Arie Warshel
Nobel Laureate and Distinguished Professor of Chemistry

During a white-tie ceremony in Stockholm, King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden presented USC Dornsife’s Arieh Warshel and two colleagues with the 2013 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the prize to Warshel, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, along with Michael Levitt of Stanford University and Martin Karplus of the Université de Strasbourg in France and Harvard University, for the development of multiscale models for complex chemical systems.

Warshel, Karplus and Levitt developed methods to model chemical reactions using computer simulations — a cornerstone of modern chemistry.

With the Swedish royal family on the right side of the stage at the Stockholm Concert Hall and the newly minted Nobel laureates on the left, Carl-Henrik Heldin, chairman of the board of directors of the Nobel Foundation, illuminated the history of the awards and the laureates’ visionary work. Each laureate received a medal, a diploma and a document confirming the Nobel Prize amount.

Warshel became the fourth Nobel laureate at USC, joining George Olah and Daniel McFadden, both of USC Dornsife, and Murray Gell-Mann of the Keck School of Medicine of USC.
My colleague Scott Fraser, who came to USC Dornsife from the California Institute of Technology last year, describes the USC campus as a playground. Without even questioning his word choice, Scott will recount how biologists and engineers make plans to “play” together. They compare ideas and goals, and work in teams to devise new ways to address long-standing issues.

The global challenges we face in 2014 are no doubt formidable, but at USC Dornsife, our faculty, researchers and students come prepared to address these problems enthusiastically and collaboratively. There is nothing like seeing a scientist’s eyes light up as he describes how a type of solar technology may hold the key to curing certain eye diseases or a student’s excitement when she secures an internship with a high-profile congresswoman.

It’s interesting — a good playground can be the glue that holds a community together. It’s where families meet and children learn to socialize and connect. Among many powerful examples of “play” at USC, we have students who introduce literature to local elementary school students through the Joint Educational Project (JEP), a faculty member who studies what it takes to motivate underserved youth to excel, and a graduate student who analyzes gratitude using the USC Shoah Foundation’s Visual History Archive of stories from genocide survivors, among so many other powerful examples.

My goal as dean of USC Dornsife is to make sure that we break out of the traditional academic bubble. After all, problems can’t be solved without dismantling boundaries, combining disciplines and looking far further than just inside our own textbooks, classrooms, city or even country for answers.

We must teach our students how to use their own resources to enact political change, imbuing public health initiatives with cultural sensitivity — or even cure cancer or arrest climate change by encouraging collaboration among scholars in different fields. In essence, Scott is right. USC is a playground — a playground for ideas, strategies, collaboration and, ultimately, solutions.

Steve Kay
Dean of USC Dornsife
Anna H. Bing Dean’s Chair
THE COMMUNITY ISSUE

18 The ABCs of JEP
You know your ABCs, but not like this. Learn interesting facts about The Joint Educational Project — from A to Z. By Pamela J. Johnson

26 Near and Far Ahead
On opposite sides of the globe, this trio of alumni share a commonality: They believe in something bigger than themselves. And they aren’t afraid of a challenge. By Susan Bell and Laura Paisley

32 ConvURGENT Bioscience
We know it’s spelled Convergent Bioscience. But USC Dornsife sees the urgency in this heads-up rather than heads-down research mentality. By Pamela J. Johnson

38 History in a Box
Explore the rich history of Los Angeles’ Boyle Heights with objects that make topics such as immigration, business and World War II come to life. By Pamela J. Johnson

42 Hearts in the Highlands
Students get their practical politics on with the help of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics and many other purveyors of opportunity at USC Dornsife. First stop, the White House. By Michelle Salzman Boston

48 A Wealth of Health
Battling serious health issues worldwide requires a little more ingenuity and a lot more cultural sensitivity. USC Dornsife faculty, students and alumni show you how it’s done. By Susan Bell

2 From the Dean

4 Life Line
Former first lady honored; USC Shoah Foundation commemorates 20 years; USC Trojan League of L.A. showcases USC Dornsife.

5 SOCIAL DORNSIFE
#20Qs4DeanK

6 FROM THE HEART OF USC
Mellon Foundation invests in digital humanities; Online psychology program debuts; Sophomores gain real-world job knowledge.

7 Curriculum

8 Archive

10 Profile

13 Lexicon

14 In the Field

16 Our World

52 DORNSIFE FAMILY
Scientists earn $1M prize from Israel; Alumna’s documentary shines light on Pakistani youth.

52 Legacy

53 Faculty News

54 Faculty Canon

56 Alumni Canon

58 Alumni News

62 Remembering

64 IN MY OPINION
Strong as Oak

ON THE COVER
USC Dornsife builds partnerships here, there and everywhere. Illustration by Letty Avila

Above: Paul Cummins ’67, founder of Coalition for Engaged Education, meets with program mentors Jesse Aguilar (right) and Edwin Rios.
Friends and colleagues honor LOIS BANNER, professor of history and gender studies, upon her retirement from teaching at USC Dornsife and reflect upon her contributions to the field of women’s history.

A $20 MILLION GIFT from anonymous donors ENDOWS STUDENT SUPPORT at USC Dornsife, the USC School of Social Work and the USC Marshall School of Business. This is one of the largest individual gifts for student support in USC’s history.

In celebration of INTERNATIONAL GIS DAY, students from USC Dornsife’s SPATIAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE launch a weather balloon with an infrared GoPro camera attached to demonstrate aerial mapping technology.

Tens of thousands of people worldwide watch USC Dornsife’s FIRST HOLIDAY VIDEO message, “We See Snow Differently: The Art and Science of Snow,” after it is featured by SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.

USC Dornsife’s CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION co-hosts an event honoring HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON with an award presented by the Mexican American Leadership Initiative (MALI) and the U.S.-Mexico Foundation.

“By thousands of our faculty and students joining forces across very different fields to begin to approach complex problems, we will define those ethereal unknowns.” DEAN STEVE KAY delivers the HERBERT G. KLEIN LECTURE ON CIVIC AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP, noting the importance of interdisciplinarity, convergence and translation in USC Dornsife’s efforts to improve the world.

“Difficult to attain or involves activities that seem identity-incongruent, then we often tend to behave as if there is no need to get going right now.” DAPHNA OYSERMAN, Dean’s Professor of Psychology, explains why we often achieve less than we aspire to and offers solutions to help attain our goals during a DEAN’S SPECIAL LECTURE.

The TROJAN LEAGUE OF LOS ANGELES showcases USC Dornsife at its annual benefit and luncheon with programs hosted by USC Dornsife faculty and a keynote address by alumna Ann Muscat ’83.

“I believe the work of the USC Shoah Foundation is the most important legacy of Schindler’s List.” Award-winning filmmaker and USC Trustee STEVEN SPIELBERG in the introduction of the new book, Testimony: The Legacy of Schindler’s List and the USC Shoah Foundation — A 20th Anniversary Commenoration (Harper Collins, 2014).

Friends and colleagues honor LOIS BANNER, professor of history and gender studies, upon her retirement from teaching at USC Dornsife and reflect upon her contributions to the field of women’s history.
What exam are you studying for?

“My final in global economics. I feel prepared. Next semester I’ll be studying abroad in Brazil taking international relations courses and studying Portuguese. My concentration is in Latin America. I eventually want to work in Brazil, so I want to familiarize myself with the culture and the economy.” — Sharon Nasubo, junior, international relations major

A dozen buildings at USC were recently designated Historic Cultural Monuments by the Los Angeles City Council. Mudd Hall of Philosophy was included on the list. No wonder.

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#20Qs4DeanK
To celebrate his one-year anniversary as dean of USC Dornsife, Steve Kay invited the USC Dornsife community to submit questions for him on Twitter at @DeanSteveKay using the hashtag #20Qs4DeanK. From his views on what makes good science to his favorite summer job (the answer might surprise you), here are Dean Kay’s answers to the questions he received from USC students, faculty, staff and friends.

@FighTINGonUSC: What have you discovered to be the most unique about USC Dornsife students? #happyoneyear
@DeanSteveKay: I think USC Dornsife students have an insatiable intellectual curiosity, which they want to satisfy both in the classroom, and beyond our borders throughout the world.

@DeanSteveKay: Working commercial offshore lobster boats in the North Sea. After that, nothing is scary.
@EvilElvis: What was your favorite summer job?

@jakesoll: What makes good science?
@DeanSteveKay: Courage; pushing boundaries; being rigorous; developing new tools; not hanging around a problem to dot i’s & cross t’s

@DeanSteveKay: Rigorous science has the ability to detect problems, but then must synthesize solutions that are both global and local. We must become more predictive in our understanding of humanity.
@StephensTweets: How can science best improve the world when so many of the world’s problems are manmade?

@DeanSteveKay: How can science best improve the world when so many of the world’s problems are manmade?
@DeanSteveKay: Course; pushing boundaries; being rigorous; developing new tools; not hanging around a problem to dot i’s & cross t’s

To celebrate his one-year anniversary as dean of USC Dornsife, Steve Kay invited the USC Dornsife community to submit questions for him on Twitter at @DeanSteveKay using the hashtag #20Qs4DeanK. From his views on what makes good science to his favorite summer job (the answer might surprise you), here are Dean Kay’s answers to the questions he received from USC students, faculty, staff and friends.

Activate Issue Extras
Augmented Reality (AR) app

The world of letters, arts and sciences goes beyond the pages you’re holding in your hands. We invite you to use your smartphone or tablet to view exclusive multimedia content about our community of scholars.

1. Download the USC Dornsife Augmented Reality (AR) app on your smartphone or tablet via your mobile app store. The app is available for Android and iOS (iPhone/iPad).

2. Look for the cardinal extra content buttons throughout the magazine to learn which pages have more to discover.

3. Open the USC Dornsife AR app and hold your device 8–12” from the page. Wait for the content to load.

4. The app will launch enhanced content that brings to life the printed page.

No mobile device?
Relax — videos are also at dornsife.usc.edu

Extras Include:

SELFIE
Watch as professors across a best of academic disciplines define Oxford English Dictionary’s “word of the year.”
Page 13

THE ABCs OF JEP
Learn more from past and current participants in one of the country’s oldest and largest service-learning programs.
Page 18

HEARTS IN THE HIGHLANDS
Explore how the Unruh Institute of Politics motivates students to become active in the world of politics.
Page 42

No mobile device?
Relax — videos are also at dornsife.usc.edu
$1.9 Million for Digital Humanities

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation award reflects the quality of humanities faculty at USC Dornsife and the cross-disciplinary research potential. by Carl Marziali

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded USC a $1.9 million grant to support a program of graduate and postdoctoral training in the digital humanities.

The foundation makes grants on a selective basis in the areas of higher education, humanities and the arts. It has been a long-standing benefactor to USC, supporting, in addition to this gift, a wide array of university initiatives.

The award enables research universities and liberal arts colleges to equip growing cohorts of faculty and students to conduct research, teach and learn with the tools and protocols of the digital humanities.

USC is committed to investing at least $1 billion in support of digital knowledge and informatics over the next decade.

“USC is already a world leader in digital media and informatics,” said Elizabeth Garrett, the university’s provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. “This award will help to enhance our teaching and scholarship through new ways to explore and communicate.”

The university can call upon unique strengths, such as the USC Digital Repository, which includes more than 52,000 digitized, indexed and fully searchable testimonials from the USC Shoah Foundation — the Institute for Visual History and Education, housed at USC Dornsife, and the expertise and equipment of the nation’s No. 1 cinema school, particularly its Media Arts + Practice doctoral program.

“As a huge proponent of interdisciplinary study and training, I am excited to help USC emerge as a leading institution connecting technology, hard data and the humanities,” USC Dornsife Dean Steve Kay said. “I believe that the programs established through this grant will offer our stellar scholars the tools they will need to effect lasting change in their fields and in society.”

In an arrangement intended to promote the spread of digital scholarship, all researchers supported by the Mellon grant will agree to make their digital sources available to the scholarly community through the Digital Repository.

The award also reflects the quality of humanities faculty in USC Dornsife as well as the cross-disciplinary research potential at the many centers and institutes that attract scholars from around the university, said Peter Mancall, the grant’s principal investigator and vice dean for the humanities at USC Dornsife.

Said Mancall, Mellon Professor of the Humanities and Linda and Harlan Martens Director of the Early Modern Studies Institute: “We’re at a really early phase. The digital humanities will embrace new ways of doing research.”
Curriculum

The passing troupe of blue-uniformed grade school children on a visit to the University Park campus nudged each other and pointed at the sky. Nearly 300 feet in the air, a large white weather balloon sailed over Alumni Park. Darren Ruddell and students from his “Maps and Spatial Reasoning” class launched the helium-filled weather balloon on Geographic Information Systems Day Nov. 20. Attached to the balloon, a camera with a wide-angle lens took photographs every two seconds. Later, students downloaded the images onto a computer, “knitting” them together into a mosaic map. This technology can help in disaster response, landscape architecture, transportation planning, renewable energy and inner-city renewal.

The course examines the role of maps and spatial reasoning in the production and use of geographic information. It is part of the geodesign degree launched by the Spatial Sciences Institute in Fall 2013. The first of its kind in the world, the new major is a joint effort among USC Dornsife, the USC School of Architecture and the USC Price School of Public Policy.

“Many problems we currently face as a society could reap huge benefits from spatial analysis,” Ruddell said, adding that the balloon project could be used to formulate emergency evacuation plans by working out the nearest exit points from particular buildings. — S.B.
SUMMER OLYMPICS
Los Angeles, Calif., 1984

In 1984 — the era of cherry-red Pontiac Fieros, Wham!, and the Ghostbusters blockbuster — Angelenos took the world stage as hosts of the Summer Olympics.

Los Angeles secured the hosting bid from rivals New York City and Tehran, Iran, to become the only city to host the modern games twice (the first time was in 1932). To control expenses, the City of Angels mostly utilized existing venues. One exception was the swimming stadium built at USC's University Park campus. (A dining hall near the Lyon Center was named Café 84 in honor of the Games of the XXIII Olympiad.) Another exception was the velodrome constructed at California State University, Dominguez Hills. Both were paid for through corporate funds.

"With massive use of corporate sponsorships, the L.A. Olympics were the first in recent history to actually make money," said Phil Ethington, professor of history, political science and spatial sciences. "In addition, it became a major celebration of U.S. patriotism. Sadly, the Soviet Union was boycotting the games so the U.S. won far more medals than normal, and the press celebrated those victories with uninhibited enthusiasm."

In the end, the United States earned 174 medals, including 83 golds. With 36 Trojan athletes competing in the games, some golden victories went to USC Dornsife alumni, including basketballer Pam McGee (B.A., social sciences, '84), volleyballer Pat Powers (B.A., psychology, '81), and swimmers Jeff Float (B.A., psychology, '83) and Michael O'Brien (B.A., pharmaceutical sciences, '88). — D.K.
Floating Mountains

The Atlas Mountains in Morocco are buoyed up by superhot rock, a USC Dornsife study published in Geology finds.

The Atlas Mountains defy the standard model for mountain structure, in which high topography must have deep roots for support, according to a study from earth scientists at USC Dornsife.

In a new model, the researchers show that the mountains are floating on a layer of superhot rock that flows beneath the region’s lithosphere, perhaps all the way from the volcanic Canary Islands, just offshore northwestern Africa.

“Our findings confirm that mountain structures and their formation are far more complex than previously believed,” said lead author Meghan Miller, assistant professor of earth sciences.

The study, co-authored by Thorsten Becker, professor of earth sciences, was published by Geology on Jan. 1, 2014, and highlighted by Nature Geoscience.

A well-established model for the Earth’s lithosphere suggests that the height of the Earth’s crust must be supported by a commensurate depth, similar to how a tall iceberg doesn’t simply float on the surface of the water but instead rests on a large submerged mass of ice. This property is known as “isostasy.”

“The Atlas Mountains are at present out of balance, likely due to a confluence of existing lithospheric strength anomalies and deep mantle dynamics,” Becker said.

Miller and Becker used seismometers to measure the thickness of the lithosphere—the Earth’s rigid outermost layer—beneath the Atlas Mountains in Morocco. By analyzing 67 distant seismic events with 15 seismometers, their team was able to use the Earth’s vibrations to “see” into the deep subsurface.

The research group found that the actual depth of the mountains conflicted with current traditional models by about 9 miles.

“This study shows that deformation can be observed through the entire lithosphere and contributes to mountain building even far away from plate boundaries,” Miller said.

Miller’s laboratory is currently conducting further research into the timing and effects of the mountain building on other geological processes.

This research was funded by the National Science Foundation. —R.P.

Mastering Human Behavior

The Master of Science in Applied Psychology degree program is now offered online.

The on-campus and online degree programs are led by Ellen Leggett, who joined USC Dornsife in Fall 2013.

Leggett is a nationally renowned expert in the psychology of jury decision-making. For more than 20 years, she has assisted trial lawyers and witnesses in complex, high-stakes cases, personally designing, conducting and interpreting empirical research on jury decision-making. In 1996, she founded her own consulting firm, Leggett Jury Research, LLC.

Her clients include government agencies as well as firms in the aerospace, automobile, banking, accounting, healthcare, technology, pharmaceuticals, real estate and retail.

She also brings substantial experience in academic administration. Leggett has been a professor, researcher and administrator at Cornell University, Scripps College and the University of California, Riverside.

Leggett earned her master’s and doctoral degrees in psychology and education at Harvard University, and her bachelor’s from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. She is a member of the American Psychological Association and the American Society of Trial Consultants.

“The best career preparation students can receive is in critical thinking,” Leggett said. “It is the most versatile skill to propel students’ careers into the future world of work.” —M.S.B.
Actress and humanitarian Angelina Jolie directed Unbroken, the life story of war hero and USC alumnus Louis Zamperini. The film will be in theaters on Dec. 25, 2014.
COURAGEOUS COMRADES

Louis Zamperini just turned 97. This gets him reflecting on how to live a long life.

“People always talk about diet,” Zamperini says. “But it’s not diet.”

His disarming blue eyes twinkle. For a man who has weathered so much and is still here to tell the tale, you’re inclined to lean in when he offers his wisdom.

“The secret of longevity is attitude,” he says.

He quotes the apostle Paul in Philippians 4:12-13. “I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well-fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.”

Zamperini has been in some extraordinary situations himself — enough to capture the attention of actress and filmmaker Angelina Jolie, who is directing a movie about his life.

Now sitting in the sunroom of his Hollywood Hills home, he looks out over a sea of palm trees, their fronds shimmering in the sunlight. The city of Los Angeles unfurls toward the horizon.

Adorning a foyer wall is a large black-and-white photograph of silent film star Theda Bara, the first occupant of the house built in 1920. The rooms are replete with photographs, medals, trophies and other memorabilia from his USC days as a sprinter and his time in the Air Force during World War II.

Born in Olean, N.Y., to Italian immigrants, Zamperini and his family soon moved to Torrance, Calif. He started out as a bit of a troublemaker, getting into fights and hopping trains to Mexico. Eventually he discovered that a better outlet for his energies was running. He joined the Torrance High School track team and excelled. In 1936, he was admitted to USC Dornsife as a physical education major on an athletic scholarship. He immediately began training for the Summer Olympics in Berlin, where he placed eighth in the 5,000-meter run. After the race, he was singled out by Adolf Hitler.

As light bulbs flashed, Hitler’s top propagandist invited the young American athlete to shake hands with the Nazi leader. “Aha! The boy with the fast finish!” Hitler told Zamperini through an English interpreter.

“It wasn’t until many years later that I looked back and realized I’d shaken hands with the worst tyrant the world has ever known,” Zamperini said.

When World War II broke out in 1939, Zamperini’s Olympic dreams were set aside.

While serving as an Air Force bombardier, his plane went down amid the Pacific Ocean. He and two other survivors spent the next 47 days adrift on a lifeboat, subsisting on tiny fish, sharks, birds and rainwater. They were eventually found — but by the Japanese. Zamperini spent the next two years in prisoner-of-war camps enduring physical abuse and near-starvation.

After the U.S. government told his family he was dead, Zamperini returned from the war very much alive. His service earned him three Purple Hearts, a Distinguished Flying Cross and a Prisoner of War Medal.


“It’s called Unbroken because I’m a stubborn Trojan,” Zamperini explains. “They’d have to kill me before I’d give in.”

Jolie told Zamperini she read the book twice without stopping before deciding to make the movie for Universal. She then invited Zamperini and his family to meet her and life partner Brad Pitt in person.

“The first thing she did was hug me,” Zamperini recalls.

“She said something else and hug me again. I kept looking at Brad, but he never said a word. When it was time to leave, she gave me another big hug.

“I finally told my son, ‘Go stand in front of Brad,’ ” he jokes.

In the Hollywood Hills, Jolie, Pitt and Zamperini are practically neighbors. Sometimes Jolie climbs up on her roof to wave at Zamperini, and she flies an American flag in his honor. They often visit each other at their respective homes, and last year, when Zamperini turned 96, Jolie and Pitt threw him a birthday party.

Zamperini’s daughter, Cynthia Garris, said her father was hired as a consultant for the film, participating in many meetings with Jolie and the writers. The film’s scope includes everything from Zamperini’s childhood to his return from the war.

“My father’s gift for detail and memory is phenomenal,” Garris says.

The extensive ocean and wartime aviation scenes made for difficult shooting.

“Anytime it gets tough, we think of the real men who lived through this, and no one complains,” Jolie told Entertainment Weekly.

Zamperini and Jolie’s friendship deepened after he heard the news about her 2013 double mastectomy. This was an elective procedure based on Jolie’s genetic propensity toward breast cancer.

As a gesture of support and recognition of her courage, the war hero presented Jolie with one of his Purple Hearts.

It moved her to tears. —L.P.

So, What Will You Be?

The Second-Year Inquiry program helps students explore professional pathways and connects them with USC’s extensive network of career resources.

Kenneth Geller set an imaginary scene for his undergraduate students: “You’re a doctor. Your patient is an 18-month-old child. His mother reports he has a fever and he’s been pulling at his ear.

“What do you ask?”

As students called out questions, Geller guided them through creating a patient history and diagnosis. Co-taught by Geller, associate professor of clinical otolaryngology, “Contemporary Issues and Cases in Health Care” introduces students to health care career paths.

“I’m pre-med so I’m looking at the different areas of medicine I can go into,” said health and humanities major Kacie Amacher. “This class is a great way to get an overview of the different medical professions.”

The course is part of USC Dornsife’s Second-Year Inquiry (SYI) program, which launched in Fall 2013 to help students hone in on what to pursue professionally and how to achieve their goals. SYI courses and workshops — covering a range of topics including economics, law and psychology — are geared toward sophomores.

As second-year students, sophomores are in a prime position to dig in to questions about their undergraduate goals, said Octavio Avila, director of student special services.

“Now that they have settled into college life they can determine what they really want their educational experiences to consist of,” he said.

Students in this program put theory into practice through internships.

“It’s a way for them to determine if they’re on an academic path that aligns with their aspirations,” Avila said.

“The broader perspective is, what do you want to do with your life?” —M.S.B.
A Deeper Connection

A $6.6 million gift from the Shinnyo-en Buddhist order supports the newly named USC Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture.  by Michelle Salzman Boston

The Shinnyo-en Buddhist order has made a historic $6.6 million gift for the study of Japan to USC Dornsife. The newly named USC Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture was established in 2011 to serve as a hub for the study of Japan at the university. The new name honors Shinnyo-en’s current leader, Shinso Ito.

Shinnyo-en’s support for USC’s center represents one of the largest gifts ever given to a center dedicated to the study of Japan in North America. Shinnyo-en is an international Buddhist order of nearly a million practitioners that promotes an inclusive and innovative pathway to enlightenment, the values of peaceful coexistence with other religions, and a culture of service to others in need.

“The USC Shinso Ito Center carries a deep-seated mission to use the teaching of religion and culture to actively engage our students, said Steve Kay, dean of USC Dornsife, which houses the center. “But it is because of philanthropic gestures such as this that USC can be a leader among American universities in contributing to the strengthened partnership with Japan that I know we all envision for the future.”

The gift will enhance the center’s mission to promote the study of Japanese religions and culture at USC, and in the broader intellectual community of Japanese studies. Founded under Director Duncan Williams, chair of USC Dornsife’s School of Religion, the center seeks to support the study of Japan’s culture, history and contemporary relevance through translational research projects.

“Shinnyo-en deeply appreciates the commitment of the USC Center for Japanese Religions and Culture for its deep and sensitive explorations of many aspects of Japanese culture through the study of international relations, society, the arts, media and religion,” said the Rev. Minoru Shitara, director of Shinnyo-en’s international affairs department.

“Shinnyo-en views this support of the center as an expression of our common purpose with USC to educate people from diverse backgrounds to become effective agents for understanding, peace and harmony in the world.”

Williams said he is grateful to Her Holiness Shinso Ito and to all Shinnyo-en leaders and members for believing in the work of the USC Shinso Ito Center.

“With this generous gift, the center will continue to deepen the understanding between the peoples of Japan and America by promoting study of Japan, study in Japan and study with Japan,” Williams said. “And, in its work, the center hopes to bring to the world the wisdom and the compassion that Her Holiness teaches.”

The center is one of the most active for Japan studies in the United States, hosting weekly events and seminars that bring scholars from Japan and around the world, in dialogue with students, thought leaders and the general public. Current research directed by the center focuses on various aspects of Japanese religions and cultures while functioning like a think tank. Projects examine the future of Japan, such as how its aging society affects labor, taxation, pension and health care issues.

The center’s Hybrid Japan Innovation Lab studies Japan’s role on the global stage in the 21st century. The Hapa Japan Database Project examines hapa, or multi-ethnic, Japanese populations throughout history and current representations of mixed-ethnicity Japanese identity.

National leaders took note of the gift’s significance.

“This historic gift of $6.6 million from the Shinnyo-en organization to USC represents an important moment in the relationship between the United States and Japan,” U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy said. “Promoting cross-cultural ties and mutual understanding between the U.S. and Japan is more important now than ever before.”

**FROM THE HEART OF USC**

**Word**

**IN THE NEWS QUOTABLES**

“There’s some uncertainty of course, but as we play out with a warming world the general prediction is that California is set to get drier.”

SARAH FEAKINS, assistant professor of earth sciences, in a Jan. 19 interview with News Conference about the droughts in California.

“If you practice going for a walk every evening when you get home from work, then after a while, when you enter your house, thoughts of going for a walk spring to mind.”

WENDY WOOD, Provost Professor of Psychology and Business, in a Jan. 1 interview with NBC News on forming positive habits.

“You can’t have a city of only rich people. A city needs restaurant workers, a city needs schoolteachers, a city needs taxi drivers.”

KEVIN STARR. University Professor and professor of history, and policy, planning and development, in a New York Times Nov. 25 story about the widening socioeconomic disparities in San Francisco.

“I think when we have a few more Mandelas in the 21st century, we might save our planet from self-destruction.”

SELFIE

\{ˈselfɪ\} noun \[From Dutch zelf and German selber\] a. A photographic self-portrait taken with a webcam or mobile device such as an iPhone or iPad, and disseminated through social media sites such as Instagram, Facebook or Twitter. Usually taken from a flattering angle, often showing one having fun with friends, in enviable surroundings or in a bizarre location.

 Origins: “Selfie” originated in Australia on an internet forum in 2002. The genre and word became common after the iPhone 4 introduced a front-facing camera device in 2010. “Selfie” was named one of Time’s “top 10 buzzwords” of 2012 and Oxford Dictionaries’ “word of the year” in 2013. The #SelfieOlympics, in which people compete to take the most outlandish self-portrait possible, became a Twitter meme in January 2014.

Usage: “Took this selfie to show everyone how cold it is at the MLA Convention in Chicago! And ‘cos I look cute in a silly hat, LOL!”

Kate Flint is Provost Professor of English and Art History, and chair of the Department of Art History. She teaches the course “Writing and Photography” for Thematic Option, USC’s honors general education program, and is completing a book on the cultural history of flash photography.
AN IDEA BLOSSOMS
From her kitchen window across from L.A.’s Park La Brea, Antonia Szabari watched as gardeners ripped out beds of slightly wilted pink peonies, stuffed them into plastic bags, then replanted fresh flowers.

Szabari, associate professor of French and Italian, and comparative literature, was crestfallen.

“It got me thinking about people’s emotional relationship with plants: Is it something culturally constructed? Does it have a history?”

Natania Meeker shared Szabari’s interest in exploring the topic. Both teach Aristotle’s theory of souls, which postulates that in the hierarchy of beings — humans, animals and plants — plants contain a vegetal soul.

“I found this an interesting way to begin to think about the plant because it suggested to me that the plant has a kind of specificity as a life form,” said Meeker, associate professor of French, and comparative literature, and chair of French and Italian.

Together, the professors are tracing the long history of literary, cinematic and artistic representations of plants from the 17th century to the present. Their book, *The Animated Plant: Vegetal Imaginaries from Early to Late Modernity*, is in progress, with plans to submit it for publication in the summer of 2015.

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**A HISTORY OF THE ANIMATED PLANT IN FILM, LITERATURE AND ART**

- 2008
  - Dornith Doherty’s art collection *Archiving Eden* (ongoing)
- 1978
  - The French film *Les Raisins de la Mort* (The Grapes of Death)
- 1966
  - Colette’s book *Earthly Paradise*
- 1963
  - The film *The Day of the Triffids*
- 1951
  - John Wyndham’s novel *The Day of the Triffids*
- 1791
  - Erasmus Darwin’s poems, “Economy of Vegetation” and “The Loves of the Plants”
- 1748
  - Julien Offray de la Mettrie’s book, *Man a Plant*
- 1657-62
  - Cyrano de Bergerac’s novel *Voyages to the Moon and the Sun*
The Holy Grail of Biology

USC Dornsife faculty find a mathematical model that sheds light on the human immune system.

USC Dornsife scientists have created a mathematical model explaining and predicting the biological process that creates antibody diversity — the phenomenon that keeps us healthy by generating robust immune systems.

The work is a collaboration between Chi Mak, professor and chair of chemistry, and Myron Goodman, professor of biological sciences and chemistry.

“To me, it was the holy grail,” Goodman said. “We can now predict the motion of a key enzyme that initiates hypermutations in immunoglobulin [Ig] genes.”

Goodman first described the process that creates antibody diversity two years ago. In short, an enzyme called “activation-induced deoxycytidine deaminase” (AID) moves up and down single-stranded DNA that encodes the pattern for antibodies and sporadically alters the strand by converting one nitrogen base to another, called “deamination.” The change creates DNA with a different pattern — a mutation.

These mutations, which AID creates a million times more often than would otherwise occur, generate antibodies of many sorts — giving a person protection against germs that one’s body hasn’t yet seen.

“It’s why when I sneeze, you don’t die,” Goodman said.

The collaboration with Mak, Goodman said, resulted in a rigorous mathematical model that describes the enzyme’s motion and interaction with the DNA and an algorithm for directly reading out AID’s dynamics from the mutation patterns.

At the time, Mak was working on the mathematics of quantum mechanics. Using similar techniques, Mak was able to help generate the model, which has been shown through testing to be accurate.

“Mathematics is the universal language behind physical science, but its central role in interpreting biology is just beginning to be recognized,” Mak said.

Goodman and Mak collaborated on the research with Phuong Pham, assistant research professor of biological sciences, and Samir Afif, a graduate student at USC Dornsife. An article on their work, which appeared in print in The Journal of Biological Chemistry in October 2014, was selected by the journal as a “paper of the week.”

Next, the team will generalize the mathematical model to study the real-life action of AID as it initiates mutations during the transcription of Ig variable and constant regions, which is the process needed to generate immunodiversity in human B-cells. —R.P.

Economic Thinking

The USC Dornsife Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET) will work with researchers university-wide.

Based in the Department of Economics, USC Dornsife will launch the USC Dornsife Institute for New Economic Thinking (USC Dornsife INET), which will bolster research in globalization and regulation of financial institutions as well as collaboration with schools and institutes across the university.

New York-based INET supports economics scholars by providing finances, advice and access to thousands of like-minded individuals.

INET President Robert Johnson said the field of economics needs fundamental renewal.

“Our new institutional partnership with USC will help us make a vital contribution to reinvigorating discourse and to overcoming the resistances to the sorely needed evolution of economics and social sciences in the face of urgent human challenges,” Johnson said.

The collaboration between INET and USC Dornsife comes with direction from Hashem Pesaran, the John Elliott Distinguished Chair in Economics, professor of economics, and director of the USC Center for Applied Financial Economics.

“Our partnership with INET validates us on a national scale,” USC Dornsife Dean Steve Kay said. “What INET sees in USC Dornsife is not only that we’ve been able to land stars recently in the general areas of economics and applied economics, but that we are committed to strengthening our economics department for the next several years.” —P.J.J.
In From the Cold

USC Dornsife’s Professor Steven Lamy travels to Reykjavik, Iceland, to present his views on Arctic security in the context of climate change during the first global forum to discuss cooperation on major issues impacting the region.

As climate change melts the polar ice caps, threatening wildlife, disrupting the food chain and affecting indigenous cultures, it has also created economic opportunities by opening up new shipping routes and accelerated the scramble for the region’s valuable oil and mineral deposits.

As a result, the Arctic, one of the world’s coldest regions, is transforming into a metaphorical global hotspot, which many predict could be the site of major international conflict.

While Steven Lamy, professor of international relations and vice dean of academic programs at USC Dornsife, does not share this pessimistic view, he believes the region faces serious challenges. He presented his analysis of Arctic security issues at the first Arctic Circle Assembly, a global forum for international cooperation on Arctic issues held in October 2013 in Reykjavik, Iceland.

“It was refreshing to see a thousand people there, all of whom are concerned about the Arctic,” Lamy said.

From 40 nations, attendees included political and business leaders, indigenous representatives, nongovernmental and environmental representatives, policy leaders, scientists, activists and students.

As a member of the Northern Research Forum, an international group interested in Arctic academic policy issues, Lamy’s presentation addressed the political and military repercussions of dealing with complex issues of sovereignty and governance in the region.

“Unlike Antarctica, which has no sovereignty issues, when you look at the Arctic region, there are states that fall inside the Arctic Circle and have legitimate claims of sovereignty,” Lamy said. This raises questions of who will govern the area.

“I believe the Arctic Council is the way to go but I think you’ve got to give it some teeth,” Lamy said, adding that the United States suffers from too much political polarization at home to take a leading role in the Arctic.
The photographs show a reflection of hope. Examples are images taken by USC Neighborhood Academic Initiative (NAI) students at the USC campus. Photos show students studying in class, campus buildings and the Trojan Marching Band.

“They loved the USC campus because it was the one place they felt peaceful and safe,” said Elaine Bell Kaplan, associate professor of sociology, referring to the subjects of her new book, “We Live in the Shadow: Inner City Kids Tell Their Stories through Photographs” (Temple University Press, 2013).

“USC is a place where people, other than their family, really cared about them,” Kaplan said.

The book is a result of a two-year study that Kaplan undertook with 54 South Los Angeles middle school students. Most were participants in NAI, which prepares low-income children for higher education.

The book cover depicts a photograph of railroad tracks taken by Cesar Hernandez, a 12-year-old NAI student. “I will do something with my life,” he said.

Of Shadow and Light

Sociologist Elaine Bell Kaplan uses inner-city children’s photographs of their environments to help confront their challenges and express their optimism.

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THE ABCs OF JEP
Conflict is the beginning of consciousness. That was Barbara Seaver Gardner’s take when surrounding neighbors perceived USC as an ivory tower. Reaching out, she founded USC Dornsife’s Joint Educational Project in 1972. Her service-learning program in neighborhood schools has fundamentally changed relations with the surrounding community while empowering youth and USC students.

USC Dornsife alumna Jazmin Vidana is among more than 70,000 USC students who have collectively contributed a million hours of service. Vidana remembered making flashcards for a kindergartner who could not grasp the days of the week.

So she drew Joel hopscotch squares marked with the days of week. Finally, on the semester’s last day, an excited Joel, his hair spiked up with gel, came running toward Vidana.

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

Heartfelt anecdotes are one way to convey the effects of JEP. But here’s a variety of JEP’s programs and people — from A to Z.

By Pamela J. Johnson

All Together Room
On the ground floor of the JEP House, you’ll find the speckled letters “ATR” on a wall of the “All Together Room.” A hub of activity, it is where JEP’s 30 student program assistants act as peer educators and train incoming students. It is a second home, where students come not only to work, but to study or simply socialize — especially in times when a little “family love” is needed.

Badge
We don’t need no stinkin’ badges. Or do we? Over the past year, JEP has explored the potential of “digital badges” to engage students who participate in its programs. Digital badges are a 21st-century adaptation of the concept underlying Boy and Girl Scout badges. Learners who demonstrate particular skills and competencies earn digital credentials that can be shared online. Digital badge systems integrate the learning of management systems such as Blackboard. They encourage community building while introducing a way to recognize excellence.
AMÉRICA FERRERA, USC Dornsife alumna, Emmy Award-winning actress and former JEP volunteer, delivers the keynote address during JEP’s 40th anniversary celebration. “JEP sparked a flame in me and that flame is still burning.”

**Chefs**
From out of the classroom and into the kitchen, JEP uses many creative ways to teach children academic subjects — including dressing them in chef hats and teaching them to create a dish. Sometimes this is a dish of ice cream. In a chemistry lesson, USC students made ice cream to teach children about changing states of matter, for example, from liquid to solid. In a lesson about French culture, they made strawberry crepes. When they learned about healthy eating, children made spaghetti out of squash.

**Dornsife**
Although initially housed under USC’s Center for Urban Affairs, the administration of JEP is now part of the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. A fitting home for JEP, USC Dornsife offers more than 140 majors and minors as well as myriad opportunities for students to connect community service and academic coursework. Whether enrolled in astronomy or anthropology, USC Dornsife students learn how to apply their lessons to the real world and benefit from the rich cultures in surrounding schools.

**Environment**
Critical topics such as the environment are emphasized in schools. Take one USC Young Scientists Program in which JEP students held a workshop at Vermont Avenue Elementary School on sustainability — a word that doesn’t always roll off the tongues of 10 year olds. Likewise, the concept of sustainable living isn’t so easy for children to wrap their heads around. But these fourth and fifth graders got it. “If you don’t recycle, trash will be all over the place,” said fourth grader Cindy Morales.

**Football**
In the Spring of 1972 when JEP announced it was recruiting undergraduates to participate in the first-ever effort to tutor Spanish-speaking elementary school students at 32nd Street School, USC quarterback Patrick Haden (now USC’s athletic director) and USC wide receiver Lynn Swann immediately got involved. Haden and Swann spent two hours a week teaching English to Spanish-speaking children. Now, each year, some 2,000 students from various courses earn academic credit for their participation in JEP.
IR Explore
Before graduating in 2013, international relations major Travis Glynn, recipient of Harry S. Truman and Fulbright scholarships, founded IR Explore. The program trains international relations students to teach local grade school students about global topics. For instance, at Magnolia Avenue Elementary School, JEP students talked to third graders about immigration and its impact on the cultural diversity of Los Angeles. Topics discussed included culture, tolerance and conflict management.

Justice
The Pre-Law Project, developed by Kelley Lowe, a JEP staff member and student at the USC Gould School of Law, provides pre-law students with practical legal experience. During the pilot project, nearly 20 pre-law students worked at a public interest firm assisting clients with their legal needs. Nearly half the volunteers interned at Bet Tzedek, a public interest firm serving 12,000 low-income Angelenos each year. Students worked as intake and legal assistants in the Self-Help Conservatorship Clinic.

House
The brick-colored, two-story Victorian house located at 801 West 34th Street has quietly observed life at the University Park campus for more than 100 years. Once home to USC’s fourth president, George Finley Bovard and his family, the house became JEP’s home in 1976 and has been a symbol of the organization’s dedication to reaching out to the Los Angeles community ever since. In 2012, the JEP House underwent a major renovation to upgrade, modernize and provide more space for the growing program.

Gift
In March 2013, the Tesoriero family made a gift that marked the first naming of a space in the JEP House. The Tesoriero’s donation supports JEP’s Readers Plus Library, which houses publications and resources used by literacy tutors to teach school children. The library contains books in English and Spanish that range from Dr. Seuss’ *Green Eggs and Ham* to the Harry Potter series. The space is now called the Tesoriero Family Readers Plus Library.
Kids
Children in the USC Family of Schools — 15 schools near the University Park and Health Sciences campuses — benefit from JEP. In addition to classroom lessons, JEP strives to make the community's rich resources — including its institutions of higher learning, museums, libraries and recreational facilities — accessible to neighborhood children. But that’s not all. JEP works with a few dozen nonprofits, shelters, medical centers, foster youth and arts organizations — to name a handful.

Leadership
It's not just JEP’s 40-plus-year history that makes it a leader in the service-learning movement, but its long-serving staff with their 100-plus-years of experience. At any one time, they joined forces with more than 125 professors and courses. Each semester, staff place an average of 1,000 students in more than 50 community sites. “Students provide a much-needed service, and learn more about themselves, their abilities, and the society they may soon lead,” Executive Director Tammara Anderson said.

Medicine
As a biological sciences undergraduate, Daniel Potter wanted to become a doctor, but found it difficult to gain firsthand experience at local clinics or hospitals. “You’d call to volunteer and they wouldn’t know what to do with you,” Potter said. “There was a market; students would benefit from volunteerism and facilities would benefit from the help. With Trojan Health Volunteers (THV), I put those two things together.” Before graduating in 1987, Potter established THV, which thrives today under JEP.

Nickel
Financial literacy is crucial for all ages and occupations. For many years, JEP has partnered with a nearby shelter for abused women and their families. There, USC students are placed as either tutors to the children or in mini-course teams leading classes such as “Financial Literacy” for youth exiting the foster care system. Students teach the best way to manage money and how money works around the world: how people buy, sell, invest and donate. And perhaps most importantly, how to save money.
ZAKAR MARTIN, a then fourth-grader at 32nd Street School, participates in the Young Scientist Program’s Energy and Motion Studio and builds his own lemon battery.

“I liked science before, but I really like it now. What I like most about it is learning that an everyday fruit can make energy.”

**Questions**

Each week, JEP students respond to a set of “reflective questions” designed to help them connect their coursework with what they are learning in the community. The curricula, developed by a team of graduate students in collaboration with JEP staff and faculty, help students ask critical questions about the causes of social problems, the state of urban education, the responsibilities of universities working in communities, and how academic disciplines might be informed by service learning.

**Optometric Center of Los Angeles**

JEPS students offer support at an eye care center that’s been in the community since 1904 — the Optometric Center of Los Angeles (OCLA). In their service-learning assignments, students receive course credit for their Spanish 220 class, while also gaining real-world experience applying their language skills. About 70 percent of OCLA patients are Spanish speakers, so students provide translations for patients coming into the clinic and make calls to confirm appointments or pick-ups of glasses.

**Prom Dress**

From A Place Called Home to the Wage Justice Center, JEP has dozens of community partners. In the past, JEP students have gone into rehabilitation centers to mentor juveniles. In one case, JEP student Antonia Arenas fusses over Melissa’s hair and makeup on the girl’s high school prom day. During that visit, Melissa slipped on her pink chiffon prom dress and silver heels — a profound transformation from her baggy gray sweatpants uniform. “It took me a while to realize that people do care about me,” she said.

**ReadersPlus**

Introduced in 1997 as part of the America Reads Initiative, the USC Readers™ program places approximately 80 to 100 trained, work-study students each semester into partner schools, and each year provides more than 30,000 hours of individualized academic assistance in reading and math to neighborhood elementary school students. The program has been deemed by local principals “the best USC program in the community.” The “plus” is math, which became part of the program in 1999 with America Counts.

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“Our students are a testament to the notion that universities and their communities can work together toward mutually beneficial goals.”

Saturn
When JEP students teach children about astronomy, they talk about the sixth planet from the sun, the ringed Saturn. Solar system lessons are just one part of JEP’s Wonderkids program. The afterschool program for first through third graders focuses on various areas of science through hands-on lesson plans and books. Scientists from different fields also visit classrooms to encourage students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Tent
Legend has it that Barbara Seaver Gardner was quite a tough cookie. “Barbara was told by two prestigious foundations that they wouldn’t fund JEP because it wouldn’t succeed,” Tammara Anderson recalled. “Fortunately, Barbara didn’t listen.” Gardner and her staff raised funds and obtained grants. “So, she went to the president [John R. Hubbard] and said, ‘You have to find me some space or I’ll pitch a tent in front of Doheny Library,’” Anderson said. “They quickly found a place because they knew Barbara would do it.”

Urban Semester
A precursor to JEP was the “urban semester.” Following the 1965 Watts Riots, a program was created in which undergraduates and core faculty forged a bond between rigorous coursework at USC and the community. However, these endeavors were somewhat scattered until the JEP program was born in 1972. Established by the Institute of Urban Ecology, the urban semester was an effort led by faculty member Jim O’Toole, students and other professors.

Veggies
Turns out, the mighty carrot really is good for the eyes. Its vitamin A is transformed in the retina to rhodopsin, necessary for night vision. Children learning about nutrition in JEP’s mini courses may know this. Each year, JEP places more than 90 mini-course teams in partner schools, sometimes to teach nutrition. These small teams adapt material learned in their USC courses to create lesson plans for K-12 classrooms. Lessons are also offered in anthropology, earth sciences, exercise science, creative writing, and French, to name a few.
Yoginis

Tina Koneazny of JEP sat straight-backed and cross-legged. Children with looks of concentration mirrored her movements as they began stretching out on yoga mats. All eyes closed, one boy placed his hand over his heart. “OK everyone, take three deep breaths,” Koneazny said. “Little Yoginis” is the brainchild of Koneazny and part of JEP’s USC Readers Plus after school program. Each week, Koneazny and tutors visit elementary schools, read children a book and practice yoga positions reflecting the themes in the literature.

writing

Through JEP, Professor of English Aimee Bender has gone into grade schools to write with the children. There’s also “Writing Mentors,” a JEP program that helps Neighborhood Academic Initiative (NAI) seniors write college essays. USC freshmen in “(W)rites of Passage,” taught by Susan Harris, encourage NAI high school students to reflect on who they are, where they come from, what they want to become — and the role of higher education in that process.

x+y-xy=0

By now, you know the Plus in Readers™ is math. In 1999, federal work-study guidelines were extended to offer math education in grades K–12 in addition to the K–6 literacy focus. USC Readers rolled this math component into the established program targeting the USC Family of Schools and renamed itself “USC Readers™.” Additionally, some USC students earn course credit by participating in JEP as math mentors, working one-on-one with elementary, middle and high school students to improve their math skills.

zillions

After zillions of friendships made and lives changed, JEP continues to seek out more possibilities. Over the decades, JEP has welcomed a continuous chain of generations. Take junior Emily Boone, who has taken the baton from her father, Matthew Boone, a 1981 biological sciences alumnus who is now an executive medical director. In the late 1970s, Boone became one of the first recipients of the JEP Community Service Award. “It’s funny how life takes a circular path,” he said. “Now it’s my daughter’s turn.”
FEMINISM: A FAMILY AFFAIR
When American feminist and activist Gloria Steinem took the stage at a literary festival in Jaipur, India, in January, Jasneet Aulakh ’13 was there.

Traveling through India for nine months on a Fulbright Scholarship, Aulakh, who earned her bachelor’s in history, English and philosophy, is interviewing elected women from a variety of socio-economic, religious, political and caste backgrounds for her research into the role of women in village governments.

The daughter of Indian immigrants to the United States, she speaks Punjabi and Hindi.

Traveling to villages in Rajasthan, Punjab, Kerala and Karnataka, Aulakh is seeking a deeper understanding of how feminism, women’s rights and political empowerment are expressed in India versus the U.S. Her observations have led her to question the way in which Western standards of feminism are being applied to Indian women.

She is studying the effects of India’s 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1993, which mandates that village governments reserve one-third of seats for women.

For Aulakh, the ruling carried personal resonance. She had been delighted when one of her aunts in India won a seat on her village government board, until Aulakh learned that the appointment was mainly intended to facilitate her uncle’s entry into local government — a practice known as a proxy vote.

“It’s easier for women to get these positions, so sometimes a man will put his wife’s name on the ballot and basically run the show himself and attend all the meetings,” Aulakh said.

Concerned the country was “just paying lip service to reforms for equality,” she set off for India to learn more.

Since getting a chance to speak to the women involved, Aulakh’s viewpoint has evolved.

“I believe existing research is overly critical in its expectations that a very Western idea of feminism would translate into these systems. Of the women voted into office they were demanding ‘Why aren’t you doing this by yourself? Why aren’t you spearheading these programs by yourself?’ But the women themselves actually want a more collaborative experience with their husbands.

“Many policies that motivated a central government to create this act were based on an elitist Western understanding of feminism.”

Indian women raising families are seen as being in a place of power, even if they also have a career. Whereas the West tends to value women who are more focused on the pursuit of a career, Aulakh noted.

“It doesn’t mean that one is better than the other. In India, matriarchal roles remain very powerful.”

Aulakh is documenting her research for a paper.

Next year she heads to the University of Oxford for a master’s degree in modern South Asian studies. She then plans to earn a Ph.D. in history and pursue a career in academia.

Meanwhile, Aulakh, who has been observing training models used by nongovernmental organizations for elected officials in Rajasthan, hopes her research in India will contribute to positive change in other regions such as Punjab by encouraging officials there to adopt better practices.

“I’m also constantly looking for ways to make this initiative more effective and have it work on a grander scale,” she said.

“I hope my research can lead to something bigger.” —S.B.
Lisa was nine when her mother forced her into prostitution. When the mother went to jail, an uncle in New York took custody and put Lisa back to work on the streets.

At 11, Lisa was removed from the uncle’s care, sent back to California and placed in the custody of social services.

Given the discouraging statistics in cases like this, Lisa’s chances for success appeared dim. Yet, 10 years later, Lisa is a university graduate.

Her life was turned around with the help of an arts program run by the Coalition for Engaged Education (formerly New Visions Foundation), a Los Angeles-based nonprofit that supports and promotes educational projects for underserved kids. Its founder and director is Paul Cummins, who in 1967 earned his Ph.D. in English.

“Social services sent her to us,” Cummins said of Lisa, whose name was changed for this article to guarantee anonymity. “By then she was 12 and had started in a summer school program, which she adored. Then we put her in a quality private school. She got her high school diploma, went to college and graduated four years later.”

Cummins has hundreds of similarly inspiring success stories showing what happens when children are given the chance to express themselves through the arts — as well as to discover and develop their interests and abilities.

An educator, poet and creative leader, Cummins has founded numerous educational programs and schools, including Crossroads and New Roads in Santa Monica, Calif., and has raised millions to transform the lives of at-risk youth through arts and quality education.

Cummins was born in Chicago, Ill. As a child he moved with his family to Fort Wayne, Ind., then to Los Angeles.

Cummins’ father, an entrepreneur who owned a string of restaurants, gas stations, a few nightclubs and — briefly
EXPRESS YOURSELF
Paul Cummins ’67, who founded Coalition for Engaged Education, believes at-risk youth can improve if given the chance to express themselves through the arts as shown by the above message from a participant.

— the iconic Los Angeles Biltmore hotel, encouraged him to play football.

“In retrospect it was good for me,” he said. “I was a shy, quiet little boy. That doesn’t work for long on the football field. I learned how to get knocked down and get back up without crying or being afraid.”

After earning his bachelor’s at Stanford University and a master of arts in teaching at Harvard University, Cummins chose USC Dornsife for his doctoral work.

Cummins has particularly fond memories of a poetry class taught by the late Professor of English Allan Casson. He described Casson as “a life changer” who inspired him to become a poet and devote his life to helping children achieve success via the arts.

Cummins believes in the fundamental human need to say, “Hey, I exist.”

“But if you won’t let me say that through a dance or a poem, then I’ll find some other way.” And that might be with graffiti or a gun. The consequences of not providing children with a quality education impact society profoundly.”

Cummins recounted the story of a student who benefited from an organization he created, P.S. Arts, which raises money to reintroduce the arts into public schools.

One day, a school principal was walking down the hall when a third grade teacher stopped him.

“You should come into my classroom and see the self-portrait Jose did,” the teacher said. “It’s spectacular.”

“Jose? He was expelled six weeks ago,” the principal replied. “Jose was sneaking back into school for his art class, because that’s the only thing he cared about, the only place he felt he could be himself,” Cummins said.

“These kids don’t have a lot of hope. One of our goals is to open their eyes to the possibilities out there. Emily Dickinson said ‘I dwell in possibility’ and I guess I do, too.” — S.B.
ON LUGU LAKE

While staying with the Moso people, a small ethnic group living in China’s Yunnan and Sichuan provinces, traveler Joseph Rock detailed his observations for a 1929 issue of National Geographic magazine.

“Here people live and die without the slightest knowledge of the outside world,” he wrote. “How oppressive to be buried alive in these vast canyon systems! Or, are they happier for it?”

Eighty-five years later, alumnus Ankur Poseria, who in 2009 earned his bachelor’s in international relations, is answering that question. The outside world has finally begun to infiltrate this quiet corner of civilization. What this means for the Moso people is depicted in a documentary currently in production, funded through a National Geographic Young Explorers grant secured by director Ricky Qi.

Poseria is executive producer on the film with the working title Under One Roof. Cinematographer Daniel Zhao is a graduate of the USC School of Cinematic Arts. Poseria, Qi and Zhao traveled to the Himalayan foothills for three months in 2013 to film Moso villagers.

The crew stayed primarily with local residents in Lige, a village nestled at the foot of Gemu Mountain on snow-trout-filled Lugu Lake. Against a stunning visual backdrop, they wanted to tell the stories of the Moso people. But first they had to gain their trust.

“We would go out every day, talking to locals,” Poseria said. “But we found that when we sat people down for an interview, put up lights and pointed multiple cameras and microphones at them, they became uncomfortable.

“Finally we decided to use a cinematic-grade, hand-held camera and go out to talk to people. And that’s when their world really opened up to us — we started to hear about the gambling and alcoholism behind closed doors, people’s personal relationships and how they perceived modernity.”

The interviews made it clear that many traditional aspects of Moso culture are receding due to the influence of globalization and the rise of tourism.

One interviewee was a former lama who gave up a life of religious solitude to operate the largest inn in Lige. Others were a Moso woman who became the first-ever female village chief and a Han Chinese woman who left her life in the city to live with a Moso man.

Poseria recalled his time at USC Dornsife, where his fascination with stories from other parts of the world began.

“In IR, we constantly analyzed the media’s portrayal of international politics, culture and news. But I was interested in the media side of the political conversation. That’s when I decided to go into international filmmaking.

“Filming in China, we learned that the best way to find interview subjects is to lend people a helping hand, and genuinely see if we could offer them anything and become part of their lives. Eventually it wasn’t just about capturing something on camera, but really learning about people.” —L.P.
We know it’s spelled Convergent Bioscience. But USC Dornsife sees the urgency in this heads-up rather than heads-down research mentality.
Like an artist sharing her latest Starry Night, geneticist Le Trinh invited her colleague to come see her experiment.

Hunched over a microscope, Vikas Trivedi watched what looked like tiny bumper cars meandering inside a petri dish. Every so often, something inside a dot would jump — like a sleepy driver jolted awake.
“This could never be done simply by using pure genetics or pure physics or pure mathematics. It took the three fields coming together and sharing our expertise.”

The little jump was a heartbeat. Trivedi was looking at live, day-old zebrafish embryos. Using the zebrafish as a model, Trinh researches how the heart forms in the developing embryo. Considering that a leading birth defect in humans occurs during the development of the heart valve, Trinh’s research is crucial in identifying what can go wrong.

Still looking through the microscope, Trivedi nonchalantly mentioned that he could better analyze the data by creating an algorithm to “unwrap” the embryo.

Trinh’s heart jumped a little, too. Trivedi’s algorithm would reconstruct the developing embryo with red and green labels through a 3D computer simulation. This was a giant leap for Trinh, an expert biologist and geneticist, but admittedly no mathematician.

“Voilà,” said Trinh, a senior research scientist in the laboratory of Scott Fraser, Provost Professor of Biological Sciences and Biomedical Engineering at USC Dornsife. “We now have this.”

Trinh waved an arm toward her computer screen, depicting a developing zebrafish heart in 3D. The movie shows how the heart begins with two halves and slowly merges into one.

Those halves that meld to form one beating heart could be a metaphor for Fraser’s office layout.

Sitting across from Trinh is Trivedi, a Ph.D. student in bioengineering who developed the algorithm. Working next to Trinh is research scientist Thai Truong, a trained physicist. Among other pieces of equipment, Truong and his team built the two-photon light sheet microscope — to which they hold the patent — that created Trinh’s 3D movie. Although the zebrafish heart beats 150 times per minute, the microscope photographs so fast that the slides that became the movie were ultra-sharp.

By converging their fields, the molecular genetics of a beating heart — the scientists also use quail embryos as models — can now be visualized in real time.

“This could never be done simply by using pure genetics or pure physics or pure mathematics,” Trinh said. “It took the three fields coming together and sharing our expertise to create this.”

Fraser’s triple-threat system is a microcosm of the upcoming USC Michelson Center for Convergent Bioscience. In January 2014, retired orthopedic surgeon Dr. Gary K. Michelson and his wife Alya donated $50 million to USC to fund the center bearing his name.

BIGGER, BRAVER, BOLDER

The center will be the hub of a new collaboration between USC Dornsife and the USC Viterbi School of Engineering that takes interdisciplinary research in biomedical sciences to new heights.

The USC Michelson Center will stand in the southwest quadrant of the University Park campus, home to most of the science and engineering buildings. The facility will house 20 to 30 principal investigators with laboratories employing hundreds of researchers and students.

The days of seeing a chemist clad in rubber gloves, totting a tray of liquid-filled flasks and beakers across campus to use a light or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) microscope in an engineering building are nearing an end. Some of the most advanced microscopes in the world — like the GE DeltaVision OMX Blaze that can generate 3D images of objects at the nanometer scale — will be housed at the Michelson Center.

“This center will usher in a new age of exploration and innovation at USC,” said President C. L. Max Nikias. “It will unite the most gifted minds from many academic areas, creating a powerful partnership that will extend across several different disciplines.”

Along with the biologists, physicists, mathematicians and chemists at the center will be engineers, who will build the latest technology capable of taking precise measurements inside cells. Together they will tackle the biggest health challenges by first building a biological “knowledge base,” then expediting the detection and cure of diseases.

USC Dornsife Dean Steve Kay, professor of biological sciences, said systems biology — which integrates biological data to better understand how biological systems work — was a precursor to convergent biology.

“Systems biology was a great example of what you can begin to see when you bring mathematics, computational science and biological sciences together,” Kay said. “But convergence is something bigger. I think it’s bigger, braver and bolder.”

The Michelson Center will house Fraser’s laboratory and the lab of Kay, whose investigations have contributed to the understanding of the genetic basis for circadian rhythms, which serve as the body’s clock for timing the day/night cycle.

Kay noted how differently the engineer and biologist think.

“Engineers build things from the bottom up,” Kay said. “So they start off with a piece of paper and say, ‘Let’s design a new jet.’ The biologist takes a cancer cell and asks, ‘Why is this cancer cell responding to that drug but not this one? What is going on inside the cell that allows that to happen?’

So they start from the top down.

“Merging these together is a completely different process than, for example, the pharmacologist working with a biochemist or a cell biologist working with a developmental biologist,” Kay said. “Convergence is about bringing multiple people together with very different training and expertise.”

Kay emphasized that USC Dornsife’s partnership with USC Viterbi and its dean, Yannis C. Yortsos, will be critical to advancing not only collaboration, but real-world solutions.

“The hardcore, physics-based, material scientists might not realize the nanowires they were creating can become an essential biosensor and ultimately be used as a diagnostic for diseases,” Kay said. “But working in a convergent environment can bridge that gap.”

For a recent Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences paper, Kay’s lab worked with chemical engineers at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Through analysis and computer modeling, the collaboration shed light on...
factors that affect circadian rhythms, the roughly 24-hour oscillations of biological processes that occur in many living organisms.

Circadian rhythms help people adapt to predictable daily changes in the environment. But too much light at night, not enough sleep, or eating or exercising too late can offset the necessary nighttime-phase cellular activity. This can lead to diabetes, heart disease and obesity. Alzheimer’s disease and some liver conditions also have been linked with so-called low-amplitude rhythms.

Kay’s effort aims to better predict how to target circadian proteins with therapeutics that can battle sleep disorders and neuropsychiatric diseases such as bipolar disorder.

Kay’s paper is an example of how biologists and chemical engineers can work together to fight key disorders, but merging such widely dispersed fields has culturally been difficult.

“First and foremost, there must be a willingness to bring them together,” Kay said. “Then, you need a venue.”

Enter the Michelson Center.

“This will be a place to meet and create an integrated culture,” Kay said, adding that the facility is expected to help draw even more talented researchers to push the frontiers of science at USC Dornsife.

NOW I SEE

Fraser, director of science initiatives at the university with a joint appointment at USC Viterbi, is among the rare scientists who are experts in biology and physics. In Fraser’s lab, biologists love nothing more than to “steal tricks” from engineers.

There’s Ellis Meng, assistant professor at USC Viterbi, who has a spectacular ability to make devices.

“So she’s making electrodes that can float in the brain and let us record from many neurons at once,” Fraser said.

His team “steals” techniques from others such as Carl Kesselman, professor of industrial and systems engineering, who makes tools that let researchers interact with complex data sets.

“The important thing for me is that the way he structures these foster my analysis and my collaboration with others,” Fraser said. “He’s truly an artist who makes the tools so they can aggregate heterogeneous data.”

A perfect example of convergent bioscience came during Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation meetings, Fraser recalled. The foundation invited nanoscientists and chemists working on artificial photosynthesis — or synthetic ways to harvest solar energy and turn it into chemical energy that could eventually charge a battery.

Also invited were bioengineers seeking to restore vision, such as University Professor Mark Humayun, professor of biomedical engineering, and cell and neurobiology at USC Viterbi.

During these gatherings, participants realized maybe they could take the chemicals they were using for artificial photosynthesis and inject them into the human eye to see whether the injection could make the cells that don’t normally, respond to light in the retina, Fraser said.

“And it looks like it’s working,” he added.

Humayun, after nearly 20 years of work, became the main researcher behind the world’s first commercially available artificial retina, a breakthrough that helps the blind see.

“The Beckman Foundation decided to hold meetings, intentionally trying to stir the pot,” Fraser added. “Now imagine if you had that whole thing working every day, stirring the same sort of pot.”

HEADS UP

Underscoring the vision and support of Nikias and Provost Elizabeth Garrett, Executive Vice Provost Michael Quick said that convergent bioscience at USC is about more than a building or creating tools.

He cited Kay’s comparison of people who do heads-down research to those who do heads-up research.

“That is, are they looking down on the lab bench just focusing on their own science, or are they looking up and around and saying, ‘Who can I pull into a group to go solve this problem?’ It’s not so much what these people do, it’s how they do it that determines whether they’re part of this convergent bioscience movement.”

The education component of convergent bioscience is key, said Quick, professor of biological sciences at USC Dornsife.

He pointed to the Health, Technology and Engineering program at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, which brings together medical and engineering Ph.D. students to work in clinics learning about problems that must be solved. Then they work in the laboratory creating medical devices.

“Ph.D. students should be well-trained in a discipline,” Quick said, “but they have to learn the mentality of interaction.”

Distinguished Professor of Chemistry Arieh Warshel recalled the difficulty in collaborating with researchers outside his field in the early stages of his scientific career in the 1960s and ’70s.

“If I went to the best professors in electricity to ask them...
Technologies.

cheaper solar cell or transistor could hold the key to new,

by bacterial cells (blue), which

chemistry major Julia Lazzari-

McFarlane and undergraduate

physics doctoral student Ian

Moh El-Naggar's lab,

In Assistant Professor of

UNLOCKING ENERGY

TEAR DOWN THAT WALL

Moh El-Naggar, an assistant professor of physics at USC

Dornsife who has received the 2012 Presidential Early Ca-

er Award for Scientists and Engineers, likes where all this

is going. His research combines biology and physics.

“When we talk about removing boundaries, sometimes

we’re talking about removing actual walls that separate labs,”

El-Naggar said. “We already work like that here. Our gradu-

ate students in physics work with graduate students in chem-

istry, biology, engineering and earth sciences.

“Many of the faculty have joint appointments and we’ve

been doing that for a while. The one thing we’ve been lack-

ing is an actual home for that kind of attitude. So in concrete

terms, convergent science is about removing actual walls.”

El-Naggar’s research involves tapping into anaerobic

bacteria found in plain dirt to create energy. His research

revealed how the bacteria grow protein nanowires to move

electrons around in their surroundings.

Using this bacteria, he aims to harness the microbes’

metabolism to power electronic devices from cell phones to

car chargers. The bacteria’s metabolism may also result in new

nanostructures and semiconductors for clean-energy tech-

nologies such as solar cells. This can all lead to a cheaper and

more versatile energy source.

“The more we understand about charge flow and energy

transfer in cellular systems, then we’ll be able to control them

and maybe reach the level of sophistication with biological

systems that we’ve already reached with metals and semicon-

ductors and computers and so on,” El-Naggar said. “But that

requires developing some fundamentals that are unknown,

because we’re starting pretty much from scratch.

“In order to actually develop applications based on energy

and charge transfer in biological systems, we have to be able
to collaborate with people who think in a more applied con-
text, like applied physicists and engineers.”

Richard Roberts, professor of chemistry, chemical engi-

neering and biological sciences with joint appointments at

USC Dornsife and USC Viterbi, is like-minded. He uses

the tools of chemistry to understand and control biological

processes. Roberts designs peptides and proteins using in vi-

tro selection experiments. He conceived the messenger RNA

(mRNA) display, a technique he uses for polypeptide design.

His team has re-engineered the protein synthesis machin-

ey to create unnatural mRNA display libraries. This project,

a nanoscale engineering effort, merges the power of display

selections with the flexibility of combinatorial chemistry.

To do this, the scientists have worked to extend mRNA
display beyond the natural genetic code. Their effort has cre-

ated new and richly diverse compositions of matter for ligand
design, drug discovery — and beyond.

The beyond involves analytic tests used for screening dis-

cases such as pancreatic cancer, which is typically diagnosed

late in its development.

“It’s not like your lungs, where if you start having problems

you will cough and blood will come up and you’ll have overt

problems,” he said. “If you have cancer developing in the pan-

creas, there really is no outward sign.”

Roberts is developing techniques to diagnose early and even

before a disease manifests.

“In the next 20 years, you will be able
to go in, get a test, and the doctor will say,
you’re high in this, this and this,” he said.

“You have a very good chance of having prostate cancer, or lung cancer, or another
disease. Right now, there are very few ana-
lytic tests that are used for screening.”

For inspiration, Roberts keeps on his desk

a replica of the Rosetta Stone, an ancient dis-
covery showing writing in two known lan-
guages, but one mysterious script — Egyp-
tian hieroglyphics.

Using clues from the two known lan-
guages, linguists were eventually able to
decode the hieroglyphics. Roberts is doing
something similar — he’s working to decode
proteins to create drugs and diagnostic tools
to fight diseases.

It could be argued that convergent biosci-
ence is an extension of decoding the Rosetta
Stone, using what we know to harness the
unknown. Roberts and others at USC un-
derstand the urgency.
He recalled the initial meeting with Dean Steve Kay, Provost Professor of Biological Sciences and Biomedical Engineering Scott Fraser, and Executive Vice Provost Michael Quick. All three professors are scientists.

“All we talked about for an hour was science,” Michelson recalled. “In particular, I thought USC presented a visionary, daringly bold overarching architecture for how to conduct science at a university.”

A longtime philanthropist for research at universities, Michelson noted that “most universities take pride in the fact that they’re ivory towers and do ‘heads down’ research, research for research’s sake.”

“And this sure wasn’t that,” he said. “This was the idea of doing convergent research to produce real-world breakthroughs in real time.”

The Michelson Center will be the cornerstone of a new collaboration between USC Dornsife and the USC Viterbi School of Engineering meant to transform how research is conducted at the intersection of engineering and the life and biomedical sciences.

“You need to do science for some greater purpose, for humanity’s sake,” said Michelson, a devoted family man. He and his Russian-born wife Alya, an artist and musician who speaks four languages, including Japanese, have two children, Sasha and Isaiah.

As he spoke in the couple’s West Los Angeles home, the conversation ranged from the ever-shrinking subsections of scientific specialties to Eric Lander, a mathematician who made one of the most important contributions to the unrelated field of genetics: the Human Genome Project. Michelson also brought up one of his favorite books, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*.

“I thought USC presented a visionary, daringly bold overarching architecture for how to conduct science at a university.”

**DR. GARY K. MICHELSON,** a retired orthopedic spinal surgeon whose inventions have generated nearly 1,000 issued or pending patents worldwide. He has been inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame and the National Academy of Inventors.

WITH AN EMPHASIS ON CONVERGENT BIOSCIENCE RESEARCH, DR. GARY K. MICHELSON HOPES TO SEE REAL WORLD MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS. “THIS IS GOING TO BE A GRAND ADVENTURE,” HE SAID.

For Dr. Gary K. Michelson, the USC Michelson Center for Convergent Bioscience, made possible after his and his wife Alya’s $50 million donation, has never been about a name on a building.

“I never named anything after myself, there’s no Michelson anything,” said the retired orthopedic spinal surgeon and inventor of hundreds of instruments, implants and procedures that make spinal surgeries faster and safer.

“For me, it’s all about the science,” said Michelson, who holds, or has pending, nearly 1,000 patents worldwide.

Michelson cares deeply about his causes, beginning with his desire to study orthopedic surgery.

His mother was about 20 when she gave birth to Michelson, who has three brothers. Growing up in Philadelphia, he was close to his grandmother, a former tennis champion, who lived near his grade school. He often went to his grandma’s for lunch and would see her in pain.

“My grandmother was still a young woman, but she couldn’t stand up straight,” Michelson said. “She was in constant back pain, all the muscles were gone out of her hands so her hands were like garden tools.”

Her crippling spinal deformity made an indelible imprint on a young Michelson, sparking his belief in research that improves lives.

After spending 35 years devoted to improving the lives of those with spinal problems, Michelson retired from private practice in 2001. He turned much of his attention to building foundations for causes such as animal welfare, textbooks and medical research.

Michelson recalled receiving the call from USC about a possible collaboration.

“This was the first time anyone had approached me about convergent bioscience,” said Michelson, who grew intrigued by the proposal.

He recalled the initial meeting with Dean Steve Kay, Provost Professor of Biological Sciences and Biomedical Engineering Scott Fraser, and Executive Vice Provost Michael Quick. All three professors are scientists.

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“When the kid gives the parents his coloring book and the parents say, ‘Oh, that’s beautiful, but I don’t think the sky is purple and you must keep the crayons inside the lines, the parents may mean well, but that’s a very damaging response,’” he said.

“Coloring outside the lines is the beginning of thinking outside the box.”

**Gary K. and Alya Michelson**
Children can read about the waves of various immigration groups to Boyle Heights, a working-class, mostly Latino community in east Los Angeles. Or, they can hold the history in their hands.

George Sanchez, professor of American studies and ethnicity, and history, Monica Pelayo, Ph.D. candidate in history, and a cadre of undergraduates are working with local teachers to bring a different kind of history lesson to grade school classrooms.

As a way to teach the rich history of Boyle Heights and bring awareness to the rehabilitation effort of the historic Breed Street Shul — the largest Orthodox synagogue in the western United States from 1915 to 1951 — the team is collecting items depicting historical themes of Boyle Heights. The items will be placed in wooden boxes for lessons on topics such as immigration, business and World War II. “This is history you can feel,” Pelayo said.
Kippah

From the Aramaic meaning “fear of the king,” a kapele or kippah is a bowl-shaped cap worn by observant Jewish men and sometimes women covering their heads as a sign of respect. From the 1920s to the 1950s, Boyle Heights was a center of Jewish life.

Mariachi Bow

Large, colorful floppy bowties are a key part of the clothing ensemble of mariachi musicians, who play folk music from Mexico. As of 2011, 95 percent of Boyle Heights’ residents were Latinos, mostly Mexican Americans, Mexican immigrants and Central American nationals.

Kasinka

A kasinka is a head scarf worn by women in the Russian Molokan community. In 1904, members of this dissenting sect of the Russian Orthodox Church fled Russia to avoid persecution and mandatory enlistment during the Russo-Japanese War. Many settled in “the flats” of Boyle Heights.

Joss Sticks

This incense is usually burned in front of an Asian religious statue or shrine. The word Joss originates from the Portuguese word for God, Deus. More than a century ago, a large Chinese community lived in Boyle Heights.

Bento Box

Bento comes from a Southern Song Dynasty slang term meaning “convenience.” The box holds the bento, a single-portion Japanese meal. After World War II, many Japanese Americans who had been held in internment camps moved to, or returned to, Boyle Heights. They lived there until the 1950s, when Latino immigrants replaced most.

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For more than 80 years, luthiers have handcrafted guitars at Candelas in Boyle Heights. Mahogany, maple, cedar, spruce and rosewood are used to build guitars such as classics, requinto romanticos and bajo sextos. Tacto and cedar are used to create mariachi instruments such as the vihuela, guitarrón and guitarra de golpe.

Maneki-neko The cute, waving kitty is a common Japanese talisman meant to bring good luck. You’ll see one when you walk into Otomisan, the last remaining Japanese restaurant in Boyle Heights. Founded in 1956, Otomisan still occupies its original location on East First Street.

Canter’s Deli Take-Out Menu Who’s in the mood for beef brisket? The Jewish delicatessen Canter’s opened in Boyle Heights in 1931. The Canter family first opened a deli in New Jersey in 1924, then came west along with many Jews from the northeastern United States in the early 1940s.

Mariachi Belt Buckle Buckles and all things mariachi are found at the unique Boyle Heights store La Casa del Mariachi. For women, there are dress suits from all regions of Mexico and other parts of Latin America.

Mortar and Pestle The mortar is a bowl, usually made of hard wood, ceramic or stone. The pestle is a heavy club-shaped object used for grinding. It is traditionally used to crush ingredients for prescriptions in pharmacies such as the Ramirez Pharmacy, a family-owned, independent Boyle Heights pharmacy in operation since 1953.
Zoot Hat Feather  A feather sits on the side of a zoot hat, part of the baggy pant suit popular in mostly Chicano communities in the 1940s. The L.A. riots in 1943 between Anglo American military stationed in the city and Latino youths, who wore zoot suits, were dubbed the “Zoot Suit Riots.”

Roosevelt High School Newspaper  Roosevelt High School lost 30 percent of its student population to Japanese internment. Student body president and valedictorian Masamori Kojima was among the thousands who received evacuation orders. On April 8, 1942, the Rough Riders newspaper published a spirited article denouncing internment, citing the loss of many student leaders.

Mollie Wilson and Mary  In 1942, Roosevelt High School senior Mollie Wilson was deeply disturbed by the forced removal of her many Japanese American friends from Boyle Heights. When she sent them letters and packages, many wrote back from concentration camps. Mary (last name unknown), pictured at right, was one of her friends who was interned.

Tatami Mat  In February 1942, during Japanese internment, the FBI arrested the Rev. Giichi Miyano of the Tenrikyo Mission Church. His wife, Yukiko, arranged for a local African American congregation to act as caretaker of the church during her family’s incarceration. The African American community also took care of their possessions.

Sailors White Hat  Between 1904 and 1912, as many as 5,000 Russian Molokans settled in Boyle Heights, fleeing persecution and mandatory enlistment during the Russo-Japanese War. Yet by the time the U.S. entered World War II, second generation Russian Molokans joined the military in support of the American war efforts.
HE★RTS IN THE HIGHL☆NDS

Students get their practical politics on with the help of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics and many other purveyors of opportunity at USC Dornsife. First stop, the White House.

By Michelle Salzman Boston

Standing on the steps of the Capitol in Washington, D.C., Roxana Ontiveros had one thing on her mind: her Highland Park neighborhood in northeast Los Angeles.

The daughter of Mexican immigrants and the first in her family to attend college, Ontiveros had taken her debut airplane trip to participate in a summer internship with the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.

The junior political science and American studies and ethnicity major at USC Dornsife was bringing Highland Park to the decision-making hub of the country. Now was her chance to make efforts to improve her community.

“I felt like it was my responsibility to bring my neighborhood into focus in what’s happening in D.C.,” she said. “My hometown is always at the forefront of my mind.”

In Washington, D.C., Ontiveros learned about Latino-focused education policy, communications and outreach at the U.S. Department of Education. She is passionate about bringing the community and government together to improve educational prospects for minorities.

During her internship, arranged through USC Dornsife’s Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics, she wrote a white paper on the success of Latino males in the United States, gathering data such as college graduation and incarceration rates. Her work will be used to help policymakers strengthen educational opportunities for Latinos, the nation’s largest and fastest-growing population.

Throughout her time in Washington, D.C., “I felt empowered to contribute to research on such an important topic,” Ontiveros said.

Ontiveros intends to become a litigation attorney, but isn’t ruling out the idea of one day running for office or teaching law.

USC Dornsife’s support has been crucial in setting her up for success, Ontiveros said. A political leadership award from the Unruh Institute provided her with funding to support her internship.

“Without it, I would not have been able to participate in this life-changing experience,” she said.

USC Dornsife offers exceptional opportunities for students such as Ontiveros to gain hands-on experience working in politics and impacting policy. Through internships, courses, mentorship and scholarships, students develop leadership skills and gain the experience to make a difference through civic engagement at the local, national and international levels.

Dan Schnur, director of the Unruh Institute since 2008, said the foundation for extraordinary work begins with USC’s commitment to its community.

“USC has always stressed the importance of USC students and faculty working with surrounding neighborhoods,” he said. The result is a student body that is devoted to improving Los Angeles, he added. Through the Unruh Institute, Schnur wants to show students that becoming involved in politics and government is a logical extension of their community work.

“Cleaning up a park or teaching an at-risk child to read is tremendous, but working to elect candidates to office who will help further those goals on a much larger scale is the next critical step,” Schnur said.

An institute goal is bridging the academic study of politics with practical experience in the field.

For example, the Unruh Fellows Program brings top politicians and policy professionals to campus to participate in panel discussions and smaller, informal meetings with students. The institute’s Legislators in Residence Program recruited Republican Tony Strickland, a former California state senator, and Democrat Anthony Portantino, a former California state assembly member, to be on-campus mentors.

In addition to speaking on panels and co-teaching
political science courses with USC Dornsife faculty, Strickland and Portantino hold regular office hours for students to drop in, learn about the mentors’ experiences in politics and seek career advice.

Students also gain insight into California’s electorate through the USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times Poll, directed by Schnur. The statewide public opinion poll, conducted at intervals throughout the year, gauges voter attitudes on a range of political, policy, social and cultural issues.

Just as the controversial Affordable Care Act (ACA) prepared to roll out at the beginning of 2014, a November 2013 USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times survey showed that despite overall support for the law, voters in California were concerned about how the legislation would affect the economy and their own health care access. The poll revealed that 50 percent of California voters favor the ACA, including 33 percent who strongly favor it. But even those who support the law had significant concerns, including lost wages and higher out-of-pocket costs.

Schnur uses findings such as these in his course “The Future of California,” in which students research policy challenges for the Golden State based on issues surveyed in the poll. “Through the poll, students also develop an understanding of how public opinion research works. They get to hear directly from the people who put the poll together,” Schnur said.

The Unruh Institute sponsors a weekly “Students Talk Back” forum, in which USC students sit on panels with seasoned experts to discuss topics like immigration reform, California prisons and social justice in L.A.

Following the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, which claimed the lives of 20 children and six adults, USC students had the opportunity to air their views on U.S. gun policies.

During the forum, international relations major David Meister cited the Second Amendment, arguing that the shooting should not be used to curtail gun rights. Those who pass a background check and are not psychologically unstable should be permitted to carry a firearm, he said.

“That being said,” Meister said, “I’m hopeful that policy will reduce the number of high-capacity magazine clips, and we can limit the number of automatic — not assault, but automatic — weapons.”

Americans have a Second Amendment right to own a gun, agreed political science major Andrew Myers. “But it [boils down] to what kind of guns people are allowed to own and being responsible with them.”

The Second Amendment was created in 1776, when people mainly owned muskets — they didn’t have the kinds of weapons available today, Myers noted.

“As you look at how guns have progressed, the meaning of the Second Amendment and what it means to bear arms have changed.”

Another event co-sponsored by the institute involves the national nonprofit Running Start, which introduces high school girls to political leadership. Each year, the institute collaborates with Running Start to hold a leadership conference for young women.

Senior political science major Kaya Masler has helped to recruit young women to Running Start.

During the conference, she hosts a workshop to teach the high school participants how to craft “an elevator pitch” touting their strengths. Another workshop she leads is about bolstering fundraising skills.

“Studies have shown that women have a harder time asking for money,” Masler said. “We want to teach girls that they are worth it and can ask right off the bat. Not only is it more efficient, but it’s also more effective.”

Masler, a former administrative assistant with the Unruh Institute who is now director of USC’s Women’s Student Assembly, said she has seen young women thrive in the program.

“Through the [USC Dornsife/ Los Angeles Times] Poll, students also develop an understanding of how public opinion research works.”

“They gain a new sense of self and a sense of what they can do,” she said. “I have seen this when they take the initiative after the event to e-mail me, eager to get involved and learn more.”

And many do get involved. After last year’s conference, two students reached out to Masler for guidance launching a student club at their high school to help other young women get involved in politics and leadership. Masler, who was working as a staff member on Wendy Greuel’s L.A. mayoral bid, invited them to assist her on the campaign.

Masler also attended a 2013 mayoral race debate between candidates Greuel and Eric Garcetti co-hosted by the Unruh Institute and held at USC. (Garcetti won the election.)

“The single strongest memory I have of the Greuel-Garcetti debate is not how many of our former students I saw attending the debate, but how many I saw working for both campaigns,” Schnur said.

Students are also gaining insight from Schnur’s own experience. Schnur is currently on leave as director of the Unruh Institute as he makes a bid for California secretary of state. While campaigning, he continues to teach one class a semester at USC Dornsise.

“I hope that the experiences I have on the campaign trail and potentially in office are things that students can learn from,” Schnur said.

At the institute’s core is a robust internship program — supported by a host of scholarships — that puts students in the field working on the issues they care about while earning credits toward their degrees.

For instance, the institute supported junior Nick Kosturos’ internship at the Pentagon, where he worked for the Department of Defense. The summer placement involved work in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics. The international relations major was awarded USC Dornsise’s Coady Scholarship for Summer Interns, which covered his travel and living expenses in Washington, D.C.

At the Department of Defense, Kosturos researched international arms agreements between the U.S. and other countries, and frequently met with diplomats from the United Kingdom.

OUR HOUSE
USC Dornsise students have opportunities to work at the White House through programs at the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics.

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 47.
ROBERT SHRUM BRINGS HIS STREET SMARTS AS THE INAUGURAL WARSCHAW CHAIR IN PRACTICAL POLITICS. SPEECHWRITER AND PRESS SECRETARY TO SEN. EDWARD M. KENNEDY AND MANY OTHER HEAVY HITTERS, SHRUM’S A PLUM PICK.

One would be hard-pressed to name a political scholar and consultant with more influence, experience and understanding of the American political landscape over the past four decades than Robert Shrum.

At age 9, Shrum volunteered at the Culver City Democratic Headquarters, making phone calls in support of 1952 presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson. Though Dwight Eisenhower beat Stevenson by a landslide, Stevenson’s concession speech left an indelible mark on the youngster.

“Stevenson’s concession speech deepened my nascent appreciation for the power of words,” Shrum said. “I can still hear him quoting Abraham Lincoln’s line: ‘It hurts too much to laugh, but I’m too old to cry.’”

Nearly 30 years later, Shrum became part of another memorable moment when he helped pen the concession speech Sen. Edward M. Kennedy delivered at the 1980 Democratic National Convention. Many said the powerful speech overshadowed President Jimmy Carter’s acceptance speech.

This savvy veteran of all things political, who for more than four decades has navigated 30 winning campaigns for the U.S. Senate and eight winning gubernatorial campaigns, joins USC Dornsife on June 1 as the inaugural Carmen H. and Louis Warschaw Chair in Practical Politics.

Shrum, who has guided numerous presidential campaigns, will connect students with elected officials, candidates and their staff members from across the political spectrum to discuss and analyze relevant issues. He will also develop courses and conferences meant to encourage students to engage in politics.

Established by USC Honorary Trustee Carmen Warschaw, an alumna, philanthropist and community activist who died in November 2012, and her husband, Louis, who died in 2000, the chair seeks to create civic-minded students.

The first named chair in USC Dornsife’s Department of Political Science, Shrum believes those who participate in politics can make lasting, positive change.

“Though some may disagree, politics is an honorable profession,” he said. “It’s not only fascinating, but it has an incredible impact on all our lives.”

USC Provost Elizabeth Garrett said Shrum’s experience was invaluable.

“USC students will benefit from professor Shrum’s engaging, firsthand accounts of history and his enthusiasm for active participation in the democratic process,” she said.

USC Dornsife Dean Steve Kay agreed.

“I think we have one of the strongest political science departments in the country,” Kay said. “But I also think our students need the tools to translate theory into action. I believe Bob Shrum’s political experience and connections will serve to inspire students and to invigorate the department.”

Shrum’s career in politics began in the 1970s, when he was hired as speechwriter for then-New York City Mayor John Lindsay. He went on to serve as speechwriter for Sen. George McGovern in his 1972 campaign for president. From 1980 to 1984, Shrum served as speechwriter and press secretary to Sen. Kennedy.

He was a senior adviser to Vice President Al Gore’s presidential campaign in 2000, and to Sen. John Kerry’s four years later.

Outside the United States, he was a consultant to the successful campaign of Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel in 1999; to the British Labour Party in its 2001 and 2005 parliamentary campaigns; and to winning national campaigns in Ireland in 1997 and 2002.

Shrum hopes to inspire students by making politics come to life. He can give them an insider’s view. “The capacity to understand politics depends on sound theory, but that understanding can be immensely enhanced by a vivid sense of the way politics actually works,” Shrum said.

He also wants to share the many ways students can participate in the political process without running for office.

“You can be involved at a civic level, you can care about issues, you can contribute to campaigns,” Shrum said. “As a volunteer, you can have a big impact. I think we all have to be public citizens to make this country work.”

At USC Dornsife, Shrum’s class topics will likely include “great races,” looking at campaigns from City Hall to the White House. He will focus on the interrelationship between politics and policy in areas such as health care reform. Shrum is currently developing a Maymester course that will engage students with politicians and policy makers in Washington, D.C.

Shrum called it a singular honor to receive an appointment named for Carmen and Louis Warschaw. A former member of the Democratic National Committee, Carmen helped to forge the California Democratic Party, and the careers of many of its leaders.

“Carmen was a great progressive Democrat,” Shrum said. “She really cared about her beliefs. She fought tenaciously. And in terms of practical politics, she was the best.”
“At these face-to-face meetings I was able to gain insight from the diplomats as well as provide my own insight into how we might proceed with cooperative engagements,” said Kosturos, who aspires to work in the U.S. Foreign Service. “I was able to get a sense of how the United States interacts with other nations on military and political issues, and the many steps and intricacies that are required to nail down these complex agreements.”

In Washington, D.C., Kosturos took part via Skype in a career leadership course through USC Dornsife’s Gateway Internship Program led by Donal Manahan, professor of biological sciences and vice dean for students. The course featured guest lecturers from a range of professions. Among them were Joan Abrahamson, president of the public policy–focused Jefferson Institute, and Robert Osher, president of the Digital Production division of Sony Pictures Entertainment.

“Never eat lunch alone,” was a piece of advice one professional offered. Kosturos took it to heart.

“Following that recommendation I met extraordinary people across the Pentagon,” Kosturos said. “Their stories and career advice helped me shape my approach to pursuing a career in public service.”

Kosturos said two USC Dornsife Problems Without Passports (PWP) courses influenced his career goals and prepared him to work at the Department of Defense. Under the guidance of Steven Lamy, professor of international relations and vice dean for academic programs, and Robert English, associate professor of international relations, Kosturos traveled to Sweden, Russia, and Finland to meet with top diplomats, energy experts and scientists to study the ecological security and global politics of the Arctic region.

The undergraduate recalled a telling moment while speaking with Nordic diplomats at the Finnish Consulate in St. Petersburg, Russia, after a formal presentation on Arctic security. During the presentation, officials had asserted that the Arctic was a strict zone of peace. But afterward, one diplomat confided something.

“We don’t talk about conflict or else it will happen,” the diplomat whispered.

“This revealing aside illustrated the tense security situation in the region that would not have been portrayed in the classroom or at any official presentation,” Kosturos said. “Our intimate opportunities to speak with these diplomats off-the-record afforded us great insight into the genuine opinions of prominent Arctic officials.”

While in Washington, Kosturos also learned about U.S. defense and foreign policy on nuclear nonproliferation and weapons of mass destruction. Led by Wayne Glass, professor emeritus of the practice of international relations, Kosturos and his classmates visited nonprofit organizations, think tanks, federal agencies and Congressional offices.

At the Brookings Institution, the students had the opportunity for a face-to-face meeting with retired Gen. David Petraeus, director of the CIA from September 2011 until November 2012.

“Engaging in conversation with one of the greatest generals in American history on a wide variety of topics from U.S.–Russian relations to the evolution of America’s role in the Middle East was humbling and extraordinary,” Kosturos said of Petraeus, a Judge Widney Professor at USC.

Part of giving students opportunities in politics and government is tapping into the extensive Trojan Family network.

Kynell Paine, who graduated from USC Dornsife with a bachelor’s in political science in 2007, took full advantage of this.

As a student, a classmate informed her that a L.A. political fundraising firm was looking for an intern. Paine landed the gig and ended up working for the organization as it raised money for George W. Bush’s exploratory committee, then his primary election and once he was elected president, for his inaugural committee.

“Whatever side of the aisle you lean to, seeing that process play out in our country is truly amazing,” said Paine, who earned course credit for the position through the Unruh Institute’s internship program. “It was one of my top political experiences and it was all while I was a student at USC.”

Paine is the manager of government relations for the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, Calif. As an Unruh Fellow, she recently hosted a mentoring meeting for USC students at the Disneyland Resort. The meeting gave students the opportunity to learn more about the Disneyland Resort and what a career in government relations entails.

“It’s about paying it forward and helping other Trojans,” Paine said.

The paying it forward mantra resonates with Ontiveros.

After her experience at the White House, Ontiveros returned to Los Angeles to put what she had learned to work in her community as an intern with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) — the nation’s leading Latino legal civil rights organization.

At MALDEF, Ontiveros wrote a report for its Parent School Partnership program (PSP), which trains L.A.–area parents how to become active participants in their children’s education, schools and community.

The report detailed the ways federal and California state codes protect parent’s rights to be involved in their children’s education. It highlighted the California education code’s stipulation that schools must establish parent–community advisory committees, and a U.S. education code requirement that schools provide parents with information on their child’s academic performance.

Research shows that student achievement is linked to parental involvement in a child’s education. Many of the parents in PSP are immigrants who speak little or no English and are unfamiliar with the U.S. system of education. The program teaches them how to navigate the public school infrastructure. They learn about the roles and expectations of teachers and administrators, protocols for resolving disciplinary matters and ways to monitor academic success.

Ontiveros’ report will ensure parents know their legal rights.

“At the end of the day, they gain confidence and understand how they can engage with these institutions,” she said. Ontiveros hopes her work with MALDEF and the White House will have a positive ripple effect in Highland Park, her local community. Her goal is to make a deeper contribution.

“Regardless of what profession I take on, I’m inspired to improve opportunities for my younger siblings, my cousins and their friends,” she said. “Things such as K–12 education and after-school activities at the recreation center. They want to participate in more arts, music and theatre programs, but don’t have the chance because of a lack of resources.

“I’m inspired to bridge the different facets of the law, academia and the community to help them and to move society forward.”

Spring / Summer 2014 47
After a catastrophic 7.0 magnitude earthquake ripped through Haiti in 2010, crews posted signs warning against drinking contaminated river water. But since most of the population could not read, the caution went largely unheeded.

The well-intended crews lacked cultural understanding — a mistake that resulted in a devastating outbreak of cholera. By August 2013, more than 8,000 people had died in the ongoing epidemic — the worst cholera outbreak in recent history.

“In the realm of global health, the importance of understanding cultural contexts cannot be overstated,” said Erin Quinn, USC Dornsife’s new associate dean for science and health.

This is equally true within the United States, where language and cultural barriers account for 37 percent of health care access issues, outstripping the 18 percent of access problems caused by affordability. As the largest minority group in the United States, Latinos are among those most often affected.

When Joe Herrold arrived at USC Dornsife in 2002, the then-undergraduate realized he needed to gain a better cultural understanding of Los Angeles’ Latino population if he wanted to realize his dream of becoming a doctor.

He came to L.A. from rural Indiana.

“I didn’t speak Spanish, but soon realized I needed to learn the language if I wanted to join the USC healthcare community,” he said.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in biological sciences with a minor in international relations from USC Dornsife in 2006, and his M.D. from the Keck School of Medicine of USC in 2012, Herrold is now training as a surgeon at the Keck School.

In addition to learning Spanish, he familiarized himself with Latino culture, then sought to help others do the same. In 2006, Herrold and fellow USC Dornsife graduate Elise Wach, who earned her B.S. in environmental studies in 2006, created the nonprofit educational program Somos Hermanos (loosely translated as “We Are Family”). The group teaches the language skills and cultural competency...
required to provide quality health care to Latino patients. “As a health care provider, the first and most important step is communicating with your patients,” Herrold said.

Somos Hermanos has trained more than 200 health care providers nationwide, combining intensive one-on-one Spanish language instruction and family homestays with cultural activities in Guatemala, El Salvador and Mexico.

“The patient-provider relationship is built on trust,” he said. “Without empathy and cultural humility, it’s unlikely you can establish that connection with those you are trying to serve.”

After earning his bachelor’s degree in biological sciences from USC Dornsife in 2006, Lloyd Cuzzo participated in Somos Hermanos.

The result?

“I hit the ground running,” said Cuzzo, an ophthalmology resident at the Keck School.

One patient Cuzzo examined during the first week of his residency reported experiencing flashing lights and eye floaters — signs of retinal tear or detachment.

“This patient — who didn’t speak a word of English — had come in for a routine follow-up, so would not normally have needed to have his eyes dilated,” Cuzzo said. “However, because I was able to communicate effectively with the patient, I did dilate them, and discovered he had a vision-threatening retinal detachment. The patient was taken to the operating room that night and luckily we were able to save his sight.”

Global health involves a holistic view, so dental care is also an important component. Some use their Spanish in that effort.

One is Erin Walker, now a pre-dental student. She was a senior majoring in neuroscience and human biology when she founded USC Global Dental Brigades in 2012. Her mission: to provide free dental care to those in developing countries.

Poor dental health is implicated in increased risk of heart disease, diabetes, lung disease and premature birth.

Walker collaborated with students from the Virginia Tech Global Medical Brigades chapter to organize a trip to Honduras to establish a medical and dental clinic.

In Honduras, Walker and her team rose before dawn each day and drove for two hours on dirt roads to schools or churches, transforming them into makeshift pharmacies, and consultation and operating rooms. They used a reclining lawn chair as a dentist’s chair and a flashlight to provide illumination. Walker, who speaks fluent Spanish, taught children how to brush and floss properly and provided fluoride treatments. The team served 1,111 patients in three days.

“Beyond the dental work, patients were touched and grateful that our volunteers had taken time to make them a priority,” Walker said.

Tackling global health also takes USC Dornsife faculty and students to the Pacific Rim.

John Strauss, professor of economics at USC Dornsife, is providing critical insights into the dramatic effects of aging on global health through research he has conducted on the country with the world’s most rapidly aging population — China.

Along with researchers from Peking University, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and international partner institutions, Strauss last year released the first major report drawn from the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS) on which he is principal investigator. Focusing on data gathered from 17,708 Chinese adults over age 45 from urban and rural areas, the study provided a nationally representative sample of China, excluding Tibet.

Strauss found striking gender differences in how men and women age in the developing world, with older women more likely to have poorer measures of physical and psychological health — including high blood pressure, depression and cognitive decline — than men.

“Women generally report worse health than men, even though adult mortality is lower among women,” Strauss said. “Also, the biomarkers are generally worse for women than men. That’s borne in the U.S. and not specific to China.”

USC Dornsife students also have opportunities to explore alternative approaches to health. Students enrolled in USC Dornsife’s Problems Without Passports (PWP) course “The Global Performance of Healing,” taught by Erin Moore of the Department of Anthropology, traveled to Abadiânia, Brazil, home to renowned Spiritist leader John of God.

At the Casa de Dom Inácio de Loyola, students participated in the life of a “pilgrim,” meditating, visiting a sacred waterfall, obeying an all-white dress code, eating sacred soup and joining in at hymn and prayer sessions.

They witnessed how patients are able to benefit from massage, soothing music, crystal beds, and other practices that create a relaxed atmosphere that may enhance
healing. Students collected healing stories from patients and mediums, and conducted a critical analysis of the Casa rituals.

The majority of the Casa’s pilgrims are educated Westerners who are disillusioned with Western medicine and seeking an alternative.

“Students can be shocked to see that so many people feel they are not being served by biomedical doctors and are seeking alternative help,” Moore said. “Our task as medical anthropologists is to suspend judgment and practice participant observation.”

Kausar Ali, a religion and neuroscience double major who traveled to Brazil with the help of USC Dornsife’s Summer Undergraduate Research Fund (SURF), was struck by the peaceful, meditative atmosphere at the Casa.

Dressed in pure white, visitors searching for spiritual intervention rested quietly on a deck overlooking the hills, on wooden benches scattered along garden pathways, or on stones at the sacred waterfall located deep within a nearby forest. Bathed in serenity, they meditated.

“I learned that beyond the tangible science of conventional Western medicine, spirituality can be a strong component in healing,” Ali said.

Alternative remedies, which focus on a healthy lifestyle, may have increasingly significant preventive value during worldwide increases in noncommunicable diseases, including cancer, diabetes and heart disease — what Quinn terms “the new game-changers” in global health.

In January 2014, the World Health Organization predicted “a tidal wave” of cancer cases over the next 20 years, with the number of cases worldwide predicted to soar by 70 percent, reaching 24 million a year by 2035. Many will be fueled by the same unhealthy living habits — smoking, lack of exercise and poor diet — also responsible for the global explosion in diabetes and heart disease.

“As a health care provider, the first and most important step is communicating with your patients.”

“Traditionally, global health has focused on communicable diseases such as malaria and cholera. The new challenges we now face involving global chronic disease and cancer require a fresh approach and a fundamental change in thinking about how we ‘manage’ health across the globe,” Quinn said.

USC Dornsife is ideally positioned to help the medical field of the future find innovative solutions.

“We need broadly trained individuals, who understand health and disease from every angle, are able to critically analyze and interpret data, communicate effectively, incorporate social and cultural perspectives, collaborate to solve problems, manage economic resources and think proactively,” she said.

Quinn provides opportunities to realize those goals. For instance, she leads an annual monthlong trip to Oxford, England, for the course “Biology of Tropical Diseases.” Taught by experts in global medicine at the University of Oxford, the course is part of PWP.

The course teaches students global perspectives and alternative ways of approaching medicine, illustrating how procedures and resources that work in the U.S. and other developed countries are not necessarily compatible in developing countries.

“After three weeks, students are able to make a huge leap from their previously held belief model of ‘build large hospitals, prescribe pharma drugs,’ to understanding that finding a solution that is local, low-cost, culturally acceptable and readily available is perhaps the best choice in solving a health care issue,” Quinn said.

“Whether it is health care within the U.S., or globally, I learned there is no one way to treat every single patient,” said Saya Yusa, a biological sciences major who participated in the 2013 PWP Oxford trip.

Yusa and Quinn emphasized the need for cultural empathy in medicine.

“While health issues in Oaxaca, Mexico, may be unrelated to health issues faced by migratory Mongolian herders, both communities have developed and passed on valuable health practices over centuries that promote health and discourage disease for their population,” Quinn said.

“Now, diabetes is becoming a global issue. Our role is to use our advanced knowledge to help, while remaining respectful of culturally accepted health practices so that we can integrate them into the solution.

“Together, we can forge good decisions to successfully improve health for as many people as possible on our planet.”
In December, an ultra high-definition television went on sale in South Korea for a whopping $150,000. At 110 inches wide, the living room behemoth features four times as many pixels as a standard HD TV, DTS premium sound, built-in WiFi and 3D active glasses.

With so much technical advancement, it seems almost quaint that the first color sets made headlines. Sixty years before the ultra HD TV, there was much brouhaha over the first national color broadcast of the Tournament of Roses Parade in 1954 — an advancement made possible in part by the creativity of a soft-spoken USC Dornsife faculty member.

Back in 1943, C. Willard Geer was an assistant professor of physics and director of the university’s physics lab with the mantra “go out and invent something.” During one of his inspirational lectures on the science of television, he had an epiphany about how color television could be achieved through an electronic tube. Encouraged by his wife, Mary, he set out to invent it.

Born in 1902 and a doctoral graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Geer started working on the project in his home laboratory. For five months, he worked on inventing an apparatus that would allow vibrant hues to be seen on the increasingly popular television medium.

Geer’s design was quite ingenious: Three separate electron beams — one for each primary color — shot onto a screen of inverted, three-sided pyramids. His wife, Mary, would assist him by baking prototype components in their oven. She worked on other pieces on her sewing machine.

In February 1944, Geer wrote in his journal, “Today, I invented color TV, I think.” He filed his color tube, called the Geer tube, with the U.S. Patent Office. After a protracted legal battle with RCA, he sold the rights to his invention to Technicolor Motion Picture Corp. for $100,000 in 1950.

Color televisions went on sale on Dec. 30, 1953. In all, Geer filed 14 television patents.

Geer retired from USC as associate professor in 1965 and moved back to his native Washington state. He taught at Bellevue Community College until his death in 1975. The college’s planetarium is named for Geer.

A poor businessman maybe, but his inventions were in living color. —D.K.
Faculty News

DAVID ALBERTSON, assistant professor of religion, received a 2014 Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award for Theological Promise for his forthcoming book, Mathematical Theologies: Nicholas of Cusa and the Legacy of Thierry of Chartres (Oxford University Press, 2014).

THORSTEN BECKER, professor of earth sciences, received a Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award to continue his research into the source of earthquakes and the dynamics of faults.

DANIELA BLEICHTMAR, associate professor of art history and history, was awarded the American Historical Association’s 2013 Leo Gershoy Award for her book Visible Empire.

DAVID BOTTJER, professor of earth sciences, biological sciences and environmental studies, received the Society for Sedimentary Geology’s Moore-Press, 2014).

JOHN BOWL, professor of Slavic languages and literatures, co-curated “The New Barbarians: Russian Art and the East,” an international exhibition at the Palazzo Strozzi in Florence, Italy.

DOUG CAPONE, William and Julie Wrigley Chair in Environmental Studies and professor and chair of biological sciences, has received the American Society for Microbiology’s 2014 Dupont Industrial Biosciences Award in Applied and Environmental Microbiology.

University Professor ANTONIO DAMASIO, David Dornsife Chair in Neuroscience, professor of psychology and neurology, and director of the Brain and Creativity Institute, was awarded the 2014 Gravemeyer Award for Psychology. He also led a panel on creativity and the brain during the Society for Neuroscience’s 2013 annual meeting in San Diego, Calif.

USC Distinguished Professor of English PERCIVAL EVERETT was named one of five finalists for the 2013 PEN/Faulkner award for fiction for his novel Percival Everett by Virgil Russell.

SUSAN FORSBURG, professor of biological sciences, was elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology.

DANA GIOIA, Judge Widney Professor of Poetry and Public Culture, was named the recipient of the Aiken Taylor Award for Modern American Poetry.

MACARENA GÓMEZ-BARRIS, associate professor of American studies and ethnicity, has received a Fulbright fellowship to Ecuador, where she will conduct research with indigenous people involved in the popular ecotourism industry.

STEPHAN HAAS, professor of physics and astronomy, received a Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award to continue his research on quantum systems.

JACQUES HYMANS, associate professor of international relations, was awarded the 2014 Gravemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order.

MARY HELEN IMMORDINO-YANG, assistant professor of neuroscience, psychology and education, has received the 2013 American Association for the Advancement of Science Early Career Award for Public Engagement with Science and Technology.

USC Dornsife Dean STEVE KAY, Anna H. Bing Dean’s chair and professor of biological sciences, neurology, physiology and biophysics, was presented with an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Bristol.

Vice Dean for Academic Programs STEVEN LAMY, professor of international relations, presented his analysis of Arctic security issues at the first Arctic Circle Assembly, a global forum for international cooperation on Arctic issues held in Reykjavik, Iceland.

SONYA LEE, associate professor of art history, East Asian languages and cultures, and religion, has been selected as a New Directions Fellow by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

MARCUS LEVITT, professor of Slavic languages and literatures, was awarded the Marc Raeb Book Prize for his book The Visual Dominant in Eighteenth-Century Russia.

TOM LYON, Judge Edward J. and Ruey L. Guirado Chair in Law and Psychology, was awarded the 2014 Provost’s Mentoring Award at USC.

CAROL MUSKE-DUKES, professor of English and former Century Russia.

DUKES CAROL MUSKE-DUKES, professor of English and former century Russia.

TOM LYON, Judge Edward J. and Ruey L. Guirado Chair in Law and Psychology, was awarded the 2014 Provost’s Mentoring Award at USC.

KENNETH MEALSON, Wrigley Chair in Environmental Studies and professor of earth sciences and biological sciences, was elected as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Continued on page 55.

Fueling Research

George Olah and G.K. Surya Prakash, pillars of the chemistry department at USC Dornsife, have received a first-ever $1 million prize from the State of Israel for their innovative research on alternative fuels.

Olah, a Nobel laureate and Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, and Prakash, professor of chemistry and director of the USC Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute, received the Eric and Sheila Samson Prime Minister’s Prize for Innovation in Alternative Fuels for Transportation. Olah is also Donald P. and Katherine B. Loker Chair in Organic Chemistry.

Israel has recognized the chemistry professors’ alternative fuel research as part of an initiative to reduce its dependence on foreign oil.

The award recognizes their research on the methanol economy, a proposal to use methanol to replace fossil fuels and petroleum-based feedstocks. Methanol can be produced from renewable resources, such as agricultural waste products. It also has the potential to be generated by recycling atmospheric carbon dioxide — setting up the possibility of a carbon-neutral fuel source.

“Basically, it should be able to replace oil,” Olah said. “With my friend and colleague Dr. Prakash, we’ve worked very hard on this research … I never thought I’d live long enough to see it gaining practical acceptance.”

Olah has described his work on developing an anthropogenic carbon cycle — that is, a way to recycle carbon dioxide into fuel — as the most important work of his career, eclipsing even his work on superacids and his observations of carbocations, which earned him a Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1994.

“Methanol is the fuel of the future,” Prakash said. “Dr. Olah and I are honored and humbled by this award. We have been working on this for 30 years — and for a scientist, it’s always ‘we,’ never ‘I.’ Countless grad students and postdocs have contributed to this work along the way.” —R.P.
One Cool Cat

In his new memoir *Trying to Be Cool*, USC Dornsife’s Leo Braudy reconstructs his 1950s teenage years when searching for the elusive state of cool.

As a teenager growing up in 1950s Philadelphia, Leo Braudy’s free time revolved around hanging out with friends at the local soda shop, listening to rock ‘n’ roll, watching horror films and thinking about girls.

But, as he shared in his new memoir, *Trying to Be Cool: Growing Up in the 1950s* (Asahina and Wallace, 2013): “The essence of making your mark was being cool.”

The book recounts his early years absorbing and deciphering the world around him and of course, seeking out that mercurial state of cool. In this quest, he cut a rug at synagogue dances. He feigned comprehension during discussions of sex with his pals.

“Even more than an awakening interest in sex, trying to be cool opened a new phase,” wrote Braudy, University Professor, Leo S. Bing Chair in English and American Literature, and professor of English and history at USC Dornsife.

“One day you were safely within the sphere of family, where your role, like it or not, was clear. The next day you left the realm of blithe boyhood and were trying to construct a personal style in some murky dawn of self-consciousness.”

But deny it as he might, Braudy’s cool factor comes through in *Trying to Be Cool*. Perhaps Percival Everett said it best.

“The irony of *Trying to Be Cool* is that the book is so damn cool. It’s ‘Rock Around the Clock’ for smart people,” noted Everett, Distinguished Professor of English at USC Dornsife. “Leo Braudy captures an American moment.” —M.S.B.
Sandra Tsing Loh tells the story of her roller coaster personal life that included an affair with a married man, the explosion of her marriage, the pressures of keeping her daughters off Facebook while managing the legal and marital hijinks of her 89-year-old dad, and a despairing withdrawal to a tiny cabin where she combined too much wine and Ambien, paralyzing her arm into a claw.

Scott Professor of English Emerita, received the 2014 Washington University International Humanities Medal.

G.K. Surya Prakash, George A. and Judith A. Olah Nobel Laureate Chair in Hydrocarbon Chemistry and professor of chemistry, was appointed to the National Academy of Sciences, India.

Vice Dean for Diversity and Strategic Initiatives George Sanchez, professor of American studies and ethnicity and history, was a panelist at a discussion and screening of the film Rubén Salazar: Man in the Middle, which examines the Mexican American journalist and symbol of the Chicano civil rights movement.

Thomas Seifrid, professor and chair of Slavic languages and literatures, is president of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages.

University Professor Kevin Starr, professor of history, and policy, planning and development, delivered a lecture at the new Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at Mount Vernon on the first president’s fascination with the American West. He also spoke on the topic at Town and Gown in January 2014 at the first Los Angeles event of the George Washington Leadership Lecture series, a partnership between USC Price School of Public Policy and the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington.

Mark Thompson, professor of chemistry and materials science, co-delivered a keynote address on the use of nanoribbon biosensor chips for cancer diagnosis at the inaugural UCLA-USC-Caltech Nanotechnology and Nanomedicine Symposium.

University Professor Michael Waterman, USC Associates Chair in Natural Sciences and professor of biological sciences, computer science and mathematics, received the People’s Republic of China Friendship Award. Also, the University of Southern Denmark awarded him an honorary degree. Waterman was elected as one of nine foreign members from seven countries to the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Alexander Zholkovsky, professor of Slavic languages and literatures, won the Russian-Italian “Bella” Prize for Best Essay on Poetry.

Dion Dickman, assistant professor of biological sciences, and Christoph Haselwanter, assistant professor of physics and astronomy, were selected as research fellows by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.
Five Hours of Terror

When the theme song from the movie Titanic boomed from the speakers, Georgia Ananias remarked that maybe it wasn’t the best song to play on a cruise ship.

Her words would prove prophetic.

An hour later, just as their dinner salads arrived, the family heard a rumbling then intense vibrations.

Then came a loud crash. The lights went off. Pandemonium.

Earlier that day, Ananias and her husband, Dean, and two daughters, USC alumnae Valerie and Cindy, were thrilled to be setting out on the Costa Concordia for a Mediterranean vacation.

Their expectations came to a screeching halt when the Titanic-like vessel began listing dangerously just short of 90 degrees.

Had the winds not been so favorable, it might have drifted over and stabilized.

As passengers desperately attempted to disembark, the ship hit a huge reef.

After five hours of terror, the Ananias family made it to land, then wrote a book about the experience that shed light on past and present life lessons.

Tell Us About Your Book Write to USC Dornsife Magazine, Citigroup Center 8206, 41st Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90089-8206 or magazine@dornsife.usc.edu
THE RAIN MUST FALL World
Nouveau / Evangeline Schulten
Maynard (B.A., international
relations, ’06; M.A., international
relations, ’04) tells a tale based on
a true story of sisters coming of age
amid post-World War I Europe.

BIRDS ON A WIRE Logos /
Ellen Plotkin Mulolland (B.A.,
English literature / journalism,
’85) explores the boundaries of
traditional love and the role faith
and courage must play.

VACATION BOY: Does this
Count as a Career? AllClear /
Jon L. Sattler’s (B.A., interna-
tional relations and East Asian
languages and cultures, ’93)
humorous adventures draw read-
ers out of their armchairs and into
places they never knew were there
to visit.

STEALING FIRE Drake Valley
Press / Susan Sloat (B.A.,
broadcasting, ’79) sets an unex-
pected May/December romance
in glittering 1980s Los Angeles.
Also by Susan Sloat
REALIZING YOU: A Novel Ap-
proach to Changing your Life
co-written with Ron Doades
Drake Valley Press

BLOOD DRAMA White Whisker
Books / Part crime drama, part
black comedy, the latest book by
Christopher Meeks (MPW, ’82)
demonstrates just how bad a day
can get when the organic matter
hits the fan for one displaced
graduate student.

MORE THAN THIS Candlewick
Press / Delving into the stuff
of nightmares for an existential
exploration of the human psyche,
Patrick Ness (B.A., English, ’93)
chronicles the life — or perhaps
afterlife — of a teen trapped in a
crumbling, abandoned world.

PHOTOETRY: Poetry and Pho-
tography from South Central
L.A. Figueroa Press / Hiram
Sims (B.A., creative writing, ’05;
MPW, ’07) blends poetry and
images to create a lyrical and
visual testament to life in the City
of Angels.

DADDY’S ZIGZAGGING BED-
TIME STORY Disney Hyperion
/ Alan Lawrence Sitomer
(Ph.D., creative writing, ’89) spins
an adventure that zigzags from
truck-driving princesses and
space aliens who burn fire to
kung-fu pigs and cupcake-making
unicorns, and back.
Also by Alan Lawrence Sitomer
CAGED WARRIOR Disney
Hyperion

CHINESE LOOKS: Fashion,
Performance, Race Indiana
University Press / From yellow-
face performance in the 19th
century to Jackie Chan in the 21st,
Sean Metzger (M.A., compara-
tive literature, ’98) examines ar-
ticles of clothing, media portrayals
and modes of adornment as a
window on how American views
of China have changed in the past
150 years.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHEESE:
A HISTORY Oregon State Uni-
versity Press / Tami Parr (Ph.D.,
English, ’94) slices off a chunk
of regional history by tracing the
craft of cheesemaking in the Pacif-
ic Northwest to the first fur trad-
ers, recounting how cheesemak-
ing became a thriving modern-day
industry on small farms in Oregon,
Washington and Idaho.

DADDY’S ZIGZAGGING BED-
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space aliens who burn fire to
kung-fu pigs and cupcake-making
unicorns, and back.
Also by Alan Lawrence Sitomer
CAGED WARRIOR Disney
Hyperion

A JANE AUSTEN DAYDREAM
Madison Street Publishing / Writ-
ten in the style of Austen herself,
Scott D. Southard’s (MPW, ’02)
novel ponders the question faced
by many devoted readers over the
years: Did she ever find love?

MARKETING LITERATURE AND
POSTHUMOUS LEGACIES: The
Symbolic Capital of Leonid
Andreev and Vladimir Nabokov
Lexington Books / Frederick H.
White (Ph.D., Slavic languages and
literatures, ’02) co-authored (with
Yuri Leving) an examination of the
creation and maintenance of literary
reputations within the Russian liter-
ary tradition from the perspective of
the economics of culture.
These Birds Walk

Pakistan is seen through the eyes of street children in alumna Valentina Canavesio’s documentary out on DVD.

Bathed in the golden hue of a few flickering candles, the boys lay barefoot on the cold, stone-speckled floor. Huddled together, one asked, “Do you believe in God?” before they all whispered a prayer.

“I miss falling asleep with my brothers and sisters,” one tear-streaked boy said.

Outside, a faded sign half-covered with overgrown leafy branches declares in Arabic: Safe Home for Unknown and Abandoned Children.

The home for destitute and runaway children has stood in Karachi, Pakistan, since 1951. “These kids are young. They are lost,” said Abdul Sattar Edhi, 86, who founded the home that grew into a foundation with more than 300 similar centers across Pakistan. “You must take them home.”

Often, however, returning these boys to their own homes requires traveling across deadly Taliban territory. Asad Ghori, once a runaway who took refuge at Edhi’s home, is the driver of the rusted ambulance that returns the children to their families.

What Ghori encounters is captured in These Birds Walk, a documentary produced by Valentina Canavesio, who earned her bachelor’s in international relations from USC Dornsife in 2004. For Ghori, returning the children to their parents is often more disturbing than crossing extremely dangerous territory.

Rafullah was one such boy.

“If you drop me off now, they will start beating me right away,” Rafullah said, crying in the back of the van.

Their arrival produced the documentary’s most chilling scene when one uncle said: “He would have been more use to us if you brought back his corpse.” Ghori then began negotiating to spare the boy from punishment.

“The Edhi Foundation has a policy that they will not release a child who does not want to go home,” Canavesio said. “But off-camera Rafullah said that he just missed his mother and his siblings.”

The title of the compelling film conjures bird imagery that can be seen as a metaphor for these children not being given the wings to fly.

“But the title,” she explained, “means different things to different people.” —P.J.F.

Alumni News

1940s

S. L. “SID” STEBEL (B.A., English literature, ’49) gifted his manuscripts and materials dealing with his career as a writer and educator to the USC Libraries.

1950s

RICHARD AUGER (B.A., philosophy, ’56) retired after 44 years as a clinical psychologist and Jungian analyst in private practice. He served two years as president of the C. G. Jung Institute of Los Angeles.

1960s

JEWEL KOLLING BASSE (B.A., psychobiology, ’67) of San Francisco, a trial lawyer with more than 30 years of litigation, arbitration and mediation experience, has been invited to join the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA).

1970s

LAUREL ANN BOGEN (B.A., English, ’71; MPW, ’01) was appointed to the board of directors of Beyond Baroque Literary/Arts Center, a prominent independent literary foundation located in Venice, CA.

BARBARA CROFTS (B.A., international relations, ’74; MBA,’08) was appointed chief financial officer of AllDigital Holdings, Inc.

CHRISTINE E. GEOSLING (Ph.D, chemistry, ’77) received the 2013 Resnik Challenger Medal from the Society of Women Engineers for “a long and visionary career of breaking barriers in space navigation technology, making longer, more complex data-gathering missions possible.” Her research and development work was carried out at Northrop Grumman Corporation, where she is currently an engineering program manager.

1980s

TROJANALITY

PHILIP WOO (B.A., urban studies, ’76) celebrated the second anniversary of the founding

GEORGE GOKEL (Ph.D., chemistry, ’71) has been named a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors. He is Distinguished Professor of Science and director of the Center for Nanoscience at the University of Missouri, St. Louis.

GERALDINE KNATZ (Ph.D., biological sciences, ’79) has been named a member of the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), the highest professional distinction accorded to an engineer. Knatz, a lecturer at USC Viterbi School of Engineering, is the former Port of Los Angeles executive director.

MARK R. LARET (M.A., political science, ’78), chief executive officer of University of California, San Francisco Medical Center and UCSI Benioff Children’s Hospital, has been elected 2014 chair of the California Hospital Association Board of Trustees.

JOHN D. MEYER (Ph.D., physics, ’79) was awarded the Davies Medal 2013 by the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain in recognition of his role in revolutionizing digital imaging.

ROBERT SANTETTI (M.A., American studies, ’78), executive director of the GRAMMY Museum, delivered the commencement address to Monmouth University graduates and was awarded an honorary degree during the Jan. 17 commencement ceremony.

The book Developing Physician Leaders for Successful Clinical Integration (Health Administration Press), co-authored by JACQUE SOKOLOV (B.A., pre-medicine, ’75; MD, ’78), was awarded the 2014 James A. Hamilton Book of the Year by the American College of Healthcare Executives.

The movie The Secret Life of Bees, based on the best-selling novel by Sue Monk Kidd, was released in 2008 and earned T.S. Malory an Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress.

JACQUE SOKOLOV (B.A., pre-medicine, ’75; MD, ’78) is a retired practicing obstetrician-gynecologist and is on the board of directors of the Strategic Healthcare Program, a non-profit think tank that advances evidence-based solutions for creating a high-quality, affordable and sustainable health care system.
of his environmentally friendly Southern California-based firm, Packaging with Print.

1980s

DANIEL D. BEI ETENA (B.S., biological sciences, '82) was appointed vice president of development by the USS Midway Museum in San Diego, CA.

GREG BRANNON (B.S., biological sciences, '82) is a candidate for the U.S. Senate, representing North Carolina.

MICHELLE ADAMS BURCHETT (B.A., political science, '82), journalist, freelance writer and public affairs specialist, was awarded the Media Champion Award by Substance Abuse Free Environment, Inc.

Pennsylvania State University named LINDA M. COLLINS (Ph.D., psychology, '83), professor of human development and family studies, and statistics, and director of The Methodology Center, a distinguished professor for her record of research, teaching and service.

ESTHER KIA'A'INA (B.A., international relations, '83) is a nominee to serve as the assistant secretary for Insular Areas at the U.S. Department of the Interior. She currently serves as the first deputy director of the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources.

GREGORY PIA MOS (B.A., political science, '83), city attorney for Riverside, CA, was elected president of the City Attorneys Department of the League of California Cities.

JEFFREY M. RICH (B.A., political science, '83) received the prestigious AV Preeminent Peer Review Rating from Martindale-Hubbell, the highest such peer review rating available to any individual lawyer.

1990s

CHARLES CLAVER (B.A., political science, '97) is chief operating officer for Los Angeles-based New Empire Entertainment Insurance Services Inc., and Truman Van Dyke Company, specializing in entertainment insurance.

ERIC S. GARFIELD (B.A., political science, '93), MAI, CCIM, has been promoted to managing director and the National Tangible Asset Department Leader for WITAS LLC, a nationwide tax compliance and consulting firm.

JENNIFER (NICHOLS) KEARNS (B.A., psychology, '94) was honored in July 2013 by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences with two Emmy awards, one for production and one for writing, both in the Short Form category. She also recently joined the city of San Diego's Corporate Partnership Office as marketing manager.

H. GAVIN LONG (B.A., English/American history, '96) has been appointed to the board of directors of the Consumer Attorneys of California.

CHRISTINA MARS DEN (B.A., history, '94) was appointed executive director of Hope Haven Children's Non-Profit Charity.

NOAH MARGO (B.A., English/creative writing, '90; MPW, '92) was installed as president of the Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Trustees.

JENNIE NOLL (B.A., '90; Ph.D., '95, both psychology) has been appointed director of Pennsylvania State University’s Network on Child Protection and Well-Being.

JOHN WILLIAM PARKER III (B.A., English literature, '90) is the new vintner and proprietor of Parker Wine. He launched his inaugural wine in 2013.

ARCHANA RAMASUNDARAM (M.S., sociology/criminology, '99) is director-general of police, Tamil Nadu Uniformed Services Recruitment Board in Chennai, India.

Historian WALTER RICH-MON D (M.A. and Ph.D., Slavic languages and literatures, '89, '94), an expert on Islamic societies in the Caucasus, published The Circassian Genocide (Rutgers University Press), making a compelling case that Sochi, Russia, was the site of modern Europe’s first genocide.

2000s

CURTIS BAKER (B.A., economics, '01) has been appointed superintendent of the Moon Area School District board in Moon Township, PA. He previously worked as the deputy superintendent at Roanoke, VA., city public schools since 2007 and has worked for the Lancaster School District in California.

EGBERT NATHANIEL DAWKINS III (B.A., linguistics, psychology and communication, '01) (aka Aloe Blacc) released his third album, Lift Your Spirit, and is the opening act on Bruno Mars’ Moonshine Jungle tour.

ALEXIS JONES (B.A., international relations, '09; M.A., communication management, '07) has been promoting her organization, I Am That Girl, a campaign she started to help young women turn their self-doubt into self-love.

SANDRA KHOR MANICKAM (B.A., history, '00) joined the Department of Southeast Asian Studies at Frankfurt University in Germany in 2012 as a junior professor.

Continued on page 60.

Securing the Future

A $1 million gift by alumni Linda and Harlan Martens establishes the USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute’s Endowed Director’s Chair.

Growing up in Pasadena, Calif., Harlan Martens’ family would bring out-of-town visitors to the magnificent Huntington Library. His wife, Linda, originally of Fullerton, Calif., also remembers visiting the library as a child. The place has held special significance for them.

Now this is true for a new reason.

A $1 million donation by the couple, both USC Dornsife alumni and longtime supporters of USC, has established the Linda and Harlan Martens Endowed Director’s Chair for the USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute (EMSI), housed in USC Dornsife.

This gift accompanies a matching grant of $1.5 million made by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in recognition of EMSI’s success during its 10-year existence. The Martens’ gift, plus an additional $500,000, clinches a $3 million endowment.

Peter Mancall, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of the Humanities, vice dean for the humanities, and professor of history and anthropology, holds the new endowed director’s chair.

“Harlan and Linda are great supporters of USC and really stepped up to the challenge,” Mancall said. “We conduct a wide range of programs through EMSI, and this endowment provides stability and security by ensuring a permanent source of funding for the director’s position.”

Founded in 2003 with seed funding from the Mellon Foundation, EMSI has a strong partnership with the Huntington Library. The institute supports advanced research and scholarship on human societies across the globe between 1450 and 1850. It advances interdisciplinary research in the areas of history, art history, literature and music. —L.P.
Gates of Paradise

International relations and political science double major Reid Lidow earns a Gates Cambridge Scholarship for graduate studies at the University of Cambridge.

Senior Reid Lidow, an international relations and political science double major, has been awarded a highly competitive Gates Cambridge Scholarship. This award grants him a full scholarship for graduate studies at the University of Cambridge, where he will pursue a master of philosophy in development studies starting in Fall 2014.

Lidow, 21, was chosen based on his intellectual ability, social leadership potential and demonstrated commitment to helping others. Administered through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Gates Cambridge program aims to build a global network of future leaders committed to improving lives worldwide.

This year’s applicant pool included 800 students. Of those, 40 scholars were selected and will be joined by an additional 55 international scholars to be chosen later this year.

For the past three years, Lidow has served as a research assistant for Professor of International Relations and Vice Dean of Academic Programs Steven Lamy.

“Reid is an incredible intellectual force, approaching all of his tasks with energy, creativity and commitment to quality scholarship,” Lamy said.

“His interests in development and human security in Southeast Asia will be further developed at Cambridge,” he continued. “I see him becoming an important participant in the policy community working in this vital area.”

Lidow hails from Encino, Calif., and is a graduate of Harvard-Westlake School in Studio City, Calif.

“Even though mine is the only name listed under the award, I couldn’t have done it without the help of so many individuals,” Lidow said. “I think about professor Lamy, on day one when I was a freshman, telling me about all the opportunities available to me at USC and my possibilities upon graduation.”

He credited Associate Professor of International Relations Dan Lynch, his thesis adviser, for piquing his interest in Burma.

“Professor Lynch made it possible for me to ask the right questions about the country in order to produce substantive, quality research that advances the discussion and sheds light on an underserved topic and area of the world.” —L.P.
**The Envelope, Please**

Close to Tinseltown but better than the Academy Awards are the annual USC Alumni Awards.

Call it the USC Oscars. The annual Alumni Awards gala is the premier event sponsored by the USC Alumni Association. Each year since 1932, the association has paid tribute to members of the Trojan Family with its highest honors.

This year, four from the group of winners were affiliated with USC Dornsife.

Associate Senior Vice President for Alumni Relations Patrick E. Auerbach, Ed.D. ’08, praised the USC Dornsife winners.

“They shine a brilliant light not only on the Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, but also across a rich spectrum of university programs and disciplines,” he said.

And the Alumni Service Awards go to:

**Jana Waring Greer,** who earned her bachelor’s in speech communications in 1973 and is chair of the USC Dornsife Board of Councilors. In the 1970’s, communications was under the auspices of USC Dornsife.

Greer is president and chief executive officer of the Individual and Group Retirement division of American International Group, Inc. (AIG). She has direct responsibility for AIG’s domestic retirement savings businesses, with assets of more than $200 billion under management.

**Christine M. Ofesh,** who received her bachelor’s in history in 1974, is a Los Angeles native, dedicated USC volunteer and full-time philanthropist who supports her alma mater and many other greater Los Angeles-area organizations.

The Alumni Merit Awards go to:

**Robert Osher,** who earned his bachelor’s in cinema in 1981 and is a USC Dornsife Board of Councilors member. Osher is president of Sony Pictures Entertainment’s Digital Production division, comprising animation, image works, interactive and post-production services. Under his leadership, Sony Pictures Animation has produced numerous hits, including *Hotel Transylvania,* *The Smurfs* and the *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* films.

From 2004 to 2009, Osher was the chief operating officer of the Columbia Pictures Motion Picture Group, where he oversaw such blockbusters as the Spider-Man and James Bond films. Prior to joining Columbia, he was co-president of production for Miramax Films.

**Gail Samuel** earned her bachelor’s in psychology in 1988, bachelor’s in music in 1989 and master of business administration in 2002. Samuel currently serves as chief operating officer of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association. At USC, she has served on the Board of Councilors for the Thornton School of Music since 2009. —P.J.J.
In Memoriam

ALISSA “LIL” OR “LISS” ANN (SMEGO) BIGELOW (B.A., political science, ’98) Boston, MA (10/5/13) at age 38; earned degree while working as an actress in national commercials and prime time television shows; earned a master’s degree in broadcast journalism from Boston University; editor and features producer at the New England Sports Network (NESN) nightly news show, Sports Desk, based in Boston, a self-taught cook, launched live cooking show, In the Kitchen with Alissa Bigelow.

WALTER LEE COZAD (B.A., geology, ’70) Lake Arrowhead, CA (11/4/13) at age 78; produced volcanic material to Caltrans CA (11/4/13) at age 78; a Realtor WALTER LEE COZAD (B.A., history, ’69) Laguna Beach, CA (10/19/13) at age 87; lettered in football, baseball and basketball at high school; continued playing sports at El Camino College and USC; after brief teaching career, worked in commercial real estate with Coldwell Banker and Home Depot.

ROBERT R. DOCKSON (B.A., economics, ’60) Irvine, CA (11/20/13) at age 77; had a successful career in the food processing and packaging industry; his ashes were scattered on the Rappahannock River and the San Francisco Bay, where he loved to sail.

CHARLES JESS “CHUCK” SANCHEZ (B.A., international relations, ’72) Deland, FL (10/12/13) at age 64; worked for the postal service for 15 years then was self-employed for more than 10; worked for Labcorp after moving to Florida in 1998.

LELAND “LEE” HOWARD SCOTT (B.A., religion, ’45) (10/19/13) at age 88; lifelong social justice advocate; became campus minister for the Wesley Foundation at First United Methodist Church, Tucson, AZ in 1958; instrumental in creation of the Campus Christian Center at the University of Arizona; joined the founding faculty of Pima Community College in 1969; taught humanities and worked as a guidance counselor; active in college leadership until he retired in 1990.

SYD FIELD, a lecturer in the Master of Professional Writing (MPW) program at USC Dornsife, whose 1979 book, Screenplay: The Foundations of Screenwriting has been the major reference tool for generations of writers, has died. He was 77.

Field died Nov. 17, 2013, of blood disorder hemolytic anemia at his Beverly Hills, CA, home, surrounded by his wife, family and friends.

A Hollywood native, Field taught at MPW from 2001 until a few weeks before his death.

He wrote nine screenplays and one was made into a film.

“Syd Field was an inspiration — we call him the ‘Aristotle of Hollywood’ because he had that particular kind of encyclopedic dramatic knowledge,” said Brighde Mullins, MPW director.

“Syd influenced generations of screenwriters worldwide,” Mullins said.

“I will miss my dad’s constant wisdom, guidance and leadership,” said Dockson’s daughter Kimberlee Dockson Rollo.

Earning his master’s in international relations in 1940, Dockson received his Ph.D. in economics in 1946. Both were from USC Dornsife. He earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois in 1939.

Dean of the USC Marshall School of Business from 1959 to 1969, Dockson played an integral role in shaping the breadth and impact of today’s modern business school.

LARRY L. BERG, longtime commentator on state and national politics and founder of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics, housed at USC Dornsife, died at his home in Calabasas, CA, on Thanksgiving 2013. He was 74.

Berg succumbed to complications associated with lung cancer. As executive director of the Unruh Institute, Berg became one of the most insightful political analysts of his era.

Martha M. Escutia, later to be elected to both chambers of the California Legislature, said the only “B” she received at USC was from Berg.

“No I realize what that B meant,” she said. “Larry expected more and encouraged me to always aspire for better.”

ROBERT R. DOCKSON, among the most distinguished graduates of USC Dornsife’s School of International Relations and a generous USC benefactor, has died. He was 96.

Dockson died Nov. 26, 2013, at his Los Angeles home, surrounded by family.

REMEMBERING
Anthony Mlikotin, professor emeritus of Slavic languages and literatures, a Croatian immigrant, founded the Slavic department at USC Dornsife in 1967.

Professor Emeritus of Slavic Languages and Literatures Anthony Mlikotin, founding chairman of the department and 31-year faculty member at USC Dornsife, has died. He was 87.

Mlikotin died on Sept. 13 at Seacrest Convalescent Home in San Pedro, Calif., from pneumonia.

Joining USC Dornsife in 1965, he became founding chairman of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures two years later. In three years, the number of students taking classes in the department rose from 33 to 266. Currently, about 500 students attend Slavic classes.

Mlikotin retired in 1996 at age 72 as professor emeritus, but remained connected to faculty and students, driving to campus two or three times weekly to visit the Slavic department, talk with professors, read at the library or go to the cafeteria to drink coffee and chat with friends.

“He told me, ‘I just like to be around students,’ ” said Mlikotin’s daughter, Dunja Wright ’90. “USC was his home. He really loved what he did and he kept returning.”

Thomas Seifrid, professor and chair of Slavic languages and literatures, said the department would not be what it is today without Mlikotin.

Anthony Mlikotin was a lively presence in the department — which has now risen to become one of the top Slavic departments in the country — for all who knew him when he was still teaching at USC,” Seifrid said.

“He taught energetically and took his students’ potential for intellectual engagement — especially with his favorite philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche — seriously, expecting them not only to read and comprehend the text but to think deeply about what it might mean for their lives.”
IN MY OPINION

Strong As Oak

Diedre L. Badejo ’73 is deeply rooted in community.

Consider Kahlil Gibran’s passage in the chapter “On Giving” as told in 1923’s The Prophet: “They give that they may live, for to withhold is to perish … And what desert greater shall be than that which lies in the courage and the confidence, nay the charity, of receiving.”

Gibran intimates that humans — like trees — must give and receive freely if we are to bloom continuously. And like trees, we must also weather many storms.

I am a bicoastal sapling, and where I stand now is as much a mystery as it is a revelation. Always passionate about learning, I’ve frequently met with resistance. As a high school junior, I won a merit scholarship but a rather indolent counselor refused to guide me through the college application process. Frustrated, I took classes that summer, graduated early, got a job, got married and at 18 became a mother. After three years, I fled an abusive marriage, lost the scholarship and gained responsibility for our 16-month-old daughter. But I never lost sight of completing college. Being a first-generation college student is often fraught with such near misses.

A few years after arriving in L.A., I graduated from Los Angeles Community College and after winning a Ford Foundation scholarship, USC Dornsife offered me the gift of a second chance — and an undergraduate degree.

USC Dornsife’s Joint Educational Project (JEP), too, gave me a chance to give that which I so desperately wanted to receive. It became, and remains, an opportunity to build a ladder of hope to students destined to become “firsts” in their families.

My JEP peers and I saw in the eyes of these young students familiar bright lights telegraphing ambition, talent, vision and hope. We also saw in their classrooms despair scattered among the few outdated textbooks, long, dingy corridors and the passionate teachers exhausted with supplementing more and more materials to give their students a fighting chance.

It was an early lesson in educational disparity that moved beyond the individual indifference that I experienced at better-funded schools, to a more structural disparity that, until then, I was unaware existed.

A transformative mission emerged — to get hopeful students to see themselves as they wish to be seen, not as others wish to see them. They fueled my commitment to excel in service to those who sought to receive not just hope but also help in achieving their own goals.

Believe me, since then no matter the task, the brilliant eyes of those JEP kids continue to inspire me. Recruiting middle and secondary school students, and mentoring graduate students, junior faculty or emerging leaders invigorates new ways of thinking and doing, and keeps me grounded in the obligation of second chances.

As department chair at Kent State University, I’d ask Upward Bound high school students if they knew what department chairs did. Most didn’t. I’d explain, then ask, “Who wants my job?” As hands slowly rose, I’d say, “Your training starts today.” One young student perched between her parents and grandmother took me up on it. After being admitted, she became a work-study student in my office, then a faculty assistant and an outreach program tutor. She was last seen in graduate school preparing, as I had encouraged, to do my job.

Arriving at USC, I only knew I wanted to graduate, write, teach, research and understand the world. To me, USC was the portal to personal and community evolution. Living life fully is like being a ripple in a pond. Starting with my own family, it means disrupting patterns, creating new seascapes. Now, whatever “firsts” my children and mentees achieve, they will do so from the starting gate of their own post-secondary experiences.

Fortunately, USC’s faculty and JEP nurtured many first-generation students like me. It is often said, to whom much is given, much is expected. Today I speak with a voice that was once threatened with being silenced by enmity and fear.

Like artists sculpting bonsai trees, I believe we are responsible for bringing to light the hidden jewels of those who entrust themselves to us. As we prune and reshape them, we receive a gift that reflects our own courage, vision and labor. And that is as it should be.

Diedre L. Badejo graduated with her bachelor’s in English in 1973. A Fulbright Senior Scholar and professor of African, African Diaspora and Comparative Studies at the University of Baltimore, she’s widely published. Her pioneering work on the Yoruba goddess Osun led her to serve as content expert on the Osun Osogbo segment for a forthcoming PBS documentary, Sacred Journeys, to be aired in December 2014.
As we celebrate its 40th anniversary year, we invite you to support the Joint Educational Project through the JEP Gifting Tree.

Each leaf denotes an aspect of the different programs and will help provide critical resources for our educational projects. Be a part of JEP’s legacy by underwriting a leaf. Your gift will help JEP to continue to branch out into the community with its signature service-learning programs.

For a full list of the Gifting Tree leaves, visit dornsife.usc.edu/give
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