics and human values as he did about chemistry, biology and physiology.

The best preparation for smart and ambitious young people who want to change the world is immersion, as undergraduates and then as graduate students, in the world of Letters, Arts & Sciences.

HOWARD GILLMAN
DEAN OF USC COLLEGE
ANNA H. BING DEAN’S CHAIR
IN A MOMENTOUS celebration that drew nearly 7,500 members of the Trojan Family and local community, C. L. Max Nikias was inaugurated as USC’s 11th president on Oct. 15. The former USC executive vice president and provost became president in early August. Nikias succeeded Steven B. Sample, who had led USC since 1991.

The inauguration ceremony’s theme revolved around a quotation from Virgil’s *Aeneid*, which is inscribed on a plaque at the base of Tommy Trojan — “Here are provided seats of meditative joy, where shall rise again the destined reign of Troy.”

Over the course of his career as a researcher, educator and university administrator, Nikias has earned accolades for his leadership, innovation and fundraising, as well as his ability to build partnerships among varied constituencies.

Nikias is credited with accelerating the university’s recent academic momentum, recruiting new leadership, strengthening the academic medical enterprise, helping attract a series of major donations to the institution, creating innovative cross-disciplinary programs, enhancing USC’s globalization efforts, and increasing support for undergraduate and graduate students.

Nikias’s selection by the Board of Trustees followed an international search process ending in approximately 75 candidates and seven finalists, all of whom were sitting presidents or provosts at major universities.

A visionary of the highest order, Nikias has said: “My vision is to propel USC to reach what I call ‘undisputed elite status.’ When you’ve reached undisputed elite status, there is no argument, there is no doubt, and yes, there is no question you belong in the pantheon of American elite universities.”

Read President C. L. Max Nikias’s full inauguration address at usc.edu/president.

**“Working with animals ... is sensory-based, not word-based. If you want to understand an animal, you’ve got to get away from language.”**

Temple Grandin in a thought-provoking lecture, “Animals Make Us Human,” on her findings about livestock behavior, facility design and humane slaughter. A noted autistic, Grandin is a best-selling author, consultant to the livestock industry and professor of animal science at Colorado State University. The event kicked off The College Commons 2010–11 season.

Visit college.usc.edu/youtube to watch the lecture and college.usc.edu/tcc for The College Commons 2010–11 series calendar.

**All Mapped Out**

DEAN GILLMAN ANNOUNCES CREATION OF SPATIAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE.

This fall, Dean Howard Gillman announced the launch of the Spatial Sciences Institute, headquartered in USC College and directed by John Wilson, professor of geography.

As a new multidisciplinary field, the spatial sciences has contributed many of the theoretical and technical advances toward building new spatially aware technologies while promoting the collection, management and analysis of digital geospatial information in both the natural and built environments.

“Technology allows us to do our jobs and our research better and provides a rich and extensible framework from which our students can grow and diversify their skills,” Wilson said.

“The newly established Spatial Sciences Institute, under John’s direction, will help facilitate and optimize the use of spatial sciences across the university and continue to build on the excellence across existing areas of strength,” Gillman said.
“LOVE OF LEARNING is the guide of life.” This Greek motto gives the Phi Beta Kappa Society its name.

This past March, 178 seniors and 13 juniors, mostly from USC College, joined the ranks of this elite society.

Of the 5,500 institutes of higher learning in the United States, only 280 have Phi Beta Kappa chapters, and only a small number of students from each institution are inducted each year.

Membership in the nation’s pre-eminent honor society, recognizing excellent academic achievement in the tradition of learning in the liberal arts and sciences, is based on excellence in scholarship, character and GPA. The Epsilon Chapter of California at USC, the fifth established chapter in the state, has honored outstanding juniors and seniors studying liberal arts and sciences since 1929.

In invitations sent out to inductees, Robin Romans, associate provost for undergraduate programs and president of the Phi Beta Kappa Epsilon Chapter of California at USC, announced that a generous gift from a USC College donor covered the cost of all 2010 initiation fees.

“This society recognizes excellence in the liberal arts and sciences,” Romans said. “The liberal arts are the most precious parts of the university. They put us in conversation with those who have come before us, provide critical perspective on how we live our lives today and help us imagine a better tomorrow.”

As keynote speaker and the event’s honorary inductee, Michael Quick, executive vice dean in the College, elaborated.

“I hear people say that a great university takes an undecided freshman and has her become a decided graduate,” he said. “That is false. A great university takes a decided freshman and makes her an ‘undecided’ for the rest of her life. Because the kind of education that does that, a liberal arts education, prepares you for anything and everything.”

—ALLISON DOYLE MPW ’11

“The skills and tools learned by the students are essential in tackling key environmental challenges in marine and coastal systems on a global scale.”

Jim Haw, Ray R. Irani Chairman of Occidental Petroleum Chair in Chemistry, and professor of chemistry and environmental studies in USC College, on leading students on scientific research dives to Guam and Palau in Oceania as well as to the USC Wrigley Marine Science Center on Catalina Island. Haw’s students completed the summer course through the College’s Problems Without Passports program.

Read the scientific research diving blog created by Professor Jim Haw and his students at uscdiving.wordpress.com.
CREATING THE COLLEGE of the future is the impetus behind College 2020.

In Fall 2009, College Dean Howard Gillman invited faculty to work across existing departments and programs to identify a set of themes that will be of great societal relevance and importance in years to come. These College 2020 thematic research clusters will serve as the basis for investments in new research initiatives and related academic programs for undergraduate and graduate students.

Eighteen ambitious proposals were submitted to a College faculty review committee. “I was very pleased to see such a high level of interest in this opportunity by faculty members from across the College,” Gillman said. “The challenge of building the College of the future has engaged faculty from across all disciplines. More than 200 faculty members were listed as co-investigators in the proposals that were submitted.”

College 2020 will build upon the groundbreaking research already taking place across the many College departments, research centers and institutes by providing faculty with a chance to engage in bottom-up, peer-reviewed strategic planning around important themes.

“Here is no doubt that we must maintain strong foundations in basic disciplinary knowledge and in the fundamental questions of the human experience,” Gillman said. “But we must also be prepared to demonstrate — to our students, to our colleagues across the university, to our supporters and ultimately to society as a whole — the ongoing relevance and importance of our scholarship and academic programs.”

The College 2020 thematic research clusters chosen this year are Science, Technology & Society, led by Andrew Lakoff, associate professor of anthropology, sociology and communication; Climate Change in Southern California, led by Douglas Capone, William and Julie Wrigley Chair in Environmental Studies and professor of biological sciences, and David Hutchins, professor of biological sciences; and Genocide Resistance, led by Wolf Gruner, Shapell-Guerin Chair in Jewish Studies and professor of history.

The SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY research cluster seeks to foster individual and collaborative inquiry into the production of scientific knowledge and the societal impact of technological innovation.

The research cluster CLIMATE CHANGE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA will create an opportunity for the
There is no doubt that we must maintain strong foundations in basic disciplinary knowledge and in the fundamental questions of the human experience. But we must also be prepared to demonstrate — to our students, to our colleagues across the university, to our supporters and ultimately to society as a whole — the ongoing relevance and importance of our scholarship and academic programs.”

—Howard Gillman, Dean of USC College

College’s many internationally recognized experts in marine, environmental and social sciences to build a new vision by synthesizing the scientific aspects of rapid coastal climate change with the equally dynamic changes in human cultural and political institutions.

The cluster Genocide Resistance will systematically investigate why certain individuals, groups or societies do or do not follow the path of mass violence and genocide.

The research clusters will receive a total of $1 million in funding over three years. In addition to research support, funding will lead to the creation of new general education courses; undergraduate majors and minors; graduate certificates; interdisciplinary seminars; and postdoctoral, predoctoral and undergraduate fellowships.

Criteria used by the faculty review committee in the selection process included a preference for proposals that:

- Seek to address global challenges of special importance and complexity;
- Contribute to positioning the College in a leadership role within a particular area of study;
- Enhance the team’s opportunities for external funding;
- Involve teams with broad College faculty participation;
- Articulate a plan of action that enhances Ph.D. education and promotes the quality placement of Ph.D. students;
- Engage undergraduates in activities through research opportunities or innovative academic programming; and
- Propose teaching innovations that are scalable across a variety of academic programs.

Gillman was so impressed by the quantity and quality of proposals submitted this year that he put out another call for proposals this fall. “I look forward to receiving new proposals in addition to revised proposals from this year’s submissions,” he said.

—Susan Andrews

“I hope there are implications to my research. I hope to find something that will benefit humans living there as well as the chimps.”

Maureen McCarthy, doctoral student in USC College’s Integrative and Evolutionary Biology graduate program, on conducting her dissertation research on the behavioral ecology of chimpanzees stranded in fragments of forest that have been carved up by agriculture. McCarthy spent three months in the Kasokwa Forest Reserve in Uganda this past summer tracking the ranging patterns of 16 chimps. Craig Stanford, professor of anthropology and biological sciences, and co-director of the USC Jane Goodall Research Center, is McCarthy’s adviser.

Visit college.usc.edu/mccarthy to read the full story.

A Better Tomorrow

USC Shoah Foundation Institute wins 2010 Walter Cronkite Civic Engagement Leadership Award.

In honor of its leadership in social activism and innovative solutions to global issues, the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education received the 2010 Walter Cronkite Civic Engagement Leadership Award.

The award was presented by What’s Your Issue, a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to “provide a unique platform for young adults to propose creative solutions to some of our nation’s most important challenges and for their voices to be heard, honored and acted upon.”

Citing the “innovative programing stemming from the Visual History Archive such as the Teacher Innovation Network and new uses of the Internet and other digital media to advance social awareness, foster compassion and promote human rights education,” the award was given to honor the humanitarian work of the institute to bring compassion and justice to our global society.
“What we’re doing — looking for these little vampires hidden below the bottom of the ocean — is kind of a crazy idea. But in L.A., you can take the intellectual, entrepreneurial fever that’s out there, and use it in really innovative research.”

KATRINA EDWARDS of biological sciences and earth sciences on leading a team to create the Center for Dark Energy Biosphere Investigations headquartered at USC and supported by a $25 million grant from the National Science Foundation. Edwards was featured as part of LA Weekly’s 2010 “People” issue.

“One of the problems of redevelopment in the Lower Ninth Ward has been homes rebuilt in isolation. When two homes are rebuilt together, at least there is a neighbor to help share the stressors of living in what is a challenging environment.”

ANDREW CURTIS of American studies and ethnicity in an Aug. 27 report in The New York Times on New Orleans five years after Hurricane Katrina. The coverage included an extensive video package drawn from the work of Curtis, who helped create a visual database of the city’s struggle to recover.

“This return to an almost primordial source of power that children and their innocence represent is a powerful force in our culture.”

KAREN STERNHEIMER of sociology in a June 28 Christian Science Monitor article on the popularity of the Twilight series of books and movies among women over age 20.

“People in China will go see a Feng Xiaogang film because it is by Feng Xiaogang. He is a brand and has valuable name recognition. People know a film by Feng will be well-written and moving.”

STANLEY ROSEN of political science in a July 30 Newsweek article about Chinese filmmaker Feng Xiaogang’s movie Aftershock, which earned more than $78 million this summer and broke the box-office record for a Chinese movie in the domestic market.

“Museums should serve society by stubbornly proclaiming their unique ability to facilitate intimate encounters with the real, the highest achievements of humankind.”

SELMA HOLO, director of the USC Fisher Museum of Art and professor of art history, in her June 23 letter to the editor responding to The New York Times’ article on the Brooklyn Museum’s efforts to build an audience through populist programming and exhibitions.

“Designing workable solutions for our future — fixing our public schools, addressing inequality, promoting economic growth and adopting a sensible approach to regulating immigration — will require a serious and civil civic conversation based on shared facts.”

MANUEL PASTOR, director of the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration and the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE), and professor of American studies and ethnicity; and PERE Project Specialist VANESSA CARTER in their July 2 San Francisco Chronicle op-ed on how aiding immigrants would help California.

“There is something of an irony in California’s ‘moderate’ Tea Party movement. For those who still believe that a conservative can win a statewide election, they should think again.”

ANN CRIGLER, professor and chair of political science, and acting director of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics, and JANE JUNN, professor of political science, in their April 25 Sacramento Bee op-ed about Republican Steve Poizner’s bid to be governor of California and his relationship with Tea Party activists.
Arriving in Japan, the USC College sophomore initially noticed space — or the lack of it. Nearly three-quarters of Japan is covered with mountains so there’s not much room to spare. With more than 30 million residents, Tokyo is the world’s largest metropolitan area. The parking structures caught Grimaldo’s eye.

“They were narrow and went straight up several stories, like an elevator,” he said. “Bike racks were stacked on top of one another. Everything was compact.”

Grimaldo researched the issue of space for USC College’s first Summer Intensive Program in Japan. He was among 13 undergraduates who spent one week exploring Japanese culture in Los Angeles, two weeks in Japan and a few days debriefing this past summer during the Norman Topping Student Aid Fund-sponsored program. So moved was Grimaldo by the experience, he has changed his major from psychology to international relations.

In August, students presented their papers during Topping’s annual retreat, this year in Palm Desert, Calif. Topping supports low-income students showing a commitment to community service. Established in 1970, Topping is the nation’s only student-initiated and funded scholarship.

Most Topping scholars are first-generation college students like Grimaldo who come from the surrounding community.

“I’m a first-generation college student myself,” Topping Director Christina Yokoyama said. “When I was a student here at USC, I studied abroad. I knew the great impact it had on me and I knew the hesitation my family had about my going.”

Yokoyama wanted to give Topping scholars an opportunity to travel overseas.

“We wanted faculty onboard and there was no doubt which faculty member I wanted,” Yokoyama said of George Sanchez, professor of history, and American studies and ethnicity, in the College. “My only criterion was that we travel to a non-Spanish speaking country to take many of the students out of their comfort zone.”

Sanchez served as lead faculty adviser. Also vice dean for College diversity, he chose Japan, where he has lectured several times and already has contacts.

“We wanted to introduce students to some of the major transnational relationships that have developed between Japan and the United States since World War II,” Sanchez.
said, adding that an emphasis was placed on exchanges relevant to minorities and the working class in the U.S.

Throughout the trip, students discussed race and ethnicity, comparing the relatively homogeneous Japan with the multiracial U.S.

William Baskerville, an international relations sophomore in the College, wrote a research paper on race and ethnicity in Japan. Baskerville was one of three students who received funding for the trip from the College’s Summer Undergraduate Research Fund (SURF), which supports a project of the student’s choosing. In addition to the Topping project, Baskerville wrote a paper for SURF’s American studies and ethnicity course, taught by Sanchez.

In Japan, 98.5 percent of residents are Japanese. But while in Roppongi, a Tokyo district known for its nightlife, Baskerville noticed many Africans passing out flyers in front of clubs and stores. Talking to them, he found they were from Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana and elsewhere. They told him that many Roppongi club and store owners are Africans who tend to hire Africans. Some said they moved from Africa to Japan after being offered jobs.

Other ethnic minorities live in Japan — for example Chinese, Korean, Brazilian, Filipino — and Baskerville’s project discusses laws involving citizenship rights. He also offers his take on attitudes.

“The way race is viewed in Japan seems to be different than in the U.S.,” said Baskerville, who is half African American and half Filipino. “It seems to be treated as more of a curiosity than anything else.”

Cultural lessons were a large part of the program. Before students set off for Japan, they spent one week attending seminars and field trips in Los Angeles. The week began with lectures and a visit by Japanese Consulate General of Los Angeles Junichiro Ibara.

Students toured the Toyota Motor Corporation and the Port of Long Beach, where cars are brought in from Japan. They saw the cars in post-production before they traveled to Japan, where they would visit Toyota headquarters in Nagoya and watch automobiles being made. (They said the Japan plant was highly automated and run primarily by robots.)

They studied Japanese American history by visiting Little Tokyo, the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy and the Japanese American National Museum. At the museum, a docent and World War II Japanese American internment camp survivor told personal stories about being piled with several families in a barrack without plumbing.

The museum hosted cultural etiquette lessons for the group. Students, staff and professors learned to bow, eat with chopsticks and present their business cards in the formal Japanese custom. They also learned what not to do — such as eating while walking, sticking chopsticks upright in a rice bowl or blowing their noses in public.

Maki Watanabe Isoyama, Japan Foundation senior program officer, demonstrated how to present a business card by holding the top corners and bowing slightly. The deeper the bow the more respect for the recipient. She asked Lon Yuki Kurashige, associate professor of history, and American studies and ethnicity in the College, to show the group how it’s done.

“OK, what is he doing wrong?” Isoyama asked, before pointing out that Kurashige had not been pinching two corners of the card. Kurashige grinned, taking his mistake in stride.

“I’m learning along with everyone else,” said Kurashige, a Japanese American from Southern California, who accompanied Sanchez, Yokoyama and the students on the trip, along with two American studies and ethnicity Ph.D. candidates and an additional Topping official.

Preparing for their trip to Tokyo Disneyland, students went to Disneyland in Anaheim and contemplated tourism and global culture. In Japan, they would visit Disney’s “America Land” and see how the U.S. was characterized. (Mainly late-16th-century colonial America was represented, students said.)

They studied globalization in baseball, followed by a trip to Dodger Stadium, where they watched Japan’s most popular ball player in the U.S., Hideki Matsui of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

Also, they took the subway to Boyle Heights, where Sanchez described the Japanese influence in the predominately Mexican American community. Besides the history lesson, the exercise prepared them for the world’s most extensive rapid transit system in Greater Tokyo. Although nothing can truly prepare one for that, Sanchez said.

“It can be maddening,” Sanchez said of the Tokyo subways. “There are 20 different lines in 20 different colors all heading different ways. You can walk 15 minutes underground to get to a platform. There’s nothing like it here in the states.”

While in Japan, students noticed that portions were served smaller than back home. They remarked on the lack of sugary sodas and noted that favorite beverages appeared to be green tea and water.

“Fountain drinks don’t exist in Japan anywhere I saw,” said Donald La, a USC Marshall School of Business student. “So there are no refills on drinks unless it’s water or tea.”

In La’s final project, he discussed healthy lifestyles in Japan, drawing on his observations.

“We wanted to introduce students to some of the major transnational relationships that have developed between Japan and the United States since World War II.”

George Sanchez gives a token of appreciation to a representative from the Nagoya Civic Reception House. Sanchez, professor of history, and American studies and ethnicity in USC College, bows in the Japanese tradition to show his respect.
that people of all ages appeared to walk and take subways everywhere. He noted that obesity seemed to be nonexistent.

What struck Jesse Ruiz were all the elderly people rushing around the chaotic metro stations. He also saw very few infants — not unexpected since Japan has a dropping birth rate coupled with one of the world’s highest life expectancies.

“I thought about my grandmothers, who are about the same ages of the older people I saw in Japan,” said Ruiz, a French major in the College who also has a major in USC Marshall. “They would never have been able to survive the metro stations of Tokyo.”

Seniors are more mobile in Japan, students said. Henry Franco, a double major in international relations and Chinese in the College, described in his final project “welfare cars” manufactured in Japan for the elderly and disabled. At the Toyota headquarters in Tokyo, officials described the welfare cars, each customized for the individual’s disability.

Discussing the possibility of exporting welfare cars to the U.S., Franco and the others thought it unlikely because Japan’s government highly subsidizes the technology.

At the Sony Computer Entertainment headquarters, students met USC College alumnus Hoon Kim, who in 1987 earned his bachelor’s in psychology. Now Sony’s senior vice president of sales and marketing communication, Kim gave students a tour of the creative gaming studio then let them play some not-yet-released games.

They met with officials of the chamber of commerce in Nagoya, L.A.’s sister city for the past 50 years, attended a baseball game at the Nagoya Dome, networked with members of the USC Tokyo Alumni Club and spent time with international and Japanese students at the University of Tokyo, Doshisha University in Kyoto and Nihon University in Mishima. With the critical help of alumni club President Brian Nelson, Columbia University Professor Gary Okibio, as well as Professor Masako Notoji and other faculty at the Japanese universities, the students were warmly welcomed in Japan.

What perhaps stayed with many the longest was visiting the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, which tells the story of World War II’s U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, that killed more than 200,000.

They described the “Hiroshima shadows” cast by people caught in the explosion and incinerated; leaving dark shadows on a bank wall and steps. The museum displayed clocks stopped at 8:15 a.m. Outside, students explored the city.

Baskerville kept envisioning the city 65 years earlier.

“Mothers screaming for their children, children crying for their parents,” Baskerville said. “All of this horrific stuff. I kept trying to distance myself from, as an American, being responsible for the bombing.”

After such intensity, students relaxed, taking a boat ride to the peaceful Miyajima Island, where they reflected and discussed their emotional reactions to Hiroshima.

“History came alive for these students that day,” Sanchez said.

The team bonded, experiencing together the complexities of the Land of the Rising Sun and its transnational connection to Los Angeles and the United States. They ended the trip with a night of karaoke, kicking off with “We Are Family.”

Read the blog created by Professor George Sanchez and his students at uscamericainjapan.wordpress.com.

Watch a video on the program at college.usc.edu/americainjapan.

William Baskerville, international relations sophomore (left); Sergio Calix, political science major; and Yushi Yamazaki, American studies and ethnicity Ph.D. candidate and Fulbright scholar, take a boat to Miyajima Island to reflect after visiting the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum in Nagasaki.
OUTHERN CALIFORNIA: sunbeams, major motion picture companies, pricey real estate, Disneyland, and the aerospace industry. Even though it has greatly impacted the region since the early 20th century, aerospace has received comparatively little attention, especially of the scholarly kind. That is until now.

Bill Deverell, professor of history in USC College and director of the Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West, along with two key colleagues, is heading the mission for takeoff with the support of a National Science Foundation grant that is funding a postdoctoral researcher at USC and an archivist at The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in Pasadena.

“We three amigos — Peter Westwick, an award-winning historian of science and technology; Dan Lewis, curator of history and science and head of manuscripts at The Huntington; and I possess complementary skill sets,” he said.

Deverell’s overarching charge as director of the institute is to develop new fields, train new scholars, work on collections and preservation, and popularize the issues that are being illuminated historically. The aerospace project is exemplary in meeting these criteria.

“I am thrilled by what I see when people’s lives are touched by personalized individual life stories, and I hear them proudly recount having worked on the aircraft shop floor, worked at Northrop for 35 years, or worked at Lockheed.”

It used to be easy to name the six big aerospace companies, but today it is challenging.

“People are unsettled by moves, consolidations and mergers of aerospace companies,” Deverell said. “This project is a historical trajectory of people and technology that inspires individuals to look back and examine certain kinds of technology through their special memories.

“As teachers, we know enough as scholars about aerospace to say in our undergraduate courses that aerospace was important to Southern California, but now we have the materials by which to write new stories for a book,” he continued.

Deverell said that students are electrified to learn about the change agents some of their grandfathers were as aerospace engineers. They were aerospace veterans who understood their work and importance in the industry, in changing the world and in helping win the Cold War.

While historians chronologically approach technological advances by the up and down cycles of aviation and aerospace — the Cold War, Korean War, Vietnam War, the ’80s build-up, the ’90s drawdown, and post Sept. 11 — Deverell said that it can also be viewed historically from ballooning to aviation to aerospace to space flight.

“Looking ahead, space is the next frontier for aerospace including the work being done by SpaceX, the company that successfully launched rockets into orbit and was founded by PayPal co-founder Elon Musk.”

Few would dispute that there was ever a time when airplanes were viewed in a more critical fashion than during World War II. “Spotter cards” were used to help Americans identify airplanes to determine which were friendly and which were not.

In fact, airplanes achieved celebrity status in World War II. “Take a look at the Memphis Belle, which was the first U.S. Army Air Forces bomber to complete 25 missions in Europe and return to the U.S., with two movies to date having been made about it,” Deverell said. >>
The tail section of the Constitution, an aircraft under construction at Lockheed Aircraft Co., Burbank, in 1946. Because of the underpowered engines of the double-decker transport, Lockheed only built two planes before abandoning the model.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HARVEY CHRISTEN COLLECTION, THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY, ART COLLECTIONS, AND BOTANICAL GARDENS
Many history buffs know that among the tens of thousands of fighters and bombers that helped win the war were the Southern California-built P-38s, P-51s, B-17s, B-25s, and a host of others.

But aerospace began long before World War II. “The ballooning history in the aftermath of the Civil War transferred technology ideas and was inspirational to early aviation technology,” Deverell said.

“With shows like Mad Men on television today, we are seeing a nostalgic return to and cultural fascination with old things,” Deverell said. “The aerospace industry in Southern California was thriving in the ’50s and ’60s; it was the Kennedy-Camelot era.

“The aerospace project is undeniably exciting and magical as well. We have a growing set of materials that have led to more papers,” Deverell said. “We can’t wait to see what will happen next. It’s like a runaway train in the best way.”

The aerospace materials include thousands of papers and photographs that show the unique color and personality of the times. “The collection of Harvey Christen, Lockheed’s first employee, contains thousands of photos and important papers,” said Westwick, assistant research professor of history in the College.

Among the papers of Ben Rich, a director of Lockheed’s Skunk Works, Westwick found photos of early aviator Lyman Gilmore Jr. and his brother circa 1907. Gilmore built a steam-powered airplane, which he claimed to have flown in 1902. “Gilmore is interesting to historians, as he was to Ben Rich, because he tells us something about aviation and California,” Westwick explained.

Photos in the Christen collection include those of Mississippi’s Roscoe Turner, an aviation showman and flamboyant pilot. Turner’s sponsor, Southern California’s Gilmore Oil Company, had him fly along with a lion cub, and Turner kept the lion as a mascot even as the cub grew into adulthood, which gave local aircraft workers a scare when Turner arrived at their offices.

A small nondescript reporter-style notebook was found nested among the materials of Al Hibbs, a prominent space scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory who became an early science TV personality. The numbers on the notebook pages are meticulous calculations handwritten by Hibbs and a friend from a visit to Las Vegas. Given no interference by the casino’s owners, the two determined which numbers would win by calculating balance changes on a roulette wheel. With their winnings, they bought a sailboat and spent the next two years sailing around the world — a spontaneous act that some might say is not generally associated with engineers.

“These are the facts and stories that historians get nervous about in tempestuous times,” Deverell said. “We worry about loss of records; destruction through consolidation or moves; collapses; bankruptcies; or simply not caring.”

Deverell admits that not all materials can be saved, but he hopes to assemble as much as possible. “Scholars will be parachuting through the material soon,” he said.

The team led by Deverell is developing a research model that can be endlessly duplicated.

“We are creating a template on how to initiate similar projects, engender scholarly interest, and create buy-in by key industry players that can be applied by anyone, anywhere,” Deverell said.

The Southern California basin was and still is a premier player in the aerospace industry that includes other areas in the West such as Seattle, Albuquerque and Colorado Springs. The aerospace project is one that people will be grateful for now and into the future.

We can only imagine what long stowed-away, fascinating aerospace papers and photos may surface in homes and buildings across Southern California.
YES, WE CAN SHOW YOU how to change the world, but what exactly do you want to change? If we are thoughtful and precise, the answer will of course differ from scientist, to philosopher, to policymaker. The question is both compelling and intuitive to all of us connected to USC College; it’s both professional and personal.

The mission of the USC Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics is to help students acquire values of moral discernment, love of truth and beauty, understanding of self, and respect for and appreciation of others.

The institute’s theme this year — “Talking to Strangers: Engaging Disagreement” — explores moral discourse within our student body, our university, our political parties and nation, and our organs of global justice.

Our aim is to encourage discourse on how to talk to one another about our most controversial social issues, issues that we feel most passionate about. How can we be true to ourselves, and our most strongly held beliefs, while respecting those who vehemently disagree with us?

We were delighted to have our Levan Annual Distinguished Lecture, “Anonymous: Political Discourse and Civility in the Digital Age,” given in October by Danielle Allen of the Institute for Advanced Study. Allen is widely known for her work on justice and citizenship in both ancient Athens and modern America.

In September, USC College undergraduate Jayson Kellogg, who was deployed in Iraq from 2006 to 2008, provided glimpses into young soldiers, citizens and the war they share with his photography exhibition “Talking to Strangers: Children of War.”

We also organized Levan Coffeehouse events that mixed College faculty and staff expertise with insights from our colleagues in law, medicine, engineering, art, business, and communication. We began with a conversation we called “War of Words” that brought together a panel of experts on freedom of speech, hate speech and what we are calling “hateful speech.” Other topics included: What should we do about undocumented immigrants? Extra-terrestrial rights? Adversarial states like Iran and North Korea?

To establish a long-lasting commitment to talk to strangers and engage disagreement, this fall we launched the USC Annual Ethics Cup Competition and the Teaching Ethics Program (TEP).

The USC Annual Ethics Cup Competition is a debate-style competition we have organized in partnership with Writing 340 courses in USC College, the USC Marshall School of Business and the USC Viterbi School of Engineering. The goal is to provide student teams with an enjoyable way to engage ethical questions, develop critical thinking skills and compete with fellow students across the university.

The winning team will represent USC in the California Ethics Bowl, the gateway to the National Ethics Bowl Competition.

Our second new initiative, TEP, is an outreach program created in partnership with the School of International Relations’ Center for Active Learning in International Studies (CALIS). The Levan Institute will train undergraduate volunteers from a variety of majors in the College to team-teach active learning ethics to high school students in the greater Los Angeles community.

Yes, you can change the world. And the Levan Institute can help show you how. We collaborate with departments, professional schools and programs across the university to bring students and faculty together with authors and artists, philosophers and practitioners, and the ethical voices of our time. You are one of these voices.

Come share in our talks about the most pressing issues before us. Come with a spirit of generosity and a desire to talk to strangers and engage disagreement. It is the first small step toward changing the world.

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Lyn Boyd-Judson is director of the USC Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics.

For more information on the USC Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics, visit college.usc.edu/levan.
The spring of 2011 marks the 40th anniversary of USC College’s Master of Professional Writing (MPW) Program. Among the first of its kind, the program unites five disciplines — fiction, nonfiction, poetry, new media, dramatic writing — and prepares students for writing careers.

MPW Director Brighde Mullins sits down with Allison Doyle, a student in the program, and discusses the art and craft of writing and the benefits of an MPW degree.

Q: How does an MPW degree prepare students for writing careers? What distinguishes MPW from similar programs?

MULLINS: The MPW Program emphasizes the creative and the pragmatic aspects of a writer’s life. Students are required to take classes in all genres as a way to increase their expressive capacities as artists and their opportunities as writers.

Our philosophy is reflected in our name, which is in keeping with USC’s emphasis on professional education across disciplines. Other professional writing programs are more technically oriented — we are truly a creative writing program with an added layer of preparation. We offer panels and classes such as “Literary Marketplace” that address the gritty business realities and the aesthetic reach of being a writer. “Irish poets, learn your trade, / Sing whatever is well made,” William Butler Yeats advised in “Under Ben Bulben.” Yeats inherited a tradition in which poems and stories were memorized, recited and used as emblems against adversity with the understanding that narrative and lyric were essential to our sense of self. This sense that writing is not only an art — it is a craft — is essential to the understanding of the College’s MPW Program.

Q: Where do you envision the MPW Program going in the next 40 years?

MULLINS: Our vision is to continue to challenge our students to stretch into other genres and forms, and to become creative citizens in the world. The production mode of writing is changing drastically. Publishing is changing. Producing is changing. Even poetry is changing. These changes have a bearing on the way that writing finds its audience. The desire to write, the need to write and the discipline that a writer needs — these are timeless elements. As Samuel Beckett said, “I could not have gone through the awful wretched mess of life without having left a stain upon the silence.” We must keep focus on what’s timeless as we keep up with the times.

Q: In the writing workshops, how is an environment created and maintained that is supportive and encouraging?

MULLINS: The workshop is a tried and true opportunity for a writer to find a community of readers geared toward camaraderie and constructive criticism. It is a place to test the work, see what resonates, but most important, cultivate the habit of writing.

It is the instructor’s role to set the tone for the class, to establish a safe arena for serious discussion and contemplation. Every instructor has his or her own way of creating that arena. My background is in theatre, an enterprise requiring cooperation and camaraderie. These are behaviors I encourage when I teach. There is room for analysis, but the work is alive, and the story is connected to a person and that person is in the room. Gandhi wrote, “Writing is itself one of the experiments with truth.” What kind of truth is available to us as readers, as writers? The bar must be set very high.

Q: With the rise of social media such as Twitter and blogs, along with other new technology in publishing, what will the next generations of writers need to succeed?

MULLINS: New technologies are new opportunities. Tape recorders were cutting edge when Beckett wrote Krappe’s Last Tape. The ability to incorporate and adapt is a quality of mind and spirit. The writer is a reader, and any deep reader and serious writer will want to know her precedents, what she’s inherited, the tradition. The MPW curriculum is introducing classes to reflect how new technologies influence writing practice, such as a class that looks at literary models for writing blogs, or a cross-genre class on mashups.

For more information on the Master of Professional Writing Program, visit college.usc.edu/mpw.

Watch a video on the MPW Program at college.usc.edu/mpw-advantage.
Manuel Pastor calls it the “game-changer.” In Los Angeles County, one-third of the residents are immigrants, nearly half the workforce is foreign-born, two-thirds of children have at least one immigrant parent, and 90 percent of those youngsters are U.S.-born.

“How these children and their parents fare will determine the future of the region,” said Pastor, professor of American studies and ethnicity in USC College. “I find that when I use this as a starting point, it changes the debate.”

And reshaping the dialogue around immigration is what the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII) is all about. 

How will society be transformed by the presence, skills and actions of immigrants? USC College has become the convening place for academic, community and public policy leaders to conduct and discuss research on the changing landscape of Los Angeles and the nation.
Directed by Pastor and housed in the College, the center’s aim is to provide a forum in which members of the academe and the community engage in remaking the framework for understanding immigrants and immigrant integration in California and the nation. “Somehow the spirit of America, of being a welcoming place, has been lost in the debates of the last decade or so,” Pastor said. “We are really trying to create a space that will support solid research, but also a place where community organizers and leaders can come and have open discussions about what it means to be a changing Los Angeles and how we understand our changing world as well.”

BUILDING UPON THE USC PROVOST’S INITIATIVE ON IMMIGRATION and Integration launched in 2006, the vision for CSII began to develop following a 2007–08 speaker series organized by Professor of Sociology Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, who chaired a university-wide faculty committee executing the initiative that also provided seed grants for faculty research projects.

“We invited a half-dozen nationally recognized scholars on immigrant integration and they were honestly among the most well-attended talks I have seen at USC in my 20 years here,” Hondagneu-Sotelo said. “These events brought together undergraduates, graduate students, professors and even staff, which I think had to do with the timeliness of the topic. It was an exciting moment.”

Then in April 2008, after nearly a year of planning by Pastor, Dowell Myers, professor of urban planning and demography in the

USC School of Policy, Planning, and Development, and others, this momentum continued when approximately 350 academics, policymakers and community leaders, including L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, assembled at USC to discuss a strategic research agenda for successful immigrant integration. The conference, “Immigrant Integration and the American Future: Lessons from and for California,” also served as the platform to formally announce the center.

“The university’s goal for quite some time has been one of engagement. Immigrant integration really allows us to exercise that goal and do so in a location — Los Angeles — that leads the country on the topic,” said Myers, who co-directed CSII with Pastor until June 2010.

“We are really trying to create a space that will support solid research, but also a place where community organizers and leaders can come and have open discussions about what it means to be a changing Los Angeles and how we understand our changing world as well.”

Manuel Pastor, professor of American studies and ethnicity, directs the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration and the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity, both housed in USC College.
“So creating a center that focuses on immigrant integration is a natural fit with both USC’s location and its ethos.”

“It was a really interesting event because it established USC as a convening place for community and civic leaders and public policy actors around this issue and around a very different approach,” added Pastor, who also directs the College’s Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) that provided early infrastructural support for the center.

Understanding this “very different approach” begins with why CSII chose the term “immigrant integration” as well as how the center defines it.

Pastor pointed out that “immigration policy” tends to beget arguments around legality and border control. “Immigrant rights” fails to resonate with many because the United States has a tradition of civil rights, which are based in citizenship. Immigrant integration, on the other hand, tends to be more forward-thinking.

“Immigrant integration looks at long-term processes of change, both for the people who have arrived and for the society that they enter into and help to transform by their presence, by their skills and by their actions,” he said.

While the term “immigrant integration” is sometimes associated with sacrificing one’s cultural and ethnic identity to assume a role in mainstream American society, Pastor believes the center’s new definition not only reflects the nuances of an increasingly globalized world, but offers a three-pronged meaning that is specific and measurable.

“When we speak about immigrant integration, what we’re really saying is improved economic mobility for, enhanced civic participation by, and receiving society openness to immigrants,” he said.

“Economic mobility is in many ways at the heart of the American dream. Those who may arrive in the U.S. with limited skills and start at the bottom of society are told that, if they work hard, they will move up over time.”

The center is investigating whether such progress is a reality and determining what efforts are necessary to ensure that the quality of life for immigrants and their families is improving.

In addition, CSII is exploring ways to promote “civic participation” so that immigrants move through a process of becoming not just citizens, but active citizens who are involved in decision-making for their schools, unions, communities and government.

“Receiving society openness to immigrants” may be harder to assess, but Pastor explained that it can still be gauged by reviewing current policies and the types of welcome afforded to new arrivals. In some places, such as Silicon Valley, he noted how significant attempts toward immigrant integration are demonstrating how immigrants of many different skill levels and ethnicities are contributing to the area’s economy.

“One of the things we need to understand is that when we are a more welcoming society, we’re able to take advantage of the assets and skills that people bring,” he said. “We’re able to build on those to make a more productive society.”

In addressing all three of these dimensions to immigrant integration, the center focuses on two objectives: creating what Pastor calls a “scaffold of research” for productive conversation among policymakers and the public, and establishing USC as a central convening player. Instead of concentrating solely on either disseminating scholarship and data or engaging the community, CSII is carving out its own place among the country’s research centers on immigration.

Pastor attributed much of the specific convening vision to Myers.

“Dowell saw that there was a sweet spot in the middle for a center that would be tethered in scholarship, have ready data capacities and be publicly engaged,” Pastor said. “There really isn’t a center occupying that particular spot in California, and only a couple operate this way in the country.”

Myers acknowledged that remaining in “the middle” continues to be one of the challenges CSII faces, but he and Pastor are confident that through the projects the center chooses, a balance will be maintained.

After CSII’s formation was announced in spring 2008, Pastor and Myers’ first move was to begin working across USC’s many schools to unite faculty members, even those who may not have initially considered their research as falling under the topic of immigration.

“I think it’s very interesting that much as the term ‘immigrant integration’ means trying to think about the two-way processes — how society changes but also how migrants change — integrating these efforts into the center is trying to forge new ways for people to collaborate across their school boundaries,” Pastor said. “This was a community of faculty waiting to be put together.”

“USC has had leading scholars in the social sciences since the 1920s and some of America’s top scholars in the field today are from USC,” Myers said. “So to establish a center that pulls these individuals together and provides a common meeting place was critical.”

CSII introduced the Community Scholars Series to encourage conversations among the university’s scholars as well as foster closer ties with community and civic leaders. USC faculty, along with those from other institutions including the University of California, Los Angeles and The City University of New York, join leaders from organizations such as the Black Alliance for Just Immigration and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center to explore an array of subjects ranging from immigration and President Barack Obama’s administration to hometown associations’ role in immigrant integration, to name a few.

But as Andrew Mellon Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow Juan De Lara observed, the exchange of ideas at these events develops into much more.

“The center provides an institutional home that connects faculty through dialogue and discussion,” said De Lara, who holds a joint appointment in CSII and the Department of American Studies and Ethnicity. “Faculty are incorporated into on-the-ground issues because they form relationships with community organizations and policymakers. The center harnesses individual faculty research and creates something greater, more effective.”

This spring De Lara presented his yet-to-be-published work on the regional labor market in Riverside and San Bernardino counties as part of CSII’s faculty seminars, which pair junior and senior USC faculty members in sharing their unpublished work with faculty from various USC departments and schools. Once De Lara outlined his current research project, attendees were invited to ask questions and give feedback.

“There’s a generative force when you bring faculty together around these seminars,” De Lara said. “We are able to move beyond our individual work and into a broader discussion about where our collective research efforts may yield more informed and important results.”

Expanding upon CSII’s Community Scholars Series and faculty...
“Immigrant integration is an issue that often lends itself to a lot of polarization. It’s really helpful to diffuse that division and have a more enlightened discussion and see if we as a larger community can develop an understanding of how we can create a better shared agenda.”

Not only have faculty been eager to be brought together by the center, but community leaders off campus have been flocking to events and relying upon CSII for its expertise.

The California Community Foundation (CCF) was one of the first organizations to turn to the center for guidance when it wanted to determine the best way to invest its funds toward ensuring immigrants’ successful integration in L.A. County. CSII first analyzed county data to ascertain who makes up L.A.’s immigrant population. Then they assembled six focus groups composed of different stakeholders: immigrant and refugee rights advocates; business leaders and workforce developers; funders and foundation officers; city planners and elected officials; labor and community organizers; and interethnic coalition builders. As they talked through the data with CSII staff, the groups weighed in on how this translated to their respective constituencies and offered their thoughts on what would most help immigrants in Southern California.

Rhonda Ortiz, CSII project manager, recalled how almost across the board every group expressed that to truly make progress with issues of immigrant integration, a roundtable or task force with representatives from all the various sectors in L.A. was needed.

The subsequent report that Pastor, Ortiz and their center colleagues submitted led the foundation to draft a funding strategy that included the creation of such a group. CSII was asked to step in as the facilitator and thus the CCF Council on Immigrant Integration was born. Made up of about 35 participants that include the L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce, the UCLA Labor Center, the L.A. County Sheriff’s Department, the South Asian Network, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), and the L.A. Mayor’s Office, the council seeks to foster alliances across sectors to tackle policy development. They meet quarterly to discuss topics such as the economy and its effects on immigrants, the 2010 census, communication and how immigration is talked about, and immigrants’ access to healthcare.

“People have been extremely engaged and coming to every meeting,” Ortiz said. “We’ve just completed our first year and people are really into it and making good connections.”

One such member is David Rattray, a 1982 MBA graduate of the USC Marshall School of Business and now senior vice president of education and workforce development for the L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce. The thoughtful conversations and unique perspectives on immigrant integration offered by the council’s participants have helped Rattray form deeper relationships with local leaders and provided valuable direction on how to best advance the chamber’s goal of improving pre-K through 12 public education and access to post-secondary education for all L.A. students.

“Immigrant integration is an issue that often lends itself to a lot of polarization,” said Rattray, who is also president and executive director of UNITE-LA, a nonprofit organization that seeks to create business and community partnerships with schools to support an effective public education system in L.A.

“It’s really helpful to diffuse that division and have a more enlightened discussion and see if we as a larger community can develop an understanding of how we can create a better shared agenda. The council supports this cause with the idea that there’s a much greater common interest than is otherwise perceived in the daily dialogue of the politics of the community and within the context of national politics.”

Along with encouraging open discussions, CSII has also recognized its role in delivering data to the public that is based on a broader sense of scholarship and reflective of a fuller picture of local and national debates. Their “Creating a New Voice for Immigrant Integration” project, funded by the James Irvine Foundation, has established a ready-response mechanism that provides a repository of solid data and accessible analysis on California’s immigrant population to government entities, funders, media and others.

This project helped CSII and the California Immigrant Policy Center to team up earlier this year to produce the report, “Looking Forward: Immigrant Contributions to the Golden State,” which details how immigrants’ successes are intertwined with six of California’s powerful regional economies. The Associated Press and newspapers, including the Fresno Bee and the San Jose Mercury News, were quick to take notice and disseminate the findings.

CHIRLA sought out the center’s scholarly resources to evaluate the economic outcome if undocumented workers in California were legalized. The report, “The Economic Benefits of Immigrant Authorization in California,” considers the state’s more than 1.8 million unauthorized Latino adults and how their legalization could lead to higher wages, increased consumer spending and tax revenue, and job creation.

Angelica Salas, executive director of CHIRLA, then distributed the results to California’s congressional representatives and senators to help inform their decision-making.

“I was in a meeting with Senator Barbara Boxer in Washington, D.C., in which we asked that she help us be a leader for comprehensive immigration reform,” Salas recalled. “I handed her the CSII report and she brought it close to her chest and explained, ‘This is exactly what we need as legislators to make the argument that comprehensive immigration reform is good for the economy and benefits all of California.’
This reaction from our elected officials is exactly why this report continues to be so important to the work of CHIRLA.”

Most recently, CSII released “A State Resilient: Immigrant Integration and California’s Future” to counter a June 2010 report by the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) that offered a bleak forecast for California’s economy and labeled it the “least educated” state in the country.

By focusing on aspects of the interaction between immigration and education that the CIS report left unexamined, Pastor and his CSII colleagues found that while inequality has indeed risen in California this is perhaps more closely tied to the changing nature of the U.S. economy than to the presence of immigrants as the CIS authors claimed.

Another critical focus for CSII has been assisting civic institutions, particularly those that have traditionally served L.A.’s African American communities, adjust to the changing demographics around them. For example, the center is working with the nearby Second Baptist Church, whose members are primarily African Americans, to support programs and advocacy efforts relevant to the needs of the surrounding neighborhood, which is now about 88 percent Latino.

Assistant Professor of Sociology Veronica Terríquez, along with CSII staff, collaborated with the church and Esperanza Community Housing Corporation to structure focus groups, design a neighborhood survey, and collect and analyze more than 500 responses from residents.

“Through our research we have learned about the different types of educational programs and institutional resources needed in the community, as well as local residents’ interests in working together to address shared concerns,” Terríquez said. “Not only has this valuable information furthered communication between Latino and African American stakeholders and area residents, but it has also helped develop ties between Esperanza, an organization with a strong track record of serving Latino immigrants, and Second Baptist, which has a long history of advocating for the rights of African Americans.”

With support from the Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund, CSII is investigating how its research and policy analysis can be used in such projects to advance immigrant integration while encouraging multiracial alliances. In particular, the center aims to identify ways to build coalitions between immigrants and African Americans that are based on shared common issues rather than race relations alone.

“In all our work, we’re looking at immigrants, their families, their communities,” Ortiz said. “It’s a two-way street. We want to make sure that native-born populations understand the contributions immigrants are making so they can work together. That way you’re really focusing on the issues, like affordable housing, that affect everybody.”

Having secured approximately $650,000 in funding since its inception in 2008, the center is working to firmly establish itself within California policy circles with a range of projects that demonstrate how crucial the intersection of scholarship, data and engagement is in framing the immigration debate.

“The center’s mission recognizes the incontrovertible fact that immigrants will continue to make significant contributions to building and strengthening L.A. and our country,” said Gabriel Sandoval, former deputy legal counsel to Mayor Villaraigosa and director of the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs. “The center’s pioneering work under the leadership of Dr. Pastor serves as an invaluable resource for local, state and federal policymakers and elected officials.”

and rely on the center’s efforts, a new story around immigrants and immigrant integration will be carved out that ensures a better future for L.A. and urban America.

“This is a moment of remaking ourselves, of remaking this country and of remaking this story,” Pastor said. “By helping to create a research scaffold and provide a convening place, the center is working to ground this new narrative in reality as well as an optimistic vision of our interwoven destinies.”

Watch a video on Professor Manuel Pastor and his research at college.usc.edu/pastor.
By the Numbers

Founded in 1972, the JOINTEDUCATIONALPROJECT (JEP), housed in USC College, is one of the oldest and largest service-learning programs in the country, offering students at USC the unique opportunity to combine academic coursework with experiences in the community surrounding the campus. More than 68,000 students, logging more than 1 million service hours, have participated in JEP since its inception.

Each year, approximately 2,000 students from numerous courses earn academic credit for their participation in JEP. In addition, about 400 students serve as non-credit volunteers and share their time and special talents with their neighbors.

68,000
38

68,000 STUDENTS
38 YEARS

Anger is like a red fire ant.
Anger is a hot sun in summer.
Lonely as a street of broken dreams.
Loneliness is a broken toy in a trash can.
I am as lonely as a teddy bear left in the subway on a lonely Tuesday at 3:30 a.m.
I am as happy as a butterfly in spring.

“BROKEN DREAMS,” WRITTEN BY THEN FOURTH GRADER DELVY GARCIA AT 32ND STREET SCHOOL

Professors Aimee Bender and Cecilia Woloch of English lead THE WRITER IN THE COMMUNITY, a course administered through the Joint Educational Project (JEP) and the USC Center for Excellence in Teaching since 2008, in which undergraduates teach poetry and fiction to children in the community.

USC College is big on numbers, but just as big on heart. Here are just a few of the many ways the College community has united to make a lasting impact on the lives of others.

BIG NUMBERS, big hearts

BIG NUMBERS, JEP PHOTO BY PHIL CHAN/CHANNING; CLASSROOM PHOTO BY EMILY CAVALLANTI
There have been other universities that have wanted to conduct studies at our schools. What made USC different is that instead of bringing in their research, they asked what we needed first.”

— Robert Schwartz, former Chief Academic Officer, Inner City Education Foundation Public Schools

The CENTER FOR URBAN YOUTH, led by USC College’s Department of Psychology and directed by Professor Gayla Margolin, is a community-based program devoted to improving the lives of Los Angeles’ urban youth.

As California Poet Laureate, Professor of English and Creative Writing Carol Muske-Dukes established the MAGIC POETRY BUS, a statewide poetry project that brings poets, actors and playwrights to public schools and juvenile halls. The Magic Poetry Bus joined with Get Lit: Words Ignite, a literacy project in which inner city teens learn and recite traditional poetry by heart as well as perform spoken-word poems. Together they are raising funds to publish and distribute the Magic Poetry Bus Driver’s Guide free to California Public Schools. To contribute to this effort, visit getlit.org. To learn more about the Magic Poetry Bus/Get Lit, visit magicpoetrybus.org.

Michael Quick, executive vice dean in USC College, moderates the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County’s FIRST FRIDAYS series, which has drawn more than 30,000 attendees from the community and USC over the last three years. First Fridays mixes scientific presentations on a variety of topics with food and entertainment.
Experiential education changes lives. Just ask the 68,000 student volunteers from USC College’s Joint Educational Project (JEP) since 1972. Katherine Schwarzenegger, Paul Krekorian and the Vidana twins included. And don’t forget Yvette.

BY PAMELA J. JOHNSON

Wearing white cowgirl boots, Cynthia and Jazmin Vidana skipped into kindergarten in red cotton dresses trimmed with lace. Petite, they had the same slightly crooked smile, doe eyes framed with bangs and flowing russet tresses.

By third grade, one significant distinction between the twins emerged, although unseen. Cynthia couldn’t read. Or rather, she could make out the words but not their meaning. Her Weemes Elementary School teacher paired her with a reading tutor through the USC Joint Educational Project (JEP).

“Her name was Yvette,” Cynthia said. “She incorporated art into the lessons and made reading fun. It was something I looked forward to every week.”

Jazmin knew how important Yvette was to her sister. Cynthia would share with her the artwork she created with construction paper and paste representing a book she had just read. She would show off the gifts she bought with play money earned for reading. They were small rewards — funny sunglasses with eyes that popped out — but they were incentive enough and Cynthia quickly improved.

“Yvette was such a cool person,” Jazmin said, remembering how Yvette would crouch down to address the sisters at eye level. “At home, I’d try to help Cynthia with reading because I liked pretending I was a USC reader myself. My sister and I have never forgotten Yvette.”

A decade later, the USC College juniors are reading tutors at Weemes through JEP. Like Yvette, they are participating in the USC ReadersPlus program. Growing up a few blocks from campus, they were involved in the USC Neighborhood Academic Initiative that prepares low-income area students for college. Although accepted to several other major universities, after graduating from James A. Foshay High School, they became Trojans. With Jazmin majoring in political science and Cynthia in history, both are considering law school.
Arriving from Durango, Mexico, the sisters’ father is a house painter and mother, a homemaker. The twins are first-generation college students.

“Now at Weemes, we walk through the same hallways and the same playground,” Cynthia said. “We’re teaching children to read in the same room where I was tutored.”

Housed in USC College, JEP has been altering life paths since 1972. Many students have stories like the Vidana twins, tutored by JEP students and eventually becoming JEP volunteers themselves. In other cases, USC students moved by their JEP experiences decided to become teachers — sometimes returning to the schools where they once volunteered.

Alberto Rivera was a USC undergraduate with plans to become an engineer when he became a reading tutor at Vermont Avenue Elementary School through JEP.

“I changed my major to education and never looked back,” said Rivera, who for the past nine years has been teaching second grade in the classroom where he once tutored. Other JEP students have gone on to open their own nonprofit organizations.

But there is more to JEP than altruism. There’s the crucial “joint educational” component. The students’ community service is meant to enrich their in-classroom academics. Students taking more than
65 courses university-wide teach the practical implications of classroom lessons in neighborhood projects. Barbara Seaver Gardner, who founded JEP with 200 student volunteers in local schools, called this phenomenon “the two-way street.”

“Barbara would be so pleased,” Tammara Anderson, JEP’s executive director, said of Gardner who died of lung cancer in 1993. “Her baby has grown up.”

To date, JEP has placed in excess of 68,000 USC students in service-learning roles. More than 1,100 students volunteer each semester in 50 schools, nonprofits, social services agencies, hospitals and clinics.

Among the nation’s oldest and largest service-learning programs, JEP is an international model. The organization was the first to implement America Reads with its USC ReadersPlus program in May 1997, ahead of the official campaign kickoff by the Clinton Administration. *Time* magazine’s recognition of USC as “College of the Year” in 2000 was largely attributed to JEP’s success.

What began as the USC Readers program added a “plus,” indicating math tutoring. Another program, JEP’s Trojan Health Volunteers (THV), gives pre-med students a chance to shadow doctors. Each academic year, approximately 160 student volunteers provide support at area clinics and hospitals from translating Spanish to English, to assisting during examinations.

“JEP has taken what was a beautiful small plant with flowers and turned it into a big beautiful tree bearing fruit,” said Daniel Potter, an Orange County obstetrician who in 1987 established THV as a biology undergraduate in the College.

In JEP’s “The Writer in the Community,” College undergraduates learn to teach fiction and poetry to students at 32nd Street School. Author Aimee Bender and poet Cecilia Woloch, both of English, created and teach the course, administered also through the USC Center for Excellence in Teaching.

“The students teaching the school kids get a taste of this incredibly vibrant, imaginative world,” Bender said. “The kids have a sort of dream-like world that they dive into and I think you can’t help but feel a little invigorated and inspired by that.”

Other programs involve volunteers working with foster children, homeless families and at-risk youths.

Sociology lecturer Karen Sternheimer’s students have tutored at centers such as Western Community Day School where youths who have served time in juvenile detention centers and are on probation attend high school. The experience is part of her juvenile delinquency and deviance courses.

“They see the complexity of the person who has to overcome the stigma of being labeled a juvenile delinquent,” Sternheimer said of her students.

Although these programs greatly benefit the community, Anderson tells her volunteers to steer clear from what she calls the “messiah syndrome.”

“They’re not going out there and saving people,” said Anderson, hired by Gardner in 1981 and named executive director in 2001. “But through their service, they’re an important part of the solution to problems in our community.”

In training sessions, students are reminded that although the children’s lives may not reflect their own upbringings, that doesn’t mean the way the children are being raised is wrong.

“Our student volunteers are going out there and seeing different aspects of society,” Anderson said. “Hopefully they’re learning that we’re all part of the human race living on this one planet together.”

Katherine Schwarzenegger understands this. For California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and journalist Maria Shriver’s daughter, volunteering runs in her blood. In 1962, her grandmother, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, John F. Kennedy’s younger sister, founded Camp Shriver, the catalyst for the Special Olympics. Her grandfather, Robert Sargent Shriver Jr., established the Peace Corps. In 1965, he created and directed the educational service for low-income students Head Start, Lyndon B. Johnson’s first “war on poverty” program.

“Growing up, my parents always made sure we did something community-service oriented,” said Schwarzenegger, a junior majoring at the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, and minoring in gender studies in the College.

In ninth grade, Schwarzenegger spent the summer in Costa Rica, living with a family and volunteering in elementary schools. She also helped build schools and worked one on one with abused women.

“Summers before that, we worked at my grandma’s house in Washington, where she had a Special Olympics camp,” Schwarzenegger said. “We were camp counselors, taught swimming, and did arts and crafts with students. Every break we had, my brothers and sister and I were always doing something to give back to our community.”

As a Trojan, Schwarzenegger volunteers with JEP. Last spring, she

“Mentor work is
good for your soul.
Even if you see the child one time, it can
make a difference.”

KATHERINE SCHWARZENEGGER
was a teacher’s assistant at Saint Raphael Catholic School as part of a gender studies course. At the South Central Los Angeles school, she tutored math, spelling and writing.

“I’ve always been crazy about little kids,” said Schwarzenegger, the eldest of four children. “I have a close-knit family and have always taken on the responsibility of being ‘junior mother.’”

Helping them makes her feel valued and real, she said.

“Mentor work is good for your soul,” she said. “Even if you see the child one time, it can make a difference. Besides aiding the kids, the act of community service helps build your personality and your character.”

The work also helps keep her grounded.

“For me, community service has been a way to check back into reality,” said Schwarzenegger of Brentwood.

Los Angeles City Councilman Paul Krekorian, too, considers his JEP involvement more than a community service — it was also a gift to himself.

“It was an enormously eye-opening experience that broadened my perspective on the world,” said College alumnus Krekorian, who in 1981 earned his bachelor’s degree in political science. “USC draws in part from a privileged class. I didn’t grow up privileged, but I grew up in a suburban environment.”

Raised in Reseda in the San Fernando Valley, Krekorian’s father was a Marine Corps World War II veteran and small business owner, his mother a homemaker with four children.

“I didn’t have much exposure to what the world was like outside my little environment until I started volunteering with JEP,” said Krekorian, who taught children about environmental issues then took them on nature walks, pointing out what they had learned in class.

One of the beauties of being a Trojan, he said, is the ability to be part of the diverse community surrounding campus.

“Personally experiencing the slice of life that’s faced by neighbors of the university is exceptionally beneficial,” Krekorian said during an interview at his Los Angeles City Hall office. “It’s important for someone who wants to get the complete broadening experience of a USC education.”

For the Vidana twins, who came from the surrounding community, they want to encourage youngsters to follow their lead.

“Sometimes we start speaking to the children in Spanish just to get that connection going,” Cynthia said. “They get to know that we share the same story, share the same obstacles, and if they try hard enough, they can make it to USC.”

Jazmin remembers tutoring a kindergartener named Joel who could not grasp the days of the week.

“I’d pick him up on Friday and say, ‘Hey, Joel what day is it today?’ And he’d say, ‘It’s Monday.’ I’d say, ‘No, Joel, it’s Friday.’ It went on like this the entire semester.”

To make the lesson stick, she used several activities. She had him create a calendar and write in his plans for each day. She made flashcards and had him arrange the days in order. With chalk, she wrote days inside squares on the playground and had him hop in order. He couldn’t quite get it.

Until the semester’s last week.

When Jazmin went to meet Joel, she looked around the classroom and couldn’t spot him. Then an excited Joel, his hair spiked up with gel, came running toward Jazmin.

“Hey Joel, your hair looks nice,” Jazmin told him.

“I knew today was Friday,” Joel confidently replied. “So I asked my mom to spike up my hair for you.”

“It’s at these moments when I know this is what I’m supposed to be doing,” Jazmin said. “It feels right.”

Yvette would be proud.

For more information and videos about the Joint Educational Project, visit college.usc.edu/jep.
Caitlin Smith enters the Los Angeles home of 19-year-old gang member Edgar. She has a plan of action and a stack of job applications. That day, they are going to fill out the applications together and drop them off at local businesses. But after chatting with Edgar about his week, Smith, a psychology graduate student in USC College, realizes her elaborate plan has to be scrapped.

The night before, Edgar was riding his bike home from a friend’s house when police stopped and ticketed him for reckless bike riding. Adding to the stack of unpaid tickets he’d received over the past seven years, the fines totaled thousands of dollars. The stress is getting in the way of his job search, so Smith decides something has to be done.

Instead of spending the day looking for jobs, Smith and Edgar spend four hours in traffic court.

“It’s just another one of those days that no matter what agenda you’ve written, all of the other things that come up demand to be dealt with first,” Smith said. “But as a counseling experience, we still have to make it work.”

Smith is a counselor in the Behavioral Employment Program (BEP), founded in the College by Stan Huey, associate professor of psychology, and American studies and ethnicity, and then-graduate student Dawn McDaniel. This pilot intervention program combines counseling with job-seeking strategies, and examines the relationship between employment and gang involvement with a small group of gang-affiliated youth in Los Angeles.

The use of employment strategies in youth gang intervention is not new. There are programs across the country that operate under the theory of fighting gangs with jobs. But in the course of his research, Huey found little scientific data to back up the effectiveness of the various intervention methods. His goal is to provide this data by running a controlled clinical trial and analyzing the results to determine which methods work, and which do not.

BEP, originally funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, is led by Huey and supported by psychology graduate student counselors like Smith and McDaniel, as well as a group of undergraduate research assistants. Huey’s team has spent years collecting detailed information about each case to assess cause and effect and hopefully answer the question: Do jobs help to counter gang membership? >>

*This name has been changed to protect the program participant’s identity.

Mock interviews, resumé critiques and handshake tutorials — this is not a typical gang intervention. Stan Huey and his research team are investigating whether opening career paths can change the lives of gang-involved Los Angeles youth.
According to Huey, members of a gang are more likely than non-gang members to possess firearms, engage in violent behavior, become homeless, require public assistance, spend time in jail, and die prematurely. Gangs are costly to the justice system and may pose a threat to public health and safety.

A Los Angeles County probation officer, who asked that his name be withheld due to his work with minors, said that there are many reasons that young people become involved in gangs. “A lot of these kids come from really tough family situations,” the officer said. “For some, it’s an escape from their families. For some, it’s just the thing to do. For some, it’s just because they’re bored while their parents are working to keep a roof over their heads.” “It’s a mess out there,” he continued. “Most of these kids are just trying to survive.”

Each of the youths involved in BEP was referred through the Los Angeles County Probation Department within one month of being released from a juvenile detention camp. They have all been arrested at least once for offenses such as vandalism, assault, armed robbery, burglary, grand theft auto, and drug possession, and they all confirmed that they either are or have been members of street gangs.

For some of these youths, Huey noted, being in gangs is a core part of their identities, and resisting the lure of gang life can be difficult. “For many of them, their gang is like a family,” he said. “These kids can articulate in the clearest terms why the gang lifestyle is problematic, a dead end, but it’s still challenging for them to disengage themselves because it’s part of who they are.”

“If you get these kids in this critical phase, there’s a greater likelihood of altering their life trajectory. So if you can provide opportunities at that point, they’re more likely to follow the straight and narrow.”

Associate Professor of Psychology, and American Studies and Ethnicity Stan Huey and his research team, including psychology graduate student Caitlin Smith, examine the impact of their employment intervention program on gang-affiliated Los Angeles youth.
Huey and his team focus their intervention efforts on youth aged 16 to 20 because they believe the younger they are, the more likely they will make significant changes in their lives.

“If you get these kids in this critical phase, there’s a greater likelihood of altering their life trajectory,” he said. “So if you can provide opportunities at that point, they’re more likely to follow the straight and narrow.”

“Many people theorize that if you help youth get jobs, then that begins the process of them leaving gangs,” said McDaniel, a former BEP counselor who helped develop and implement the program. “We wanted to test to see if that theory was accurate.”

BEP involves a total of 27 young adults: 96 percent are male; and the group is divided 76 percent Latino and 24 percent African American. The researchers utilize two randomly assigned treatment conditions to compare the outcomes. The test group consists of 15 youth receiving BEP’s services, and a second group of 12 acts as the control, receiving the typical counseling and employment services provided by the probation department.

Huey and his team then compare the test and control groups to determine if BEP leads to greater reduction in gang involvement, greater increases in employment, and if the increases in employment are associated with reductions in gang involvement.

“Our explicit goal is not to extricate youth from gangs. We assume it will be a by-product of our intervention,” Huey said. “Our hope is that the time spent getting youth job-ready, helping them get jobs, and helping them keep jobs will compete with gang activity.”

The employment counseling is set in areas familiar to the youth, usually at their homes or at neutral locations. While Huey organizes and coordinates each case, counselors meet with the test group members regularly during the course of 12 months.

As he was developing the program, Huey hoped to have jobs ready immediately for the youth to capitalize on their high level of motivation post-detention. However, due to the toughest job market since the Great Depression, the jobs that he and his group had worked so hard to organize were no longer available.

“Instead, we actually had to work with the youth to find their own employment,” said McDaniel, who graduated with a Ph.D. in psychology in 2010 and is now working for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “Conceptually that changed the program a lot. It meant that we were actually walking door to door with the youth, modeling what it’s like to look for a job.”

Once it was clear that employment would not be guaranteed, the counselors had to start from the beginning. Smith said that depending on the goals she and the youth set, or depending on their level of motivation, they work together on activities ranging from practicing interviewing to filling out online job applications to creating résumés.

“Sometimes we really have to start with the basics, such as how to open up a Word document and type and save,” Smith said.

One of the many things that Huey and the counselors have learned throughout the process is flexibility. Each youth requires a different level of support, and depending on how successful he or she is with job searching, the goals of the counseling sessions change.

If the youth is successful in procuring a job, the counselors focus on the challenges that come with holding a job, such as selecting appropriate clothing, maintaining a schedule and arranging transportation. For others who aren’t as successful, their goals may focus on building a lifestyle that can support a job search, such as avoiding the types of behavior that lead to arrest.

In Smith’s story about Edgar and his stack of tickets, sometimes counseling youth on job-readiness means more than just helping them practice a professional handshake. Even as Smith sat beside Edgar in traffic court, she used the experience as an opportunity to model staying calm under pressure.

Because this is a pilot program, one of the main goals for the group is to collect as much information as possible. All interactions, including those outside the traditional counseling time — Smith has even visited one youth’s school to advocate on his behalf — are useful to the study. They help Huey’s group to better understand the day-to-day life of the young people they’re treating.

Huey and his counselors also have to be open to experiences other than employment preparation because they are still the youth’s clinicians and close resources. Smith recalled receiving a late night phone call from a young man enrolled in the program who was having suicidal thoughts, which she, Huey and McDaniel acted upon immediately.

“Our first priority is not the science, it’s the people,” Smith said. “We’re going to do whatever is in our power to be good therapists.”

Huey’s program accepted its first participants in 2007, and has continued to gain them on a rolling basis. The data from the first few participants who have completed the program has been gathered, but there are still a number of youth actively involved in the program.

Although the study is ongoing, the preliminary data is encouraging.

“Youth who get our intervention compared to the control group at the six-month period wind up spending less time with a gang,” Huey said.

They have found in BEP participants that an increase in employment is significantly related to a reduction in gang involvement. Huey noted that both groups had similar difficulties in finding employment, but BEP youth were less likely to remain gang-involved at the end of the six-month period.

“We’re trying to figure out, if it’s not getting and keeping a job that’s the active ingredient, what else might be?” Huey said.

After the pilot study is completed in 2011, Huey hopes to obtain funding to work with a larger group of gang-involved youth, utilizing the practices that his team has found successful. If the same results are replicated in the larger study, he plans to disseminate the findings to institutions and public offices dedicated to violence prevention strategies.

Through BEP, Huey is both testing his employment-gang intervention theory and providing real world opportunities for participants to seek traditional career paths. The potential for BEP to actually change their lives is great. The pull of the gang is strong, but Huey hopes the pull of making an honest living will be stronger.

Watch a video on Stan Huey and his research at college.usc.edu/stanhuey.
Before entering USC College, these freshmen saw what they needed to do and took action. Their motivations differ. For Maurice Turner, his Aunt Laura’s Alzheimer’s set him in motion. Alice Hall-Partyka became fed up with garbage strewn in waterways.

Some prompts came from cataclysmic events. Steve Zhou, for example, was moved by a rash of student suicides at his high school. Others, seemingly commonplace: Sheena Khanna was inspired by everyday storage containers.

Whatever the catalyst, these six freshmen have the initiative to seek changes and the perspicacity to see them through. The newest additions to the Trojan Family exemplify what makes USC College so extraordinary. In the fall of 2010, the College welcomed 1,900 new freshmen and transfers. Of nearly 18,800 freshmen applicants to the College, only 22 percent were admitted.
Twenty-three years old, homeless and raising her two young children alone in a Silicon Valley Motel 6, Erin seeks help.

Jennifer Padilla, an intern with Sacred Heart Community Service in San Jose, Calif., meets with Erin regularly. At first, Erin looks tired and strained. She’s given the basics: food and clothing. After Jennifer connects her with agencies providing free child care and vocational training, Erin is energized. Even her two daughters are in higher spirits, seeing the shift in their lives.

Eventually, Erin finds a better-paying job and safe child care for her daughters.

“I’m not completely on my feet yet, but I’m getting there,” she tells Jennifer.

“That’s what I love about service,” says Jennifer. “It’s getting to work with people one on one and hearing their stories and where they come from. Why should Erin, a kind and hardworking woman, be forced to explain to her children that there won’t be any dinner or a warm place to stay that night? That personal experience motivates me and helps me grasp the bigger picture of why I’m doing what I’m doing.”

Jennifer is committed to working toward social justice and sees her future in community service as a fusion of administrative and hands-on work.

“I’m really inspired by the people I’ve worked with at Sacred Heart,” she says. “They’ve devoted their lives completely to serving the common good and selflessly giving themselves to help others. That’s the kind of life I want to live.”

Jennifer’s inner strength and focus in large part stems from her dedication to martial arts. She’s currently in the dojo training for her third-degree black belt in karate. For the past four years, Jennifer has honed her skills in martial arts and social justice — two activities she sees as interconnected.

“Karate keeps me grounded,” says Jennifer, who has studied the art for more than a decade. “I’ve gained focus and self-discipline from it; and it’s where I get my power, drive and motivation.” — A.D.
Donned in a lab coat, nitrile gloves and safety goggles, Maurice Turner stands at a fume hood that vacuums air from around his face, limiting his exposure to noxious vapors.

Inside a laboratory at The Scripps Research Institute, the intern adds chemically constructed sugars to amino acid sequences and watches the solution turn a deep red. He wants to determine whether the additional sugar will affect instability and misfolding in the proteins. Misfolded proteins in the brain are believed the primary cause of diseases such as Alzheimer’s, diabetes, Parkinson’s and cystic fibrosis.

Maurice hopes to discover a way to prevent these deadly diseases. The quest is personal. His Aunt Laura died from Alzheimer’s.

“It was really hard when she stopped recognizing us,” Maurice says. “Seeing that deterioration made me passionate about finding a cure.”

He remembers his Aunt Laura’s peach cobbler and bigger-than-life personality; her booming laugh and glasses that to his young eyes seemed to cover her entire face. He smiles recalling her getting down on the floor to play with him and his older brothers. His aunt had no children, so Maurice, Marcus and Matthew became her surrogate sons.

Maurice thought of his aunt when he applied to the Kelly Laboratory. Selected from more than 200 applicants, Maurice was among 25 interns at Scripps in San Diego. He was the only one chosen to work at the Kelly lab, which focuses on protein folding and how it affects the brain.

After his internship in 2009, Maurice was invited to return for the summer of 2010. The research he conducted under the guidance of postdoctoral researchers was included in a paper, now being considered for publication in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*.

He selected USC College after listening to William McClure, professor of biological sciences, speak to prospective USC Trustee and Presidential Scholars (he became a Trustee Scholar), and learning about the USC Memory and Aging Center.

“I can’t wait to continue researching in a USC lab,” Maurice says. “I’d love to work with Dr. McClure and the memory and aging center.” —M.C.
Soapsuds, rusty car motors, old gas cans, fast-food containers, and a ton of Styrofoam pollute the stream running from Hahamongna Watershed Park to Cherry Canyon in La Cañada, Calif.

Alice Hall-Partyka puts on her gloves and gets to work, hopping from rock to rock, untangling garbage from the plant life and clearing refuse from the water.

“It’s important to me that I don’t just sit around,” Alice says. “I want to feel that I’ve accomplished something.”

Alice is passionate about water issues. Eventually, she hopes to influence national water quality policies, a goal inspired by the culmination of her work with the Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles. She was awarded the Girl Scout Gold Award for her project, which required her to address a need in her community.

Tackling the stream in her hometown seemed like the perfect opportunity, especially when she discovered how few people actually know it exists. Long after earning the award, Alice still wakes early on Saturdays to pick up trash with volunteers she’s invited. After a morning of hard labor, several participants tell her they are surprised they enjoyed it so much and want to do it again.

“There will be plenty of opportunities,” Alice replies, and plans are made for the following week.

“I wanted to make sure that the stream wasn’t just clean for the six months I was working on the project,” says Alice, who estimates she and her team have cleared more than 1,000 pounds of debris from the stream.

Her ambition extends beyond Southern California. The project has developed her interest in world health issues as a result of poor water quality, particularly as it relates to children. After college, she plans to join the Peace Corps, and wants to build wells in Latin America or sub-Saharan Africa.

She ultimately hopes to work with new technologies that will make decontaminated water available on a global scale.

“Water perplexes me,” Alice says. “It’s something that we need to live, but it’s also killing so many people, whether from the bacteria, or simply a lack of water all together. There must be a solution.” —M.C.
At the Mercy Learning Center in Bakersfield, Calif., green thumbs abound. Children dig rows in the dirt, hammer stakes into the ground and bury seeds in the soil.

Patrick “P.J.” Atchison digs right along with them when he notices that a few of the older boys have stopped working and look bored. P.J. joins them.

“David had a football jersey on, so I asked him if he played,” P.J. says. It turned out that while they all loved football, very few of them had ever had the chance to play.

P.J. decides to change all that. He begins using part of each day to run football drills with the boys and share training techniques, all while talking to them about the benefits of exercise and nutrition.

“I want to make it fun for them to stay active and involved in school and their lives in general,” P.J. says.

While in high school, P.J. was a member of Dream Builders, a program created by the Jim Burke Education Foundation that pairs top students with corporate sponsors and challenges them to design projects that benefit the underserved.

“We wanted to create something that would have a lasting impact on people’s lives,” he says.

Starting a self-sustaining vegetable garden fit into that plan. They began planting in the backyard of Mercy, a resource center for low-income children and their families. In addition to pouring and molding a large concrete planter themselves, P.J. and others at the center brought in a nutritionist and hosted an exercise carnival with prizes, games and nutrition trivia.

“Eventually, we hope they’ll be able to use the garden to harvest their own fruits and vegetables,” P.J. says.

While at USC, he plans to continue his hands-on approach to improving the community by incorporating sound economic tools and policies.

“Economics can be seen as such a cold science,” he says. “I’m interested in economic redevelopment and how you can apply these practices to something very real and humanitarian, like helping a community build their own garden.” —A.D.

Patrick “P.J.” Atchison

Major: Economics
Activities: President, Garces Memorial High School Democrats Club; Co-founder, Pencils for Africa community collection; Participant, Bakersfield Teen City Government; Senior Class President
Growing up, Sheena Khanna grabs her toys from thick, plastic bins. The same containers are scattered throughout the house storing family goods — mail, tools, cleansers.

By the time she’s a teenager, the containers have piqued her curiosity.

“Where do you get all these containers?” Sheena asks her mother one day. “Operating rooms,” replies her mother, an eye surgeon. “They were going to be thrown away.”

Sheena is stunned. The items her mother brings home include plastic and Styrofoam containers, plus paper boxes that previously housed medical supplies.

She wonders: Why aren’t hospitals recycling these things? “We see recycling in school and at home, but it needed to be implemented in hospitals,” Sheena says. “They were just throwing everything into a contaminated waste bag, which is more costly to dispose of and worse for the environment because when it’s burned, it releases carcinogens.”

Sheena decided to tackle the problem herself after learning that many hospitals in her area lacked a program to recycle non-hazardous materials. With the help of her younger brother Rajan, she discovered that other items commonly found in hospitals such as corrugated cardboard and glass containers could also be recycled. Armed with this knowledge, Sheena and Rajan created the Empower & Assist Recycling Through Hospitals (EARTH) project.

“Recycling these materials has huge benefits both environmentally and financially for the hospitals,” says Sheena, who is in communication with several hospitals in her hometown of Oak Brook, Ill., and plans to present the recycling program to their board members. The program is currently in place at the Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital.

“We’re really pushing to expand the program and I think it’s going to grow a lot,” she says.

Currently, the EARTH project is updating its Web site and presentation materials. During her time at USC, Sheena plans to familiarize herself with Los Angeles-based hospitals.

“I want to see what kind of recycling is going on in Los Angeles,” Sheena says. “I definitely want to see what I can do here.” —A.D.
Afer the fourth student at his Palo Alto, Calif., high school commits suicide in six months, Steve Zhou takes action. He helps organize an open-mic forum on campus, Lyrical Love, in which participants can share their feelings through stories and songs, opening with “This Little Light of Mine.”

Holding hands, they belt out, “I’m gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!”

“Even if someone had a terrible voice or didn’t know all the words, all of us were singing,” Steve recalls. “There was such a feeling of community. We hugged, waved our hands in the air. We felt our spirits lifting.”

Though the deaths affected everyone at Henry M. Gunn High School, Steve was devastated that a friend he’d known since middle school was among the dead. He worried about two other friends who suffered from depression and had already attempted suicide.

Some blamed the school and speculated that high levels of stress led the teens to step in front of passing commuter trains. Steve and his classmates banded together in challenging misconceptions and reached out to one another through words and actions.

“From my experience, I’m the happiest when I’m around people who care about me,” Steve says. “When I don’t feel supported, I feel alone. That’s the importance of forming a tight-knit community. It helps when you’re there for each other.”

Steve co-founded the Gunn Recognition Group that spotlights unsung student heroes. He helped organize fundraisers for a suicide prevention peer-counseling group selling “Talk to Me” T-shirts.

At USC College, Steve wants to mentor high school students in the surrounding community. His dream is to become a doctor, and after his experience at Gunn, he’s interested in psychiatry.

“There will be some kind of human interaction in what I do,” Steve says.

Emerging from the tragedies at Gunn, he feels like a different person.

“A friend isn’t just someone to hang out with,” he said. “I listen more. I can sit down and talk. I’d like to reach out somehow at USC and in L.A.” —M.C.
We can all inspire others, says Keary Colbert ’06, a spokesperson for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s “Be Great” campaign.

BY LAURIE MOORE

PASS it forward

Keary Colbert’s left forearm bears an “SC” tattoo, his right shirt sleeve, the clasped hands logo of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. He is a man who takes pride in his history and his alliances.

But for the USC College graduate and former Trojans football player, these are more than just symbols of his alma mater and the club of his youth. Each represents a place where he received gifts that changed his life: mentorship and the opportunity to make his own future. His mission now is to ensure that others will have the same chance to follow their dreams. >>
This past spring, after retiring from professional football, Colbert accepted a position as a graduate assistant coach for the Trojans, and the role of spokesperson for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s “Be Great” campaign. This nationwide effort highlights former club members such as Colbert to re-engage fellow alumni and inspire them to give back to their home organizations, whether it’s donating time or resources.

“It was an honor to be chosen by the Boys & Girls Club in my hometown,” Colbert said of the Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme, Calif., branch he attended as a young man. “I look at ‘Be Great’ as a way to inspire someone else in my community to do the same things I have done — go to college and go on to live a dream.”

There are 4,000 Boys & Girls Clubs with 4.2 million young people connected through membership or community outreach annually. Clubs are open during the day, after school and on weekends to provide youth ages 6 to 18 with a safe place to learn and grow. A team of youth development professionals and volunteers offers programs including career development, fitness and recreation, the arts, health and life skills, and academic support.

Tim Blaylock, chief professional officer of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme, notes that in 2009, the high school graduation rate in Oxnard was 62 percent, but for local club members, the rate was 96 percent. With 7,200 members and 50 programs including a sailing team and music program, the club relies on volunteers and donations from its community and alumni.

“If we get more caring adults involved through the ‘Be Great’ campaign with the help of Keary and others like him, we can have a greater influence on our young people,” Blaylock said.

As part of the campaign’s outreach, grade-school portraits of famous club alumni from actors Denzel Washington and Martin Sheen to track and field star Jackie Joyner-Kersee grace billboards and bus shelters across the country. In Oxnard, it was Colbert’s childhood photograph that appeared on local billboards. The 6-year-old, whose image watched over drivers on the 101 Freeway, shares the same modest smile and gentle demeanor as his grown-up counterpart. Now 28, Colbert has experienced college life and life in the spotlight.

A 2006 USC College graduate, he holds a B.A. in sociology and a stellar record as a wide receiver with the Trojans. Colbert went on to play for National Football League teams such as the Carolina Panthers, Denver Broncos, Seattle Seahawks and Detroit Lions.

Colbert’s football career began in the Boys & Girls Club, where he often spent time during summer breaks. He is quick to point out that his situation growing up was different than many of his club peers. He attended the club because his parents worked full time — his mother, Berma, for Sears, and his father, Patrick, for Southern California Edison — and he was fortunate to have a loving and supportive home life. To Colbert, it was simply “the cool place to be.”

“Everybody went to the Boys & Girls Club during the summer,” he said. “When school was out, I couldn’t wait to get there.”

Even though Colbert started out playing basketball at the club, once he joined the flag football team, he realized he was actually better at scoring touchdowns.

Then he watched a televised football game that made him begin to consider the reality of playing professional football. Colbert recalls the face-off between USC and Northwestern University at the January 1996 Rose Bowl. “Keyshawn Johnson had a monster game, and I remember sitting in front of the TV in awe of him and what he was doing that day,” Colbert said. “At that point I realized, I want to do
that — play football, go to USC. Everything clicked.”

And as a club member, he was certainly in the right place at the right time. Chuck Muncie, a club alumnus and former running back for the New Orleans Saints and San Diego Chargers, was the executive director of Colbert’s hometown club at the time, and Colbert remembers looking up to him. The two soon became friends, with Muncie coaching him both on his football future and on his life choices.

“Keary’s dream was to go to college and play football at a top university,” Muncie said. “A lot of the things I talked to him about centered around his decision-making process and leadership role in his community.”

This emphasis on personal development first, football second, made a lasting impact on Colbert.

“It wasn’t just about sports with Chuck,” Colbert said. “He always talked about schoolwork, making sure everyone was doing the right thing and being a good person.

“As I got older,” he continued, “I realized that Chuck was giving back to me, planting seeds in my life that I didn’t realize were there until later when I was able to appreciate him and all he did for the club.”

Muncie, together with Colbert’s service-focused family and other mentors in his life, helped instill in him the importance of giving. When he was a teenager, Colbert shifted from taking part in club activities to volunteering, keeping score at basketball games and mentoring younger kids.

Colbert continued to develop his football skills, and after his high school football career, he was offered the chance to play at his dream school — USC.

As a starting wide receiver with the Trojans, Colbert set the all-time record for pass receptions, served as the team captain in his senior year, and won USC’s Most Inspirational Award.

“He took care of business and did whatever needed to be done to win the game,” said Mimi Butler, Colbert’s athletics department adviser. “If a crucial down needed to be made, you felt like if it was thrown to Keary, he would find a way to make it happen.”

In between practices and games, Colbert volunteered at local schools through the College’s Joint Educational Project. Many of the students he mentored came from tough backgrounds, similar to some of his peers at the club.

“A lot of these kids don’t realize the resources they have and they think everyone is against them,” he said. “I grew up with kids who were in the same circumstances, so I knew how to get through to them. I always took it as a challenge and took pride in helping them succeed.”

Colbert was the second-round pick for the Carolina Panthers in the 2004 NFL draft. In 2008, he signed with the Denver Broncos, and it was during this time that his mother called to tell him about a fundraising campaign for his hometown Boys & Girls Club.

“She said that our club was looking for donations, and that they’d only been able to raise half of the money they needed because times were tough,” he said. “So I ended up donating the difference. It was one of the biggest things I’ve ever done.”

This game-changing contribution strengthened Colbert’s role as an active alumnus of the club. Even with his busy schedule as a professional football player, he always made time to stop by his home club to volunteer, sign autographs, or just hang out with the kids. Earlier this year, in recognition of his involvement as a donor and volunteer, the board of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme asked him to be a spokesperson for their “Be Great” campaign.

“We believe he is someone who leads by example and should be recognized for his efforts on our behalf,” Blaylock said.

A few months later, Colbert received another phone call, this time from USC Trojans Coach Lane Kiffin, who offered him the chance to come back to USC as a tight ends coach. For Colbert, who had been considering coaching since he was a Trojan himself, it was an opportunity of a lifetime.

“When I was playing, I always had a coach’s mindset,” he said. “I know how I liked to be coached, so I try to come across to players the best that I can and try to help them live out their dreams as Coach Carroll and Coach Kiffin and everyone else helped me live out mine.”

Colbert utilized his football connections to recruit a group of past and current NFL players for a recent golf tournament benefiting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme. At the June 28 Fore the Kids Golf Classic, the club’s Youth of the Year Taylor Penny spoke to the crowd about what being a part of the club means to her.

“Keary Colbert has been a great role model for all kids here at the Club,” said Penny, 16. “We all look up to him as someone who has accomplished a lot, but has come home to give hope and opportunity to kids like me. Someday, I want to follow in his footsteps and become a proud Trojan as well, just like Keary.”

“There are so many stories like Taylor’s,” Colbert said. “It helps you realize — this is the reason you’re doing it, for people like her.”

“The ability to have an impact on the life of just one young person is everything to Colbert.

“If you are able to affect one person, who can affect the next person, and then that person can affect someone in the future — it does mean something. It’s all worth it.”

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme Youth of the Year Taylor Penny and Keary Colbert

“If you are able to affect one person, who can affect the next person, and then that person can affect someone in the future — it does mean something. It’s all worth it.”

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Sunlight throws the shadows of bars onto the floor of what was once a high school classroom before becoming an interrogation and torture cell at the Tuol Sleng S-21 prison, where roughly 14,000 people were sent to their deaths.

PHOTO BY TRISTAN CLEMENTS/MOREALTITUDE PHOTOGRAPHY
The weary oak carries the burden of a hideous past.
Against its trunk, Khmer Rouge soldiers bashed the delicate skulls of infants and small children, tossing their lifeless bodies into open pits.
As if weeping, a deep crimson stain runs down the oak. It is marked forever as the Killing Tree.

“Prepare yourselves emotionally,” instructor Karen Jungblut advised USC undergraduates before their two-and-a-half-week research trip to Cambodia this past summer.
The eight students participated in USC College’s Problems Without Passports program in Cambodia. During their travels, they studied the 1975 to 1979 genocide in which 2 million Cambodians were killed.
The massacre began when the Khmer Rouge came into power. Led by Pol Pot, followers of the Communist Party of Kampuchea sought to create an agrarian-based society. They moved city-dwellers to the countryside for forced labor. About 21 percent of the country’s population was murdered, or died of starvation, disease and torture.
During the trip, students visited the Choeung Ek killing fields, where some 14,000 men, women and children were bludgeoned or shot to death and left in ditches — one of the nearly 20,000 mass gravesites in Cambodia. A monument, or Buddhist memorial called stupa, contains the skulls of roughly 8,000 victims.

**GETTING TO THE ROOTS of evil**

Undergraduates in Problems Without Passports learn about shades of gray in Cambodia, 35 years after the Khmer Rouge.
Top: USC College students collect testimonies from Khmer Rouge genocide survivors inside a pagoda place of worship in the Krang Tachan village in Takeo province, Cambodia.

Middle: International relations major Julia Mangione examines photos of victims at the Tuol Sleng S-21 prison's genocide museum. Of roughly 14,000 imprisoned, only about 12 survived.

Bottom: A wooden sign posted at a large oak at the Choeung Ek killing fields reads: “Killing Tree against which executioners beat children.”

“While walking around the site, I looked down at my feet and saw white and colored things poking out of the ground,” recalled Camille Waddel, an international relations major in the College. “It took me a while to realize that they were bone fragments and clothing remnants of the deceased.” At the edge of the dirt gravesites stands the massive oak bearing a wooden sign: “Killing Tree against which executioners beat children.”

“It was impossible for me to comprehend,” international relations major Julia Mangione reflected. “I looked at the tree and felt sick to my stomach. You don’t want to believe these things really happen.”

Instructors Kosal Path and Jungblut brought the students to the site so they could more deeply understand the gravity of the crimes. A program goal was to assess whether the United Nations-backed tribunal currently taking place meets Cambodian survivors’ expectations for justice and reconciliation. Thirty-five years after the genocide, some Khmer Rouge regime leaders are being tried for crimes against humanity. Pol Pot died on April 15, 1998, the day the Khmer Rouge agreed to turn him over to an international tribunal. Many believe Pol Pot committed suicide or was poisoned, although the official cause was deemed heart failure.

The first to be tried, Kaing Guek Eav, or “Duch,” commanded the Tuol Sleng S-21 prison where roughly 14,000 people were tortured and sent to their deaths. Found guilty in July, he was sentenced to 35 years in prison, but could be out in 19. Four other top leaders currently face genocide charges.

In summer 2009, the program’s first year, students attended the UN trial, but this time court was not in session. Students, however, visited the court and interviewed Craig Etcheson, a senior analyst in the investigating judges’ office in the tribunal, officially called the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). Etcheson is also a USC College alumnus, having earned his Ph.D. in international relations in 1985.

During the students’ Etcheson interview, Duch, Nuon Chea, Ieng Sary, Ieng Thirith, and Khieu Samphan were imprisoned in a building 20 yards away.

“It was chilling being so close to such ruthless and heartless murderers,” said Ali Battat, an East Asian languages and cultures, and international relations major. “Just seeing the building where the five are being held confirmed for me that I hope they get what they deserve.”

When it comes to the perpetrators, however, it’s not always that black and white. During the trip, students interviewed both perpetrators who were not leaders, and victims, and at times the lines blurred between the two groups.

“It was kill or be killed,” Mangione said of the Khmer Rouge soldiers. “I started thinking about how good people could do terrible things.” Mangione’s final paper titled, “Shades of Gray,” explores that topic. Each student produced a paper as part of the international relations course, “Conflict Resolution and Peace Research in Cambodia.” The course entailed one week of Cambodian history taught by Path, a lecturer in the College’s School of International Relations and himself a survivor of the Khmer Rouge. For the second week, Jungblut, research and documentation director at the USC Shoah Foundation Institute (SFI) for Visual History and Education, taught students how to collect testimonies. During the trip, each student conducted at least one interview.

“When students were engaged,” Jungblut said. “At first, you could see they were nervous and uncomfortable, but they were doing it. They were experiencing collecting testimony from genocide survivors.”

The impetus for sending students to Cambodia began with SFI. Headquartered in the College, SFI houses nearly 52,000 video testimonies from Holocaust survivors and witnesses, and is among the world’s largest digital video archives. In spring 2009, three staffers from the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) spent three months at the institute learning more about testimony and interviewing Khmer Rouge survivors in Southern California. DC-Cam is monitoring the tribunal and documenting the Khmer Rouge crimes.

The Cambodia program took off after Path earned his Ph.D. in international relations from the College in 2008 and was ready to teach. Path was one of DC-Cam’s original staff members in the early 1990s.
Born and raised in Prasat, a small Cambodian village, he was not yet 1 year old when the Khmer Rouge seized his homeland. His parents were sent to separate labor camps. Intellectuals were targeted first. His father, a government employee and scholar, concealed his identity passing as a farmer. In the camps, his mother sewed the unisex black uniforms worn by laborers. Path was raised by women villagers too old to work.

In the crowded commune, he remembers fighting for food. A single bowl of porridge containing one fish was all that was placed on a table for the children.

“We all jumped on it and I got the fish,” he recalled. “I remember my cousin next to me crying. I’m sure that was the first time I had ever eaten meat.”

One night, his aunt sneaked into the village to visit young Path. She cradled him, said good-bye and later hanged herself. Rather than be forced to marry a Khmer Rouge soldier responsible for the deaths of several close relatives, she committed suicide.

Path remembers little else of his childhood.

“I lived through this and I don’t remember,” Path said. “I don’t know how I survived.”

As a teenager, he began hearing bits and pieces about the Khmer Rouge, a subject not taught in Cambodian high schools. Part of Path’s goal is to educate Cambodian youths about that critical period.

“I knew only that something dark, something terrible had happened to my family from 1975 to 1979,” Path said, adding that he was reunited with his parents in 1979.

It wasn’t until Path was an undergraduate in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, when he learned the extent of the atrocities committed against his family. In the 1990s, as a translator and researcher in Yale University’s Cambodian Genocide Program and then in DC-Cam, he began to fully grasp the brutality of the Khmer Rouge regime.

For his master’s thesis as a USC College graduate student, Path analyzed the politics of bringing the Khmer Rouge to justice. He took courses from Steve Lamy, vice dean for academic programs in the College. He was also a teaching assistant for Lamy, professor of international relations and former director of its school.

“I saw Kosal as an ideal choice for Problems Without Passports,” said Lamy, who created the program that takes students from Belize to Zacatecas, Mexico. “I know he loves teaching and really cares for his students. He’s from Cambodia, survived this period and knows a great deal about the issues and the region.”

Understanding the underpinnings of genocide is crucial for all ethnicities.

“Genocide belongs to humanity,” Path said. “Not one group of people. The current generation does not fully comprehend what happened in Cambodia. So it could happen again. It could explode at any time.”

At the Choeung Ek killing fields, Kosal opened up to students about his own experiences.

“Perhaps he was moved by all of our emotions and the somberness of it all, but Professor Path told us for the first time, really, about his family and his origins,” Battat said. “It was really touching to hear him talk about that part of his life.”

The same day, students visited the Tuol Sleng S-21 prison, where only about a dozen captives survived. They walked through rooms exhibiting photographs of prisoners — men, women and children, and mothers holding babies — all wearing mandatory uniforms, with numbered boards hanging from strings around their necks.

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“I lived through this and I don’t remember.”

Some look slightly away from the camera,” Battat said of the photographed prisoners. “Some look at the camera with absolute fear and hopelessness. Others hold their heads high and steady with a firm gaze.”

Most photographed were sent immediately to the killing fields. Prisoners considered important were tortured until they confessed, then sent to be executed. The prison was an old high school and the Khmer Rouge used former exercise equipment to aid in waterboarding, electrification and hanging. A list of posted prison rules included: “While getting lashes or electrification you must not cry.”

“S-21 is horrifying,” Battat said. “It’s eerie, it’s disturbing and it’s shocking. It’s every emotion that will twist your stomach and make you want to curl up in a ball and cover your eyes and ears because it doesn’t seem like it could have been possible.”

They walked through cells where cots still had chains and torture devices in place.

“The cells didn’t even seem like a humane amount of living space for a small animal, much less for a human being,” Waddel said.

Students did extensive research before interviewing. They met with officials at DC-Cam and the Center for Justice and Reconciliation, an NGO that reaches out to Cambodian victims and perpetrators. They met with the Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee, another NGO working closely with the ECCC to encourage survivors to come forward. They also met with top officials at the U.S. Embassy and >>
Cambodia’s secretary of state of foreign affairs.

During their interviews, students learned that many victims live near their families’ killers in the small villages. One survivor was Chut So, whose neighbor, Hun Kin, is a former S-21 soldier responsible for the death of her husband, Thurn. She often runs into Kin, who admits leading Thurn, who had lost a leg fighting the Khmer Rouge and walked with a crutch, to the killing fields. Thurn was beaten to death with a hoe. Still mourning her husband’s death, So continues to display her grief by shaving her white hair nearly to the scalp and wearing only a collarless slate shirt and baggy slate pants.

A video of the interview, conducted by sociology major Shoshana Polansky, shows them sitting on the ground in a circle with So’s daughter, Leng, and an interpreter near a pagoda where Buddhists worship. While telling her story, So is chewing a betel leaf and swatting flies swarming around her infected toe. Boy monks wearing tangerine robes listen intently in the background.

“Is it true you went to find your husband’s remains?” Polansky asks.

“We found that his skull and bones had been cracked,” So replies through an interpreter. “We knew how he was killed, then we gave him a proper burial.”

“When you see your neighbor, Kin, how do you interact with him?” Polansky asks.

“The anger before was worse than now; I try to ignore him,” So replies. “But it is hard to see him. Something in my heart always reminds me that he is the man who killed my husband.”

“Can you ever forgive the perpetrators?” Polansky asks.

“Maybe if he asked for an apology, I might forgive him,” So says of Kin. “But no one has asked for an apology.”

So recalls that her eldest son sought revenge. But on his way to Kin’s home to kill him, the son fell into a well.

“Now I leave the judging to God,” So says. “I don’t want to continue the pain and bloodshed. If I allowed my children to seek revenge, the conflict would continue. I want it to end. I leave it to karma.”

CAMBODIANS’ BELIEF IN KARMA WAS EXAMINED IN BATTAT’S FINAL paper. In Cambodia, 96 percent of residents are Buddhists. Battat found that many Cambodians are ambivalent about the ongoing trials and subsequent punishments. Their religion professes that people who commit evil deeds will be punished in their next life.

Even So’s son took his toppling into a well as a sign and decided to follow the Buddhist practice of letting go. But letting go is difficult when survivors still yearn to know what happened to their loved ones.

“Dialogue will hopefully present the truth and allow for closure,” Battat said of achieving forgiveness and reconciliation in the country.

With the current trials, dialogue is emerging for the first time.

Interviews of victims and perpetrators are forcing residents to broach the subject. To help illustrate the gray zone, a concept first introduced by Holocaust survivor Primo Levi, Mangione notes a DC-Cam interview of Kin, who was a teenage soldier when he led Thurn to his death.

“Why do you think the Khmer Rouge killed and starved people?” DC-Cam asks.

“I never would have believed what happened in my generation,” Kin replies. “We people just could not stand firm to our own position. It was not the foreigners, but Khmer who killed Khmer. I did understand that it was totally wrong to do so. But if I didn’t do as I was told, I would be punished. I just followed the assignment.”

“Do you feel regret for what you have done?” DC-Cam asks.

“Yes, I do. I feel pity for those I killed,” Kin replies. “At that time, I was too innocent and followed every assignment of the Khmer Rouge.”

Then Mangione herself interviewed a former S-21 prison guard, Kung Phai, who said he was 16 when he joined the Khmer Rouge. His superior was Duch.


“No,” Phai replies.

“What would have happened if you resisted an order?” Mangione asks.

“Death,” Phai responds.

“Did you ever consider dying rather than following the orders?” Mangione asks. But the DC-Cam interpreter won’t relay the question to Phai, saying it may be too insulting.

While students interviewed a schoolteacher who lost 40 family members to the Khmer Rouge, including her father, an elderly Cambodian woman sat quietly in the circle.

“She kept smiling at me and at one point took my hand in hers and held it tight,” Battat said. “It was a very sweet gesture and the look in her eyes was of pure compassion.”

The schoolteacher didn’t hide her anger, admitting that she shows prejudice against her students who are related to former Khmer Rouge soldiers. The elderly woman listened silently. Later, the students learned that the woman had lost all nine of her children to the Khmer Rouge regime.

“Death,” Phai responds.

“Again, she held my hand as she stood next to me, smiling and complimenting me in Khmer,” Battat said. “Professor Path, as he took the picture, kept saying ‘picture with Grandma, Grandma with granddaughter.’ Perhaps I was her granddaughter for that moment.”

Watch a video on Professor Kosal Path and the Problems Without Passports program in Cambodia at college.usc.edu/cambodia.
Andrew Curtis is a man of his word. When he left Louisiana, friends asked point blank if he was going to desert them. “USC offered me a position in 2006, but I delayed a year to continue my post-Katrina disaster recovery work in New Orleans,” he said.

Every six months, Curtis returns to New Orleans accompanied by former and current students of “Natural Disasters,” a general education course he teaches in USC College.

While many disaster studies document recovery over the course of a single year, Andrew Curtis of American studies and ethnicity and his team use spatial video to capture how long the rebuilding process can take. Curtis’ video stills (left) from a street corner in Holy Cross, one of the New Orleans neighborhoods hit hardest by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, show how one house’s reconstruction took five years to begin.
Curtis began walking the streets of New Orleans neighborhoods during the first week of October 2005, witnessing firsthand the depths of the disaster. “I participated as a member of the Louisiana State University Geographic Information Systems Team, which supported operations in the state’s Emergency Operations Center during the response to Katrina.

“One of my graduate students wanted to get a boat and be in the midst of the disaster, to physically put a hand on a person and to personally facilitate a rescue,” he said. “But I explained to him that he had the ability to create a map that could potentially save 15 people.”

Probably everyone at LSU at the time knew someone directly affected by Hurricane Katrina, one of the five deadliest hurricanes and the costliest natural disaster in United States history. He continues to feel a shared sympathy as an assistant professor of the practice of American studies and ethnicity in the College.

While teaching at LSU in Baton Rouge, Curtis began a first-of-its-kind project that uses a spatial video system that connects cameras fastened to an SUV to a central global positioning system.

“Our efforts focus on the neighborhoods hit the hardest by Katrina, such as Holy Cross, Hollygrove and especially the Lower Ninth Ward, which still has less than one quarter of its pre-Katrina population,” Curtis said. “We drive street by street documenting the still-startling devastation that remains along with the evidence of progress.”

Traci Auer ’11, a mathematics and economics double major, and Bashar Badran ’11, a biological sciences major, are part of Curtis’ team and both have made two trips to New Orleans.

“I knew several people who were evacuated, and I was on the phone with a few of them at the time,” Auer said.

“This type of video mapping work is cutting-edge and no one else is doing it,” Badran said. “Although I did not know anyone directly affected by Katrina, I helped out knowing that our work would benefit those in need.”

Members of the community ride along with Curtis and his students to provide commentary on what was and what is. “They offer a critical historical component to our project,” he said. “These individuals help us tell the New Orleans story, along with other key people including church ministers,” he said. In return, the maps that are created are given back to the neighborhoods to help with planning and grant applications.

Curtis described the water in the Lower Ninth Ward as having reached 15 to 16 feet as gauged by the marks on the buildings. “We would have to walk ahead to check out the conditions of the roads, and many were impassable,” Badran said. “The potholes were so deep that we were afraid we were going to break an axle.”

The videos tell an amazing story of desolation, depression and despair. Structures are flattened; vegetation is overgrown and buildings hauntingly stand in ruin; even five years later. “Signs of hope and rebuilding exist, also,” Curtis explained. “It will take years to get the city back to where it once was, but some culturally rich places such as the Lower Ninth Ward will never be the same again.”

Curtis advocates for neighborhood plans with a more geographically systematic approach to rebuilding. He is concerned about the ongoing stress placed on returnees who still live next to or across from blighted buildings. “In certain neighborhoods, for instance in Holy Cross, some people have Katrina-damaged homes on both sides, and across the street. This situation hasn’t changed over the last few years and eventually it must have a toll.”

“Actor Brad Pitt’s Make It Right Foundation has got it right,” Curtis said. “They are constructing homes systematically from one corner of the Lower Ninth Ward, in effect reestablishing a community as much as rebuilding homes.”

A forward thinker, Curtis aims to predict where the next rounds of health or stress problems may emerge. “We can use the maps we generate from these spatial video runs to not only provide data for community groups seeking grants, but also as a tool to spatially prioritize future rebuilding, and to identify where returnees are most likely to need emotional support based on the physical conditions surrounding them.”

The ongoing work of Curtis has not gone unnoticed. The front page of The New York Times’ fifth anniversary online coverage package featured video documentation and audio by Curtis and his students. “The video segments show the benefit of what we are doing and visually demonstrate why our work is integral to the rebuilding process,” Curtis said.
“We can use the maps we generate ... as a tool to spatially prioritize future rebuilding, and to identify where returnees are most likely to need emotional support based on the physical conditions surrounding them.”

After setting up their spatial video equipment (left middle), USC College seniors Traci Auer and Bashar Badran determine their data collection route in New Orleans (left top). Along with examining the spatial video route displayed in a geographic information system (right bottom), they can also view building outlines, the extent of flooding, and actual video footage of locations such as a Lower Ninth Ward church (left bottom) that remains abandoned to this day. Auer and Badran also fostered connections with local collaborators including Joe Sherman in Hollygrove (right top).
The most difficult Latin I translated was Cicero,” began Dr. William Stetson, an orthopedic surgeon in private practice in Burbank, Calif., and a 1982 graduate of USC College. “I spent more time on my translation than I did studying organic chemistry because it was so difficult.”

Stetson would undoubtedly have been a Renaissance Scholar had he attended USC today. His academic career began in biology, yet he soon learned that he could major in classical civilization and take science courses as electives and still be accepted into medical school.

And accepted into medical school he was — USC, Vanderbilt University and The George Washington University with 10 more schools in the queue for interviews. However, with true legacy Trojan spirit, he chose USC, his father’s alma mater.

Knowing that he did not want to study the nucleus of a cell for the rest of his life, “I took classics courses because I wanted as broad a background as possible,” he explained. “I love the humanities. Classics and the sciences are intertwined and complement each other and this includes the multidisciplinary fields of medicine, law and philosophy.”

Stetson considers himself a better physician for having studied the humanities. “It provides you with a special skill set to deal with people,” he said. “Students in medical school with a liberal arts education often handle a wide range of situations much better.”

The youngest of nine children, Stetson was inspired by his father, an old-fashioned, family doctor who practiced in Torrance, Calif. “My dad was a big influence, working long hours and delivering more than 5,000 babies over a very long career,” he said. “He made many, many house calls and he loved his work. He made a big difference in the lives of his patients.”

Working hard passed on from father to son. “Naysayers told me that I either had to be an athlete or a student but I could not be both,” Stetson said.

As an athlete Stetson was a standout. He was a four-year letterman in volleyball and team captain. In fact, he was one of the most successful volleyball players ever to attend USC. He was named the Most Outstanding Senior Student Athlete in 1982 while being hailed as the Most Outstanding Athlete of the Year by the Pac-10 Conference.

Stetson asked for and was granted a deferral from medical school to realize his dream of playing volleyball professionally. He competed internationally in Germany for one year and then later returned for a second year.

Professors and coaches greatly influenced Stetson at USC, including the chair of the classics department, the late Ed O’Neill, along with coaches Ernie Hix and Bob Yoder. “One of the accomplishments I am most proud of is the NCAA Silver Anniversary Award that I received on behalf of USC in 2007.”

Excelling in the classroom and on the court tells only a part of Stetson’s story. He is a nationally recognized top physician and surgeon.

The walls of most physician offices are fairly sterile: medical charts, landscape paintings, modern art prints and anatomy posters. Walking into Stetson’s office, you are struck by myriad photographs that underscore his large personality. His framed USC volleyball jersey with the number five blazoned across its front is surrounded by photos of
“People told me that OPERATION ARTHROSCOPY would never work in Cuba. They were wrong.”

his surgical team interacting with patients.

What you also see are photos of his many excursions to Cuba.

“Once I was established in my career, I always knew I would give back to the community,” Stetson said. In 2005, he founded the non-profit organization Operation Arthroscopy.

The program’s mission is to establish centers in Third World countries that cannot afford medical equipment and are in need of professional medical training. Stetson noted that oftentimes decent equipment remains in storage, so Operation Arthroscopy collects and uses these items to set up centers. They also train doctors on the best and latest practices in arthroscopic surgery.

“I was invited by a physician to go to Cuba in 2003 as a guest lecturer. He was retiring and asked if I would continue this program and adventure,” Stetson recalled. “I said ‘yes.’

“I fell in love with the people and believed the tool of arthroscopy and orthopedic surgery could be used to both improve the quality of life of others and to help create better relations between Cuba and the United States,” said Stetson, whose Operation Arthroscopy team has also traveled to Peru and Vietnam.

To draw greater attention to Cuba’s needs and to his nonprofit, Stetson spearheaded an annual international medical conference in the country for doctors who need proper licensure in arthroscopy.

Operation Arthroscopy began with two doctors and has grown to 25 orthopedic surgeons and four nurses from the U.S., Canada, Spain, France, Switzerland, and Austria.

“People told me that Operation Arthroscopy would never work in Cuba,” he said. “They were wrong.”

Stetson’s wife, Erica, also shares his love of humanity and values their expanding group of friends in other countries.

Giving back does not take place only on foreign soil for Stetson.

“Every three months we host Volunteer Saturday at our surgery center for individuals in Southern California who can’t afford or don’t have insurance,” he said. “Nurses donate time, pharmaceutical companies donate supplies and our partners let us use the center.”

Many pre-health students have had the opportunity to complete sports medicine fellowships with Stetson, who is associate clinical professor at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. “We conduct minimally invasive surgery for the shoulder, knee and elbow — sports injuries or workplace injuries,” he said. “Students learn to diagnose, treat and repair injuries with small incisions and observe the rehabilitation process with patients.”

Stetson believes the opportunity provides students with a panoramic picture of an orthopedic surgeon’s professional life at an accelerated pace. “This is a firsthand experience that helps impact their decision as to whether they want to make a huge commitment of time and energy in the next few years.”

Stetson and his wife hope to pass on their philanthropic spirit to their children. “It’s not easy to give back at a young age,” he said. “I admire USC’s many community outreach programs that encourage students to give back and set the stage for their future good works.

“Whether I am treating a high-profile athlete, carpenter or homemaker, I find joy in helping people from all walks of life.”

Watch a video on Dr. William Stetson ’82 at college.usc.edu/stetson.
According to Margo Reid Brown ’85, almost every item you use on a daily basis can be recycled or reused. In her position as director of California’s new Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, known as CalRecycle, Brown’s job is to balance the state’s recycling efforts with its waste disposal.

“Our goal is to divert solid waste away from landfills and into new, higher-value products,” Brown said. “We work with local governments to regulate and inspect solid waste disposal sites, and we coordinate all of the state’s recycling efforts.”

Brown’s interest in working in politics and government began as an undergraduate in USC College, where she majored in international relations and political science. Her experience at USC, and her senior year internship in the Los Angeles field office of United States Senator Pete Wilson, helped to launch her career, which she said draws on the negotiation, critical thinking and sound judgment skills she learned while a student.

After graduation, Brown worked for Wilson during his term as governor of California, served as president of the Junior League of Sacramento, founded consulting firm Capitol Ideas Development Corporation, and served as director of scheduling for the Office of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger before being named chair of the Integrated Waste Management Board in 2006.

With a statewide 59 percent recycling rate for all materials, Brown has high hopes for the future of California. “Our annual solid waste diversion rates continue to lead the nation,” she said. “That tells me that Californians, in record numbers, are embracing our message.”

For information on which items can be recycled and where, Brown recommends earth911.org and CalRecycle’s site for local beverage container recycling facilities, bottlesandcans.com.

What is the status of California’s recycling program?

The Integrated Waste Management Act AB 939 was passed by the Legislature in 1989, when California was only diverting 10 percent of its waste away from landfills. The law required us to raise the statewide recycling rate to above 50 percent by the year 2000. We’ve met and exceeded that goal; most California jurisdictions have met the 50 percent target, and the few that have not are making good-faith efforts to reach that number. In some cities and regions, the community recycling rate is as high as 70 or 80 percent. Similarly, California’s statewide bottle and can recycling rate is near 85 percent — the highest it has ever been.

Where does most of the recycling go in California? What are most recycled materials made into?

Many of the commodities recycled in California — aluminum cans, old cardboard, used office paper — are sold to processors and manufacturers worldwide. The materials are made into new products that find their way back into the marketplace — a process that saves natural resources and energy. Recycling aluminum requires 95 percent less energy than to create it from raw materials. Other examples include used motor oil, which can be re-refined and used again and again, and old tires, millions of which are kept out of landfills each year by being converted into new products from patio furniture to a durable asphalt alternative for road-paving projects.
What are the most critical steps we can take to reduce the waste we produce?

The choices we make in the things we buy greatly impact what ultimately gets thrown away. Buy items sold in bulk, made with minimal packaging, made from recycled products and items that can be recycled themselves. At the supermarket, avoid buying more than you need. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates Americans throw away nearly 96 billion pounds of food each year. In California, food waste represents 15.5 percent of all waste in landfills. Think about creative uses for old products before you toss them into the trash. The holiday season is a time for joy, but unfortunately it’s also a time for waste. Americans throw away an additional 6 million tons of trash each year between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Beyond the health and environmental benefits, how does recycling benefit me?

Recycling and product reuse have short-term benefits and can mean long-term savings, too. Extending the useful life of our landfills delays the costly and time-consuming process of planning for replacement landfill sites. Finding new uses for old products helps preserve our planet’s resources. Recycling provides a significant boost to California’s economy. The recycling industry accounts for about 85,000 jobs in our state, generating $4 billion yearly in salaries and wages, and producing an estimated $10 billion worth of goods and services annually. The business community knows that waste-reduction and product-reuse strategies can help bolster profit margins, which in turn gives the companies more flexibility to expand their workforce.

How do California’s recycling efforts compare to other states?

California is recognized as the leader in almost every category. We recycle more beverage containers than any other state — a record 17.2 billion bottles and cans in 2009 alone. Reuse of those products will save the equivalent of 73 million barrels of oil, and reduce atmospheric carbon emissions by 673,000 metric tons. Last year we were able to divert almost 54 million tons of trash away from landfills and back into the marketplace through products ranging from recycled-content furniture to high-quality compost. In certain cases, our approach to recycling and product reuse differs from other states. For example, most other states simply use old tires as a fuel source for power plants and cement kilns. California chose to pursue a different, market-based approach to encourage new uses for waste tires. We now divert about 75 percent of our waste tires — about 30 million tires annually — away from California landfills and into new, higher-value products.

What types of alternative energy and biofuels can be developed from waste materials after high-value recyclables have been removed?

Landfill methane plants already provide more than 10 percent of the nation’s energy supply. We’re also seeing great promise from waste-to-energy systems, such as anaerobic digestion systems that can break down solid wastes being sent to landfills. Two beneficial end products are methane gas, which can be used to generate electricity and high-quality compost. Similar systems are turning waste into biofuels and compressed natural gas. Keeping landfill gases out of the atmosphere is important because methane has been found to be 23 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a harmful greenhouse gas. In a pilot project that we helped fund at the Altamont Landfill east of San Francisco, methane gas is being captured and converted to liquefied natural gas, which is being used as fuel for a fleet of garbage trucks and recycling vehicles servicing communities in the region.

Does recycling really make a difference?

You’re probably seeing the results of recycled products every day: park benches manufactured from old soda bottles, new clothes made from recycled fibers, streets paved with a mix of traditional asphalt and ground tires, reusable shopping bags made from recycled plastic, and produce raised on farms using compost created from yard clippings and food scraps. The list of recycled-content products in the marketplace is growing almost on a daily basis.

It’s not unlike the old adage that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. When we break down the barriers to recycling, more people will recycle. When schoolchildren learn about recycling and environmental stewardship, it helps to influence patterns that can last a lifetime. Try to do at least one act daily that promotes recycling and waste reduction. Every person can make a difference.}

“The holiday season is a time for joy, but unfortunately it’s also a time for waste. Americans throw away an additional 6 million tons of trash each year between Thanksgiving and Christmas.”
WELCOME ABOARD

This fall, 15 new members joined the USC College of Letters, Arts & Sciences Board of Councilors. With exceptional careers in business, medicine and philanthropy, to name a few, their expertise and generosity will help guide the College’s future in support of its mission.

WILLIAM BARKETT is president of Merjan Financial Corporation, a La Jolla, Calif.-based real estate investment firm. He also is a co-founder and principal of Energy Systems International, a leading Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project developer and consultant. He earned his B.S. in combined sciences from Santa Clara University and his J.D. from Pepperdine University.

LESLIE BERGER is the principal of Idea Resources, Inc. and a strategy, innovation and executive coaching consultant for leaders and leadership teams of Fortune 1000 companies. Her clients include GE, Nestle Purina, Kraft Foods, SC Johnson and PepsiCo. Ms. Berger earned her bachelor’s degree in American studies as well as her master’s degrees in learning and organizational change, and advertising from Northwestern University.

MARYLOU BOONE is the widow of USC alumnus and Life Trustee Dr. George Boone. Mrs. Boone and her husband were founding members of the USC Presidential Associates. The
Boones established the George and MaryLou Boone Center for Science and Environmental Leadership at the College’s Wrigley Marine Science Center. An avid art collector, Mrs. Boone is the author of the catalog that accompanied a 1998 exhibition of highlights from her collection at Scripps College. She earned a B.S. in dental hygiene from the USC Ostrow School of Dentistry and an M.A. in art history from the USC Roski School of Fine Arts.

DIANE DIXON is senior vice president of communications and corporate affairs for Avery Dennison Corporation. In this position, she is responsible for the strategic direction and management of all aspects of corporate communications and government relations programs, including financial, shareholder and investor communications, corporate and brand advertising, employee communications, media and community relations and public affairs. She also serves as president of Avery Dennison Foundation’s Board of Trustees. Ms. Dixon earned a B.A. in political science from USC College.

RICHARD S. FLORES is senior vice president/regional manager, real estate industries division at Bank of the West. He earned a B.A. in international relations from USC College and a B.S. in business administration from the USC Marshall School of Business.

SHANE FOLEY is vice president, private banker for Wells Fargo Private Bank. He serves on the board of directors for A Better LA and the Blind Children’s Learning Center in Orange County. A former quarterback on the USC Trojans football team, Mr. Foley also serves on the Trojan Board of Directors, a volunteer group dedicated to supporting the USC Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. Mr. Foley earned a B.A. in political science from USC College and a B.A. in communication from the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

LISA M. GOLDMAN is secretary for the board of directors of the Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund, a private foundation committed to providing support for charitable organizations that enhance society. She also serves on the boards of Youth Tennis Advantage and the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund. Ms. Goldman was previously the executive director of the Fresno Jewish Community Federation and the founding executive director of the Fresno Jewish Community Center. She earned a B.A. in communication from the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

YOSSIE HOLLANDER is a successful serial entrepreneur and philanthropist who has 40 years of experience in the software industry and is among the pioneers of the Israeli software industry. He serves on the executive board and management committee of the Weizmann Institute of Science, where he launched a renewable energy initiative. Mr. Hollander is chairman of the Israeli Institute for Economic Planning and has been involved in advancing free market laws and policies in Israel.

SAMUEL KING is president and chief executive officer of King’s Seafood Company, Inc. The restaurant group operates successful restaurants including the Water Grill, Ocean Avenue Seafood, i.Cugini, 555 East Steakhouse, Lou & Mickey’s, and the King’s Fish House/King Crab Lounge establishments. Mr. King serves on various boards including the Aquarium of the Pacific and the USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies. Mr. King is the co-founder of the Sustainable Seafood Forum, which is dedicated to helping people identify seafood procured through responsible fishing operations or environmentally friendly aquaculture techniques.

MITCHELL LEW is currently the chief medical officer of Prospect Medical Group. He previously served as president and chief executive officer of Genesis Healthcare, a medical group he founded after working in private practice as an OB/GYN for 10 years. He holds a B.S. in biological sciences from USC College and an M.D. from the Keck School of Medicine of USC. Dr. Lew is president of the USC Asian Pacific Alumni Association as well as a member of the Alumni Association Board of Governors Executive Committee and the USC Associates Board of Directors.

ANDREW LITTLEFAIR is president and chief executive officer of Clean Energy, the largest provider of vehicular natural gas and related services in North America. He also serves as chairman of NGVAmerica, a national organization dedicated to the development of a growing, sustainable and profitable market for vehicles powered by natural gas or hydrogen. Mr. Littlefair earned a B.A. in political science from USC College.

KELLY PORTER is managing director at investment bank Woodside Capital Partners, where he specializes in advising Internet, digital media and entertainment companies engaged in media, web 2.0/3.0, advertising and entertainment. Prior to Woodside Capital Partners, he was managing partner of ZAP Ventures, a Silicon Valley-based venture capital firm. Mr. Porter earned a bachelor’s degree in broadcast management from the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism and a master’s degree as a Sloan Fellow at the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

MICHAEL REILLY is the chief investment officer of the Equities Group and director of U.S. equity research for Trust Company of the West, an investment management firm in Los Angeles. Mr. Reilly earned three degrees from USC: a B.A. in Spanish from USC College as well as a B.S. in finance and an MBA from the USC Marshall School of Business.

HARRY ROBINSON is a director in the Los Angeles office of McKinsey & Company, a management consulting firm. He works extensively across a broad range of industries — entertainment, gaming, hospitality, private equity and mining — on a range of strategy and operation topics. Mr. Robinson earned a B.A. in mathematics and economics from Yale University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

KUMARAKULASINGAM “SURI” SURIYAKUMAR is chairman, president and chief executive officer of American Reprographics Company, the largest company of its kind in the world. An active philanthropist, Mr. Suriyakumar serves on the boards of several nonprofit organizations including those dedicated to education, relief and war reclamation efforts in Southeast Asia, and the CREST Foundation, Inc., which funds and awards scholarships to children of reprographics industry employees.

“The enthusiasm and involvement of our Board of Councilors is tremendous. With a fabulous group of new members, our Board continues to grow in expertise and stature, contributing to the bright future of USC College.”

—JANA WARING GREER, CHAIR, USC COLLEGE BOARD OF COUNCILORS
TOP HONORS
Leo Braudy, Scott Soames
Elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences

University Professor Leo Braudy of English and Scott Soames, professor of philosophy, have been named fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Braudy, Leo S. Bing Chair in English and American Literature, and Soames, director of the School of Philosophy, bring USC College’s academy fellows to 15.

A leading film critic and cultural historian, Braudy is an authority on the works of Jean Renoir and François Truffaut. Soames specializes in the philosophy of language and the history of analytical philosophy.

Thorsten Becker, associate professor of earth sciences, co-authored “Shaping Mobile Belts by Small-scale Convection,” which appeared in the June 3, 2010 issue of the journal Nature. Becker has been appointed visiting associate professor at the University of Tokyo.

Percival Everett, Distinguished Professor of English, has won the 2010 Premio Vallombrosa - Gregor von Rezzori Prize for international fiction. Everett has also been awarded the 2010 John Dos Passos Prize for Literature from Longwood University.

Vicki Forman of English has won the 2010 PEN USA Literary Award in Creative Nonfiction for her memoir, This Lovely Life (Mariner Books, 2009).

Patrick James, professor of international relations, has been named an Eminent Scholar at Beijing Foreign Studies University.

Robin D. G. Kelley, professor of American studies and ethnicity, and history, has received the following awards for his book Thelonious Monk: The Life and Times of an American Original (Free Press, 2009): Best Book About Jazz, Jazz Journalists Association; Ambassador Award for Book of Special Distinction, English Speaking Union; a PEN Open Book Award, PEN American Center; and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers Deems Taylor Award. Black, Brown and Beige: Surrealist Writings from Africa and the Diaspora (University of Texas Press, 2009), which Kelley co-edited with Franklin Rosemont, won an American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation.

Lon Kurschige, associate professor of history, and American studies and ethnicity, was part of an Organization of American Historians’ Historical Studies delegation that traveled to South Africa in October.

Dan Lainer-Vos, Ruth Ziegler Early Career Chair in Jewish Studies and assistant professor of sociology, won the Theda Skocpol Dissertation Award from the American Sociological Association’s Comparative and Historical Sociology Section.

Peter Mancall, professor of history and anthropology, has been elected a fellow of the Society of American Historians.

Susan McCabe, professor of English, was selected as one of the editors for the University of California Press’ New California Poetry series.

Brigide Mullins, director of the Master of Professional Writing Program and associate professor of the practice in English, has been accepted as a member of the Los Angeles Institute for the Humanities.

Shana L. Redmond, assistant professor of American studies and ethnicity, was selected as a visiting scholar at Emory University’s James Weldon Johnson Institute for Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies for the 2010–11 academic year.

Mark Schroeder, associate professor of philosophy, had his paper, “Hybrid Expressivism: Virtues and Vices,” published in Ethics, selected by The Philosopher’s Annual as one of the 10 best philosophy papers published in 2009.

Thomas Seifrid, professor of Slavic languages and literatures, has been elected president of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages.

Kevin Starr, University Professor and professor of history, received the Native Daughters of the Golden West’s California Image Award.

Karen Sternheimer of sociology was given an honorable mention for the Pacific Sociological Association’s Dean S. Dorn Outstanding Contributions to Teaching Career Award.

Karen Tongson, assistant professor of English and gender studies, was named editor-in-chief of the Journal of Popular Music Studies, the official publication of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music.

John Wilson, professor of geography and director of the Spatial Sciences Institute, was made a visiting professor for senior international scientists at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing.

Charles McKenna, professor and chair of chemistry, and Colin Keaveney, assistant teaching professor of French, were awarded the Provost’s Prize for Teaching with Technology. The prize recognizes faculty achievements in teaching and learning through the integration of technology into courses and curricula.

Nobel Laureate Murray Gell-Mann
Appointed Presidential Professor

Murray Gell-Mann, a renowned physicist and Nobel laureate, has been appointed Presidential Professor of Physics and Medicine at USC. A pioneer of quantum physics, Gell-Mann received the 1969 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work on the theory of elementary particles. He is now the second Nobel Prize winner among the USC College faculty. The first is George Olah, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Donald P. and Katherine B. Loker Chair in Organic Chemistry, who was recognized in 1994 for his pioneering research in superacids and hydrocarbon chemistry.

Institute, Center & Program News

After 23 years of extraordinary leadership of the Donald P. and Katherine B. Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute, George A. Olah, Nobel laureate, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, and Donald P. and Katherine B. Loker Chair in Organic Chemistry, stepped away from the day-to-day leadership of the institute to further his groundbreaking research on hydrocarbon chemistry and to focus on mentor-

TOP HONORS
Larry Swanson Elected to the National Academy of Sciences

Larry Swanson, Milo Don and Lucille Appleman Professor of Biological Sciences, and professor of biological sciences, neurology and psychology, has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences for his excellence in original scientific research. One of the nation’s leading neuroanatomists, Swanson’s work focuses on the organization of neural networks that control motivated behavior in mammals.
New Faculty Join the College

**GIORGIO CORICELLI**  
Assistant Professor of Economics  
Ph.D., Economics, 2002, The University of Arizona  
Previous Institution: Institut des Sciences Cognitives, CNRS

Coricelli studies human behaviors emerging from the interplay of cognitive and emotional systems.

**CHRISTELLE FISCHER-BOVET**  
Assistant Professor of Classics  
Ph.D., Classics and Ancient History, 2008, Stanford University, School of Humanities and Sciences  
Previous Institution: University of California, Berkeley

Fischer-Bovet specializes in the social and cultural history of the Eastern Mediterranean from Alexander the Great to the Romans.

**JESSE GRAHAM**  
Assistant Professor of Psychology  
Ph.D., Psychology, 2010, University of Virginia  
Graham studies morality and ideology, with a particular interest in the different kinds of moral concerns people hold, how these concerns vary across individuals and cultures, and how moral judgments and ideological commitments can operate outside of conscious awareness.

**CHRISTIAN GROSE**  
Assistant Professor of Political Science  
Ph.D., Political Science, 2003, University of Rochester  
Previous Institution: Vanderbilt University

Grose’s research focuses on American politics and legislatures: the executive branch, race and representation, and legislative elections.

**JULIAN DANIEL GUTIÉRREZ-ALBILLA**  
Assistant Professor of Spanish and Portuguese  
Ph.D., Spanish and Portuguese, 2005, Cambridge University  
Previous Institution: Newcastle University

Gutiérrez-Albillà’s areas of expertise are Spanish and Latin American cinema and visual cultural studies, gender theory and critical theory.

**ROBIN JESHION**  
Professor of Philosophy  
Ph.D., Philosophy, 1995, The University of Chicago  
Previous Institution: University of California, Riverside

Jeshion’s research interests include the philosophy of language, philosophy of mind and cognitive science (especially at their intersections).

**ALEXANDER MARR**  
Associate Professor of Art History  
D.Phil., Modern History, 2005, Oxford University  
Previous Institution: School of Art History, University of St Andrews

Marr researches the history of science, intellectual history, and the history of art and architecture in the Early Modern period.

**MATTHEW MICHAEL**  
Associate Professor of Biological Sciences  
Ph.D., Molecular Biology, 1996, University of Pennsylvania  
Previous Institution: Harvard University

Michael studies the cell division cycle, with an emphasis on understanding how the cycle is organized and regulated, and how perturbations to cell cycle regulation can lead to human disease.

**SRI R. NARAYAN**  
Research Professor of Chemistry  
Ph.D., Electrochemistry, 1988, Indian Institute of Science  
Previous Institution: NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Narayan focuses on the fundamental and applied aspects of electrochemical energy conversion and storage to reduce the carbon footprint of energy use.

**RAHEL SALAZAR PARRÉNAS**  
Professor of Sociology  
Ph.D., Ethnic Studies, 1998, University of California, Berkeley  
Previous Institution: Brown University

Parréñas studies transnational families, migrant women’s labor, migrant citizenship and human trafficking.

**REMO ROHS**  
Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences  
Ph.D., Biochemistry, 2003, Free University of Berlin  
Previous Institution: Columbia University

Rohs studies how proteins recognize their specific DNA binding sites and carry out their unique biological functions.

**SUSUMU TAKAHASHI**  
Assistant Professor of Chemistry  
Ph.D., Physics, 2005, University of Florida  
Previous Institution: University of California, Santa Barbara

Takahashi focuses on developing novel magnetic resonance approaches to solve problems at the intersection of physics, chemistry and biology.

**JOSHUA WEST**  
Wilford and Daris Zinsmeyer Early Career Chair in Marine Studies and Assistant Professor of Earth Sciences  
Ph.D., Earth Sciences, 2007, Cambridge University  
Previous Institution: Oxford University

West researches topics concerning the chemical and physical processes at the surface of the Earth.
Feelings,
Oh, Oh, Oh!

Feeling
gobblin a small chunk of lemon cake and is
overpowered by aching hollowness. The
emotions are coming from her mother who
baked the cake from scratch.

It tastes empty, I said.
The cake? She laughed a little, startled. Is it
that bad? Did I miss an ingredient?

No, I said. Not like that. Like you were away?
You feel okay?

I kept shaking my head. The words, stupid
words, which made no sense.

Rose’s strange sensor extends to every
morsel of food she eats. She tastes her fa-
ther’s distraction in his butterscotch pudding. She feels a deli clerk’s desperate,
“love me, love me,” in each bite of her ham-
and-cheese sandwich. Her older brother
Joseph’s toast with butter, jam and sugar
sprinkles has such a rank taste of blankness
and graininess — like a sea anemone — that
she spits it into a napkin. Flooded with
emotions, the young girl tries to rip her own
mouth off her face:

I TASTED YOU, I said. GET OUT OF MY
MOUTH.

“The food allowed me to write about feel-
ings in a way that was super concrete,” Ben-
der says. “So I can talk about lettuce leaves
instead of having to talk about the kind of
amorphous, ethereal, ephemeral world of
emotions which are so — they can be hard
to talk about.”

Although an avid traveler reared in West
L.A., Bender lacks the world weariness seen
in her characters. The author could have
emerged from the Iowa cornfields. She has a
generous smile and steady gaze that radiates
natural warmth. No makeup, her dark, wavy
hair falls around her shoulders. Lithe and
wearing a delicate white, cotton blouse and
black jeans, she leans forward when empha-
sizing a point, elbows and forearms ex-
tended on her desk.

Right now she’s making a point for her
“frustrated readers.”

Lemon Cake
reviews have
been stellar (Bender is “the master of quiet
hysteria,” the Los Angeles Times said) and
Oprah Winfrey placed the book on her 2010
summer reading list. But some have taken to
Twitter and Amazon.com to express their con-
fusion about what the story really means.

Rose’s extra-strength empathy is not the
only extraordinary talent in the Edelstein

Aimee Bender’s new book, The
Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake, is rich and multi-layered.

BY PAMELA J. JOHNSON

Even a cognoscente of the written
word like Aimee Bender admits
the difficulty in communicating
feelings.

In her new novel, The Particular Sadness of
Lemon Cake (Random House), the professor
of English in USC College circumvents that
mortal dilemma. On her 9th birthday, her
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mortal dilemma. On her 9th birthday, her
protagonist and narrator Rose Edelstein
family. Her emotionally absent father has what might be a gift but he’s too petrified to go near it. Her brilliant, troubled and possibly disturbed brother Joseph has a bizarre way of vanishing, and it’s not your typical teenage escapism. Or is it? Magical realism is at play here.

“I could never really discern between the fact and fantasy part of Joseph’s life,” cries Bookworm-Red Rock on Amazon.com. “Was he psychotic, autistic or are we to believe he really possessed extraordinary powers? I am so confused.”

The “talents” of each member of the dysfunctional Edelstein family become a sort of Rorschach test and Bender makes the reader do much of the work to eke out specific meaning.

“I can sense if it feels true to me; if it feels that I’m onto something,” Bender says. “If the metaphor is charged, then I’m interested in what I’m writing. But I don’t know what it means. I kind of try to shape it the best I can. So when people are frustrated about the meaning, my wondering is how do they feel? That’s the thing, I want the reader to have some sort of feeling at the end. And I think that some people do and some people don’t.”

Bender is exploring empathy and sensitivities and awareness and coping and families.

“And all that mucky underground territory that influences our behavior,” she says.

“What’s the line between talent and illness?” Bender asks. “What can land on one person and be a talent and land on another person and be an illness? What makes that so hard to understand? There’s something painful about that. We all know people on both sides of that scenario.”

She recalls the tortured rendition of Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah” by singer-songwriter Jeff Buckley, who drowned in Memphis’ Wolf River Harbor in 1997 at age 30.

“His rendition is so raw,” Bender says. “When you listen to it, it feels like a person with every pore open to the world. It’s unbelievably beautiful. But there is no surprise that he died, there really is not. How did he walk outside? How did he have a conversation? He’s like a living pulsing nerve.”

The same can be said for each character in Lemon Cake, all varying degrees of open wounds. To truly understand how they cope, just go with your gut. ■

“I can sense if it feels true to me; if it feels that I’m onto something. If the metaphor is charged, then I’m interested in what I’m writing.”

—AIMEE BENDER, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH
1950s
PABLO PRIETTO JR. (B.A., zoology, ’55), an orthopedic surgeon, was honored for his service to the USC Mexican American Alumni Association (MAAA) at the 36th annual USC MAAA dinner, where he received the Raúl S. Vargas Alumni Award.

1970s
CELIA C. AYALA (B.A., sociology and Spanish, ’76; Ph.D., education, ’93) was appointed chief executive officer of Los Angeles Universal Preschool.

DAVE BORELLI (B.A., history, ’73), who spent 18 years of his career coaching NCAA women’s tennis, will be inducted to the Women’s Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Hall of Fame on November 13.

RANDEE DAY (B.A., international relations, ’70) was named acting chief executive officer of DHT Holdings, Inc. and DHT Maritime, Inc.

NANCI NISHIMURA (B.A., psychology, ’75; M.A., international relations, ’78), a partner at Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, was named one of the Top 100 Women Litigators in California in 2010 by the San Francisco Los Angeles Daily Journal, a statewide legal paper.

1980s
MARK ROCHA (Ph.D., English, ’88) was appointed superintendent and president of Pasadena City College.

1990s
MICHAEL BRINKMEIER (M.S., physics, ’92) was re-elected as a Member of Parliament in the German state of North Rhine-Westfalia.

JODY MILLER (Ph.D., sociology, ’96) joined the faculty of Rutgers University as professor of criminal justice. Her book, Getting Played: African American Girls, Urban Inequality, and Gendered Violence (New York University Press, 2008), received the American Sociological Association’s Race, Gender and Class Section’s 2010 Distinguished Book Award.

RICHARD C. MORENO (B.A., political science, ’94) was named senior partner of civil litigation firm Murchison & Cumpsing, LLP.

HOLLY PAYNE (MPW, ’97) won the The Bill Fisher Award for Best First Book (Fiction) From a New Press for her book Kingdom of Simplicity (Skywriter Books, 2009).

ALEXANDRA MARMION ROOSA (M.A., art history and museum studies, ’99) was named director of research and sponsored programs by Pepperdine University.

JULIE M. SIEBEL (M.A., history, ’94; Ph.D., history, ’99) was named to the Board of Directors of The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc.

DAN TERKLA (Ph.D., comparative literature, ’92), professor of English at Illinois Wesleyan University, was named the 2011 winner of the Kemp Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence, the university’s highest teaching honor.

JOHN D. WORTH (M.A., economics, ’99; Ph.D., economics, ’01) was named director of the Office of the Chief Economist by the National Credit Union Administration.

2000s
MELVA G. ALVAREZ (B.A., American studies and ethnic studies, ’01) was selected by La Opinión as one of 30 Southern California Latinos recognized as a La Opinión Mujer Destacada (Woman of Distinction). She is the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program coordinator for outreach and recruitment at Pasadena City College.

LAURA BARRACLOUGH (Ph.D., American studies and ethnicity, ’06) received a Franklin Research Grant from the American Philosophical Society to conduct archival research for her project “The Contested Cowboy: Charros, Charreria, and the Racialization of Mexican Americans in the U.S. West.” Her first book, Making the San Fernando Valley: Rural Landscape, Urban Development and White Privilege, was published in October 2010 by the University of Georgia Press.

TAMAR BENZAKEN KOOSED (B.A., international relations, ’06) was one of four directors appointed to the board of Southern California Ladies in Corporate Social Responsibility.

WENDY CHENG (Ph.D., American studies and ethnic studies, ’09) began as assistant professor in Asian Pacific American studies, and justice and social inquiry, at Arizona State University’s School of Social Transformation this fall.

TANISHA J. “TJ” HADLEY (B.A., international relations, ’06) joined Gallivan, White & Boyd as an associate.

EMILY HOBSON (Ph.D., American studies and ethnic studies, ’09) accepted a two-year College Distinguished Teaching Postdoctoral Fellowship at USC, where she is teaching two classes this fall.

MARY ANGELA LAGDAMEO (M.A., East Asian area studies, ’08) joined the Access Academy of the Asian University for Women in Chittagong, Bangladesh, as the English as a second language instructor.

ZHIGANG PENG (M.A., electrical engineering, ’02; Ph.D., geological sciences, ’04), assistant professor in Georgia Institute of Technology’s School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, received the Seismological Society of America’s Charles Richter Early Career Award.

DARA PURVIS (B.A., political science, ’03) joined the University of Illinois College of Law as a visiting assistant professor as part of the Illinois Academic Fellowship Program.

AMY VON LINTEL (Ph.D., art history, ’10) began as assistant professor of art history at West Texas A&M University this fall.

Marriages
DEBBIE YEN DAO (B.A., psychology, ’02; M.A., psychology, ’04) and Alexis Bo-Chuyen Dang were married at St. Irenaeus Church in Cypress, Calif.

USC Summer Programs
Do you have a child in high school or middle school? Future Trojans grades 6-12 can attend academic summer programs at USC, featuring instruction by USC faculty, vibrant campus life and trips to Los Angeles attractions. In one- to four-week programs located in L.A. and Catalina Island, students choose to study architecture, business, engineering, environmental studies, journalism, pre-health, pre-law, visual and performing arts, or writing. Sign up for 2011 information at cesp.usc.edu.
WIRED for CHANGE

So you want to leave a positive mark. BRETT CROSBY did too. As a USC College undergraduate in the ’90s, watershed events locally and nationally got him fired up.

The Los Angeles riots in the aftermath of the Rodney King beating and verdict. The deadly standoff between federal agents and Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas. The Oklahoma City Federal Building bombing that killed thousands.

At the same time, a little thing called the World Wide Web had launched for home use.

Majoring in international relations and political science, when Crosby graduated in 1995, he came out swinging. But he didn’t know exactly how to follow through.

“With those majors you can’t help but think how can I change the world and make it a better place,” Crosby said. “People were camped out in front of the White House with their picket signs and it wasn’t having an impact. I thought, in order to drive change, I would have to build change.”

Rather than executing policy through state and federal departments, he figured why not execute his own policy through the business world. He, his brother and a couple buddies (including fellow Trojan, Jack Ancone, urban planning, ’95) founded Urchin Software Corporation based in San Diego, which built and hosted Web sites for businesses. Growing rapidly, the company began securing large contracts and in 2005, the company was purchased by Google and Urchin became Google Analytics.

After many months of negotiations, the deal went through on the day of Crosby’s wedding. “I was in my tux, literally just about to walk down the aisle when I signed the contract,” he recalled. “It made for a pretty good reception.”

Now a group manager for Google Analytics, a free service for Web sites of any size, Crosby is still as idealistic as he was at USC, maybe more so.

“No I see different ways to change the world,” he said. “I have the opportunity to help with economic change and social change by bringing more freedom to areas where people never had access to this kind of information before.”

As an undergrad, the Web was in its embryonic stages. He envisioned himself as a policymaker then, but believes on the Web he’s making a bigger impact than he thought possible. He credits Steve Lamy, professor of international relations, for teaching him to think critically.

“Sometimes I ask myself, ‘What does my degree have to do with my day job?’ ” Crosby said. “Seemingly very little on the surface. But I am living out the ideals that I had then in a company filled with people who are actively working to make the world a better place.

“In international relations, we read case studies that changed our world view and taught us how to think critically. We learned how to think about creative solutions to social, political and economic problems. And that is extremely powerful. I frequently think about the lessons I learned then when working on problems I’m solving today.”

—PAMELA J. JOHNSON

Eric Garcia ’95 has written about dinosaurs disguised as humans and con men with severe psychological issues. He’s also envisioned a future where artificial organs are possessed when patients can no longer afford them.

Earlier this year, his novel, The Repossession Mambo (Harper, 2009), was transformed into the feature film Repo Men starring Jude Law and Forest Whitaker. Garcia co-wrote the screenplay with Garrett Lerner, a writer and executive producer for the medical drama House.

In the film, Remy (Law) seizes high-tech artificial organs if transplant recipients fail to make their payments. Everything is great for Remy until he’s implanted with an artificial heart following an accident. When he can’t pay for it, Remy becomes a target of the organization he previously served.

Garcia’s novel is based on his short story, “The Tell-Tale Pancreas,” which he wrote after earning his B.A. in English with an emphasis in creative writing from USC College.
alumni BOOKPLATE

HiStory of Santa Monica
AQUA BOOKS / MICHAEL ATWOOD'S (MPW, '04) collection of short stories is thematically linked by the characters, who are struggling to realize their Hollywood dreams, and the setting—Santa Monica, Calif.

Africa
Unity, Sovereignty & Sorrow
LYNNE RIINER PUBLISHERS / PIERRE ENGLEBERT (Ph.D., political economy & public policy, '08), professor of politics at Pomona College, investigates how weak African states survive and how international sovereignty often produces unintended allegiances.

Freshwater Resources and Interstate Cooperation
Strategies to Mitigate an Environmental Risk
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK PRESS / FREDERICK GORDON (Ph.D., political science, '05), now at Columbus State University, examines state cooperation over increasingly scarce water resources.

Vegas at Odds
THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY PRESS / JAMES KRAFT (Ph.D., history, '90), professor of history at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, explores the rise and changing fortunes of organized and unorganized labor in Las Vegas.

Song of Extinction
SAMUEL FRENCH PRESS / ELLEN LEWIS'S (MPW, '98) play is about the science of life and loss, the relationships between fathers and sons, Cambodian fields, Bolivian rainforests and redemption.

Joy in Disguise
Meeting Jesus in the Dark Times
MOREHOUSE PUBLISHERS / EDWARD LITTLE (B.A., history, '68) examines the concept of joy in St. Paul's “Epistle to the Philippians,” experienced even in the face of life’s challenges.

Tid Bits
A Quick & Healthy Guide to Kids’ Snacks
SUMMERLAND PUBLISHING / DR. GINA LA MONICA (M.A., kinesiology, '87) offers 26 healthy, easy-to-prepare snacks for children.

One Step Beyond
A Teenage Odyssey in 1980s Los Angeles
CREATESPACE / MICHAEL PEARSON (B.A., drama/humanities, '88) shares a memoir of his fast and angst-ridden times growing up as a punk teen in L.A. during the '80s.

You Can’t Change the Outside Until You Change What's Inside
PUBLISHERAMERICA / PATTI PORTO (B.A., history, '75) helps readers examine scripture in order to answer difficult questions.

The Italian Stiletto
PUBLISHERAMERICA / RALPH RUFFENBURGH (M.A., anthropology, '66), weaves the story of a serial killer, what made her a killer, and the Pasadena Police Department’s search for her amid their other cases.

Teacher at Point Blank
Confronting Sexuality, Violence, and Secrets in a Suburban School
AUNT LITE BOOKS / JO SCOTT-COE (B.A., English, '91), a former high school English teacher, meditates on subtle and overt forms of violence in secondary public education from an up-close point of view.

My Problem With Doors
I PUBLISH PRESS / SCOTT SOUTHARD’S (MPW, '02) novel follows Jacob’s 30-year journey from ancient to future civilizations.

North by Northwestern
A Seafaring Family on Deadly Alaskan Waters
THOMAS DIINIE BOOKS / MARK SUNDIEEN (MPW, '99) helps tell the rags-to-riches story of Discovery Channel’s Deadliest Catch star Captain Sig Hansen and his immigrant family’s struggle to achieve the American Dream.

Fat Wednesday
Wittgenstein on Aspects
PAUL DRY BOOKS / JOHN VERDI (Ph.D., philosophy, '75), who teaches at St. John’s College, discusses and expands on Ludwig Wittgenstein’s ideas on the role language plays in seeing aspects, and of the place aspect-seeking has in aesthetics, science and theology.

Tell us about your new book.
Write to USC College Magazine, Citigroup Center 8206, 41st Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90089-8206 or magazine@college.usc.edu.

50th ANNIVERSARY OF TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD
RE-READ A CLASSIC

S
ince its publication in 1960, Harper Lee’s To Kill a Mockingbird has eclipsed all other American novels in popularity. Nearly a million copies are published each year and it has been translated into 40 languages. The novel’s 50th anniversary has been an occasion to ask why it is so widely read: why, for example, did polled British librarians vote it the No. 1 book, ahead of the Bible, that every adult should read?

The novel’s ubiquity in American classrooms, some argue, renders it a liberal primer on race and civil rights for young readers who witness through the eyes of the book’s narrator, 8-year-old “Scout” Finch, the trial of Tom Robinson, an innocent black man accused of raping the white woman Mayella Ewell in 1930s southern Alabama. Scout’s father, Atticus, memorably but unsuccessfully defends him and the court system before an all-white jury.

“You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view,” Atticus tells his daughter, “until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.” With few exceptions, Atticus and his two children are the only ones who think they should try to do this: Lee’s novel skewers the myopia of whites and of some blacks within a Southern caste system obsessed with lineage, race and appearance, upholding instead a liberal belief, equally indebted to Southern mores, in character.

Yet the novel puts the reader in the skin of its gender-bucking narrator, not in Tom Robinson’s. There are before her few child narrators in American fiction quite like Scout Finch, a young critic of a world she did not create but humorously and wisely interrogates. Scout might be why this novel, told with a seemingly effortless brilliance and charm, has endured: because America is always growing up when it comes to race.

—WILLIAM R. HANDLEY, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH
Ronald Gottesman

Ronald Gottesman, founding director of the Center for the Humanities at USC, and professor emeritus of English in USC College, has died. He was 77.

Gottesman died from complications of pneumonia May 10 at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, said his widow Beth Shube of Marina Del Rey, Calif.

A College faculty member from 1975 to 2001, Gottesman taught American literature and American studies, and authored numerous books and articles. He edited and commissioned more than 200 critical and reference volumes in at least six book series.

His research focused on diverse subjects from Upton Sinclair, Serge M. Eisenstein and Orson Welles, to William Dean Howells, Henry Miller and fictional ape King Kong. Other areas included textual editing, robots and film scholarship.

He edited a major section of the Norton Anthology of American Literature and was founding editor of two quarterly journals: Quarterly Review of Film and Video and Humanities in Society.

Gottesman was a Guggenheim and National Endowment for the Humanities fellow, and was senior research fellow at the Center for Twentieth Century Studies at the University of Wisconsin and the Whitney Humanities Center at Yale University. But his greatest legacy may be the pivotal role he played in his students’ lives, Shube said.

“He had generations of students he remained close with,” Shube said.

Karen Cortney

Karen Louise Cortney, USC alumna and friend of USC College, has died. She was 55.

Cortney died peacefully July 21 at San Diego Hospice, after a battle with melanoma. She is remembered for her tenacious spirit and selfless devotion as mother, wife and daughter.

“She was an unmatched mother, with encompassing love,” said Cortney’s daughter Claire Marie Cortney, who in 2007 earned her bachelor’s at USC in political science, theatre and communication.

Cortney came from a line of Trojans. Her parents Robert and Elizabeth Plumleigh of Santa Ana, Calif., are College alumni. Robert earned his bachelor’s in English in 1950 and Elizabeth received her master’s in liberal arts in 1984. The Plumleighs are longtime donors to the USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies and the Master of Professor Writing Program, both based in the College. Robert is a College humanities advisory board member and Elizabeth serves on the board of the Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies.

At USC, Karen Plumleigh met David Cortney, also a student. Karen earned her bachelor’s in fine arts in 1976 and teaching credential in 1978. David received his B.S. in accounting in 1976 and MBA in 1978. They wed in 1978 and moved to San Diego, where Karen taught elementary school art for a few years before having four children and becoming a full-time mother. Karen was involved in many USC activities, including the Trojan League of San Diego.

William G. Spitzer

William G. Spitzer, former dean of USC College and professor emeritus of electrical engineering, materials science and physics at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering, has died. He was 82.

Spitzer died April 14 in Oceanside, Calif., after suffering a heart attack a day earlier.

A seminal figure at USC, Spitzer was the first in USC history to serve at every level of academic administration — provost, College dean, division dean and department chair.

In 1989, Spitzer received USC’s highest honor, the Presidential Medallion. In 1992, Hebrew Union College awarded him an honorary degree.

Spitzer joined USC as associate professor of electrical engineering in 1963, quickly achieving full professorship. An expert in solid state physics, he chaired the Department of Materials Science from 1967 to 1969 and headed the Department of Physics from 1969 to 1972.

The following academic year, he served as dean of the Division of Natural Sciences. In 1983, Spitzer was appointed associate provost for research. He served as College dean from 1986 to 1989.

After retiring in 1992, Spitzer served as a part-time adviser to then USC President Steven B. Sample and Provost Cornelius J. Pings, and participated in strategic planning on the future of the university.

In 1993, Spitzer became interim provost after Pings left and before Lloyd Armstrong Jr. assumed the post.

Ghazi Algosaibit (M.A., international relations, ’65), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (08/15/10) at age 70; was a Saudi Arabian liberal politician, technocrat, novelist and Minister of Labor; obtained his Ph.D. in law from the University College London in 1970; served four Saudi kings in different government positions, including the minister of health and the minister of water and electricity in the Arab world’s largest economy; wrote novels, poetry and essays, some of which were banned in the Islamic state because of their focus on the problems of conservative Saudi society; served as ambassador to the United Kingdom and Ireland from 1992 to 2002; was labor minister since 2005; in 1975, Algosaibit became a distinguished alumnus of USC College’s School of International Relations.

Rev. John E. Burkhardt (Ph.D., religion/social ethics, ’59), Dubuque, IA (06/04/10) at age 82; ordained in 1952; was a member of the Presbytery of Chicago; joined the faculty of McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago in 1959; became a full professor of theology in 1968; retired from McCormick in 1993; served as interim pastor for five Presbyterian congregations in Illinois; publications include Worship and Understanding the Word of God; president of the American Theological Society; member of the American Academy of Religion, the Catholic Theological Society of America and the North American Academy of Liturgy; awarded honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Occidental College.

Capt. Delmar H. Evans (B.A., zoology, ’64), Oahu; acted as chief of school health services in Hawaii, ultimately becoming state epidemiologist; after returning to California, worked as a hospice medical director.

Dr. Judith A. Haythorne Macurda (B.A., zoology, ’64), Dana Point, CA (05/22/10) at age 66; earned her medical degree at the University of California, Irvine in 1969; after working in private pediatric practice and as an outpatient physician, obtained her master’s in public health from the University of Hawaii in 1981; served as clinical director of the Waimanalo Health Center on Oahu; served as chief of school health services in Hawaii, ultimately becoming state epidemiologist; after returning to California, worked as a hospice medical director.

Norm Lacy (B.A., physical education, ’77), of Santa Monica, CA; died while vacationing in Indio, CA (05/29/10) at age 56; offensive lineman for the USC Trojans playing for two National Championship teams in the ’70s; coached wrestling and football at St. Monica and Santa Monica High Schools for many years; his Santa Monica football teams won the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) championships in 1981 and 2001; his St. Monica’s football team won in 1998; was named High School Football Coach of the Year by the Los Angeles Times in 2001; served as athletic director at Santa Monica until his death.

Karen Cortney
I DON’T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN.

Maybe with the nice lady from the church group who assured me one day over lunch that at present rates of birth and immigration, Muslims will “take over” this country within a generation.

Or maybe with the reader who insisted that a story I had recounted in my newspaper column — how a black soldier named Henry Johnson singlehandedly fought off a platoon of Germans in World War I — did not happen.

Or maybe with a poll CNN released in August, indicating that fully a quarter of the American people still do not believe President Obama was born in the United States.

Perhaps it is enough to begin with the observation Buffalo Springfield made as the ‘60s were curdling into something that bore no resemblance to Camelot: “There’s something happening here. What it is ain’t exactly clear.”

Should it be necessary to say:

There is no Muslim takeover; PolitiFact.com estimates the number of Muslims in this country would have to double every 19 months for 20 years for Muslims to become a majority of the American electorate;

Henry Johnson’s heroism is real; it is recounted in history books and in contemporaneous newspaper and magazine stories;

And Barack Obama was born in Honolulu on Aug. 4, 1961, according to his birth certificate, the governor of Hawaii and birth announcements that appeared in Honolulu newspapers at the time.

Also, for the record, no “death panel” is menacing your Nana. Those are all incontrovertible facts. I wish that mattered.

Once upon a time and not so long ago, he or she who had the most compelling facts won the debate. But that was before news media fractured, three major television networks and a morning paper splintering into a 24/7 megaplex of cable stations and Web sites willing and eager to spin the news according to the views of their viewers. It was before e-mail gave each of us access to the rest of us, before blogs made each of us a news organization in his or her own right, but without all those pesky ethical constraints by which news organizations have traditionally been bound. It was before something hard and nasty crept into the nation’s political dialogue, before boundaries of propriety fell before demands of expediency, before scoring political points at all costs superseded the simple imperative to determine and do whatever was in the nation’s best interest.

For 34 years, I’ve made my living in “old” media, so I might reasonably be suspected of a little bias here. It is, after all, my industry that’s circling the drain.

But the most compelling danger is not the one faced by old media. It is, rather, the one faced by the country. A nation where each political faction has its own “facts” and truth is optional, a nation where there is no commonly accepted pool of information from which to draw conclusions or build arguments, is a nation where reasoning and intelligent debate become increasingly impossible. In other words, it’s our nation.

Recently, I had an e-mail exchange with a woman who insisted it was conservatives who fought to pass the great civil rights legislation of the 1960s. This is, of course, an outlandish canard. Conservative Southern Democrats were the one great roadblock to passage of those laws. But when I tried to explain this verifiable and wholly unquestionable fact, the woman grew irate and shut off our communication.

It occurred to me that she and I live alternate realities we both call America. In mine, reputable newspapers and books by expert authors are valid sources of fact. In hers, no fact is valid unless it comports with what you already believe. In hers, as a result, you can speak the absolutely ridiculous with complete and righteous conviction. I thought about e-mailing her back, but I knew it was no use.

I was depressed the rest of the day.
A Gift that Gives
AND GIVES
BACK TO YOU

For guaranteed fixed income, you may want to consider a
USC Charitable Gift Annuity.

Learn How... To create income for yourself while giving to USC College.

Tommy Trojan, age 75, plans to donate a maturing $100,000 certificate of deposit to USC College. Because he would like to continue receiving income, he decides to fund a one-life USC Charitable Gift Annuity. The annuity will pay him a rate of 6.4%, or $6,400 per year. And there are further advantages!

For his $100,000 donation to establish the annuity, Tommy receives a charitable income tax deduction of $40,162. Because Tommy itemizes his tax deductions on his income tax return, he can use this deduction to reduce his current year’s income tax obligation. With Tommy’s 35 percent federal income tax rate, his tax savings is $14,057. In addition, for 13.4 years, the first $4,825 of his annual payments of $6,400 will be tax-free.

The gift annuity will therefore have a taxable equivalent yield of 10.5%. Plus, his gift may be designated to support any USC College department or program of his choosing.

Good for You, Good for USC College

Please contact Susan Wilcox, USC College Associate Dean for College Advancement, by phone or e-mail swilcox@college.usc.edu to discuss gift options and to obtain a copy of the university’s Suggested Bequest/Distribution Language. Deferred gift annuities for individuals under age 60 are also available for your consideration.
PROBLEMS without PASSPORTS in GUAM, PALAU & CATALINA ISLAND

SEE PAGE 5 FOR BLOG & VIDEO INFORMATION.