The USC Dornsife Quickview

2015

Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences
The academic heart of the University of Southern California
Welcome

The Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences is the academic heart of the University of Southern California. As the liberal arts core of a powerhouse research university, our talented students and preeminent faculty stand shoulder to shoulder in USC Dornsife’s education and research missions. Our experts push the boundaries of their own scholarship while imparting their wisdom and skills to our students, training them as the next generation’s leaders. Our classrooms extend out into our communities, our research institutes, and around the globe to ensure that knowledge results in action and impact. Together, we are frontline scholars who are boldly tackling the complex issues and global perspectives of today and the future.
Selected 2015 Highlights

USC Dornsife’s sponsored research budget totals $387.3 million. USC Dornsife’s research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has increased by 26% in four years while the NIH extramural budget allocations have remained flat for the same period.

USC Dornsife faculty members received international recognition, including Guggenheim Fellowships and the Dan David Prize, as well as election to the National Academy of Inventors and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Robin Coste Lewis, a doctoral candidate in the Ph.D. program in creative writing and literature, won the National Book Award for Poetry for her debut book, Voyage of the Sable Venus and Other Poems.

Of the approximately 52,000 applications for undergraduate admission that USC received, nearly 26,000, or 50%, were applicants to USC Dornsife.

USC Dornsife undergraduate and graduate students were selected for prestigious Fulbright, Marshall, Soros and Mellon Mays Fellowships as well as Boren, McNair and Gilman Scholarships.

The USC Dornsife Initiative — as part of the Campaign for the University of Southern California — raised $92 million. Since 2011, the initiative has raised a total of $581 million.

USC Dornsife developed the Dornsife Preceptor Program, which offers full-time, salaried preceptor positions to recent doctoral graduates of USC. The aim is to address an increasingly competitive academic job market, particularly for positions in the humanities and social sciences.

USC students dedicated approximately 90,000 service hours to the local community through USC Dornsife’s Joint Educational Project.

USC Dornsife offered more than 20 professional planning courses to nearly 400 undergraduates and continued its Gateway Internship Program, which leverages our links to business leaders in Los Angeles to help students explore and prepare for varied career paths.

“If we are going to be the kind of university we want to be, USC has to tackle the most important problems of the 21st century. USC Dornsife College is at the core of this effort.”

Michael Quick
Provost,
University of Southern California

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Blending international relations coursework with internships at policy-focused organizations, USC Dornsife created the semester-long Dornsife D.C. Program as part of a continuing emphasis on practical politics.

The USC Shoah Foundation partnered with international organizations to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Auschwitz death camp liberation, bringing survivors, teachers and others to Poland for a four-day observance.

Following Distinguished Professor Arieh Warshel’s Nobel Prize in 2013, the Department of Chemistry recruited senior professors Vadim Cherezov and Valery Fokin, who are working in key areas of biological chemistry and drug development.

The Department of English further bolstered its creative writing faculty with the recruitment of renowned American poet Claudia Rankine and award-winning author Geoff Dyer.

Noteworthy Landmarks

The USC Wrigley Marine Science Center on Catalina Island celebrated its 50th anniversary and debuted a new, state-of-the-art research greenhouse to support both marine and freshwater projects. In addition, the USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies marked its 20th anniversary.

Gordon Brown, former British prime minister, and Steven Lamy, professor of international relations and vice dean, co-taught “Case Studies in Modern Leadership.” In the course, undergraduates examined what the world will look like in 2025 from the perspective of a global leader who helped shape the world we live in now.

Building upon the university’s Convergent Bioscience Initiative, USC Dornsife faculty launched The Bridge@USC to unite outstanding minds in chemistry, biology, medicine, mathematics, physics, and engineering. Together, they are creating the first atomic-resolution model of the human body that will accelerate the development of new therapies and cures for a range of diseases and conditions.

USC Dornsife houses 47 research centers and institutes, which include:

- USC Shoah Foundation — The Institute for Visual History and Education
- USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies
- Korean Studies Institute
- Southern California Earthquake Center
- USC Brain and Creativity Institute
- Center for Social and Economic Research
- Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute
- Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics
**Brief History**

1880 The College of Liberal Arts is founded along with the university, which opens its doors with 53 students and 10 teachers.

1924 The School of International Relations, the second oldest international relations school in the U.S. and the third oldest in the world, is established.

1964 The Ahmanson Center for Biological Research is founded and includes research projects in bacteriology, biology, chemistry, pharmacy and psychology.

1994 USC Distinguished Professor George Olah is the sole winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his research in the field of hydrocarbons.

2000 *Time* magazine and the Princeton Review choose USC as “College of the Year” citing USC Dornsife’s Joint Educational Project and its model of service learning as the main reason they chose USC.

2011 The USC Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences is named.

2013 USC Distinguished Professor Arieh Warshel receives the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for developing powerful computer approaches to understand chemical processes.