

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Alumni Updates:

1970s	Page 2
1980s	Page 2
1990s	Page 7
2000s	Page 13
2010s	Page 26

## Welcome to the inaugural issue of the USC Rossier School of Education's Class Notes Newsletter!

Over the past few months we collected **over 300 professional and personal updates from Rossier alumni**. Our efforts included targeted outreach to alumni in milestone, reunion years to our most recent graduating class and everyone in between!

Going forward the Class Notes Newsletter will be published twice a year (in the spring and fall) and distributed via email as well as posted on the Rossier website.

If you would like to include an update for the next issue, please complete the **online alumni update survey**.

### Fight On!

Matt DeGrushe ME '04  
Director of Alumni Engagement

## FEATURE STORIES

**Widney Alumni House Volunteer Award Winners from USC Rossier**  
Page 6

**The Ellen DeGeneres Show Visits a Rossier Alum's Classroom**  
Page 28

**Rossier Graduate's Experience as a Wheel of Fortune Contestant**  
Page 34



## PHOTO GALLERY

### Recent Rossier Alumni Events

**Leadership Conference**  
(Top Left)

**Rossier on the Road - Hawaii**  
(Middle Left)

**Rossier on the Road - San Francisco**  
(Bottom Left)

**Homecoming Picnic**  
(Bottom Right)



## 1970s

### 1974

**Charles Seims** *ME '74* is a retired attorney. He has also published several books, including: *Mount Lowe, The Railway in the Clouds* (1976), *Trolley Days in Pasadena* (1982), *The Ford V-8 Album* (1986) and *Roar With Gilmore, The Story of America's Most Unusual Oil Company* (2014).

### 1975

**Linda Futchik Tenno** *BS '75 MS '84 EdD '92* is a recently retired elementary school principal. During her 38-year career in education, Linda served as a classroom teacher in a number of elementary grades, a middle school teacher, assistant principal, an advisor in the Orange County Department of Education's Intern Program, and an elementary principal in the Garden Grove Unified School District and the Newport Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD). Her most recent position was as principal of Victoria Elementary School in NMUSD, where she also coordinated the district's GATE Program. Linda continues to be a proud USC alum! She and her husband have two college-age sons: the oldest is a computer science major at USC, and the youngest is a political science major at UCSB.

### 1977

**Jack Sutton** *MS '77 EdD '94* is retired after serving as the executive coordinator for UCLA Education Outreach.

## 1980s

### 1981

**Kimberley Peterson** *BA '81 MS '84* received her MFT license in 1987 and has specialized in the field of brain injury. Kimberley has worked as a full-time counselor/instructor for Coastline Community College's Acquired Brain Injury Program since 1989.

### 1984

**Genaro Carapia** *MS '84* taught for the LAUSD while working on his MS. He taught all the elementary grade levels, except kindergarten. Genaro also experienced teaching in diverse socio-economic communities, from the inner city to the San Fernando Valley. Genaro later became a categorical program coordinator, assistant principal and retired as a principal in 2011. Administratively, and through exemplary teamwork and leadership, his teams accomplished many "firsts." They received a half-million dollar grant (Reading Excellence Award). The school became the first in East Los Angeles to receive a Wonder of Reading Library and was later awarded a \$50,000 Model Library Award. This school became a California Distinguished School. It was a wonderful, memorable 34-year sojourn that will be treasured for a lifetime. He and his wife, Lai Tan, continue to enjoy traveling. They have traveled extensively throughout the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America and the United States. They recently toured Alaska, repacked and spent 12 days in New England. They expect to conquer Europe in 2015! They also enjoy spending time in Running Springs, their vacation home. They continue a tradition of attending at least two away USC football games. They are in the process of creating the "Genaro and Lai Tan Carapia Scholarship Foundation." The foundation's proposed goals are to award scholarships to high school students and assist organizations that provide assistance to the needy. The Carapias recently became members of USC Rossier's Academy Leadership Giving Program.

**John Costello** *EdD '84* is retired.

**Barry Halote** *PhD '84* is a clinical director at California Psychological Associates.

**Edward Hogg** *EdD '84* retired earlier this year after serving as an associate professor of human resource management. He earned an MS in Human Resource Management in 1986 and a PhD in Human and Organizational Systems in 1993.

**Paul Kerr** *MS '84* held various positions in both for-profit and nonprofit endeavors since graduating from USC. He earned a teaching credential in the mid-90s and taught in the Bellflower Unified School District for four years. In 2001, Paul accepted a teaching assignment with the Department of Defense Education Activity in Taegu (now Daegu), South Korea, where he taught a departmentalized sixth grade class for three years. In 2004, he transferred to Heidelberg, Germany, where he taught fourth grade for four years and fifth grade for four years. Anticipating the military closure of that community, Paul transferred to Stuttgart, Germany, in 2012, where he currently teaches fourth grade. Paul married Bonnie Louise Kilcollins, a nursing graduate from Biola University, in May of 1985, in Denver. They purchased, and eventually sold, a home in La Habra and currently own a home in Colorado Springs. While in Korea, Paul was able to write several articles for an English-language newsletter. Living abroad, he has been able to take advantage of numerous travel opportunities, and his Trip Advisor "Cities I've Visited" shows 100 cities in 25 countries. Paul has lived in North America, Asia and Europe and has traveled extensively through each and recently visited Morocco, adding the African continent to the list of his travel destinations. When not teaching or traveling, Paul enjoys hiking when he can, playing drums (he played semi-professionally in Southern California) and honing his writing skills.

**Arie Korporaal** *PhD '84* retired in September 2005 after serving in various roles including science consultant in the Los Angeles County Office of Education; director, K-12 Curriculum in the Paramount Unified School District; and executive director at the South East Education Technology Consortium.



**Margie Lafia (Orme)** *MS '84* received her teaching credential and has been working in East Los Angeles with second language learners for 30 years. Her daughter, Sara, was accepted into the PhD program at UCSB in Geospatial Sciences. Margie and her husband, who is also an educator, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary.

**Phil Morse** *MS '84* formally retired in 2009, although he still consults in the areas of student testing, evaluation and research. Phil earned a PhD in Educational Policy Analysis and Evaluation from UCLA. He spent 12½ years as an elementary school principal in Norwalk and (City of) Orange. He then worked as director of research and assessment for the Orange Unified School District for five years, followed by another five years in the Planning, Assessment and Research Division of the LAUSD. Phil was named last year to the Technical Advisory Panel of the NAEP High School Transcript Study. He served as president of the California Educational Research Association, Directors of Research and Evaluation and the National Association of Test Directors. In 2011, Phil was awarded the Annual Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Association of Test Directors.

**Laurel Myers** *MS '84* has been involved in various areas of logistics throughout her many careers, first working for the Department of the Army Transportation Corps and School, then the Quartermaster supply branch of the Combined Arms Support Command Training Directorate. Laurel then analyzed complex systems for acquisition logistics engineering before returning to the public sector and becoming involved in the logistics of innovative professional and personal training development for the Department of the Navy with the Naval Medical Education and Training Command in Bethesda, Md. She next managed several projects developing curriculum for the Federal Aviation Administration, for the Health and Human Services University to update their online curriculum. She is currently the section chief of Workforce Development for Naval Sea Systems. Since she earned her degree,

Laurel went on to earn a PhD. That was one of her life goals. Her PhD is in Applied Management and Decision Sciences specializing in Logistics. She has a Master of Science in Early Childhood Education from USC, a Master of Arts in Educational Administration from TCU and an undergraduate degree from Florida Atlantic University in Education. Three of her four children have since earned bachelor's degrees, and one has earned a master's degree. A second child has also entered a master's program.

**Estela (Perez) Narrie** *ME '84* is an articulation officer and counseling faculty at Santa Monica College. She is also chair of the Southern California Intersegmental Articulation Council

**Benjamin Paull** *ME '84 EdD '94* is a principal in San Diego, Calif.

**Alan Preisser** *MS '84* continued serving in the U.S. Air Force after earning his degree and retired in 1992. Following several short-term jobs (including part owner of a Century 21 Real Estate franchise and substitute teaching), Alan became a military analyst and editor of the *Joint Center for Operational Analysis Journal*, a Department of Defense journal focused on lessons learned. He subsequently retired in 2011.

**Yvonne Raphael** *BS '84 MS '94* has been a classroom teacher for the past 25 years with the Los Angeles Unified School District.

**Donald Remley** *EdD '84* served as superintendent of Oroville City Elementary School District for 22 Years. He currently serves as a partner and chief financial officer of the Cosca Group, a professional educational search firm. Donald and his wife, Penny, are celebrating 46 years of married life and enjoying their three daughter's families, which includes nine grandchildren.

**Eileen Washington** *MAT '84* started her career as an educational therapist at Cedars Sinai Hospital. She became a teacher of learning handicapped students in Pasadena and Los Angeles Unified School Districts. Eileen also obtained a resource specialist credential and worked for many years implementing specialized individual programs to meet the needs of special

education students. She achieved Spanish fluency by living in Spain and Mexico and obtained her bilingual fluency certificate (BCLAD), which allows her to provide primary language support to the Spanish-speaking students and their families. Eileen's highest honor is the achievement of National Board Certification. In this capacity she mentors new teachers, facilitates teacher workshops and provides parent trainings. She has been instrumental in designing school and district plans.

## 1986

**Debra Holland** *MS '86 PhD '93* is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author with her Montana Sky Series, which is sweet (meaning not sexy) historical western romance. Her next book, *Glorious Montana Sky*, was released on October 28.

## 1989



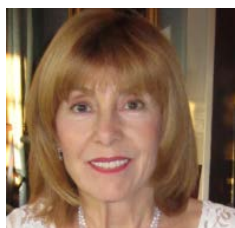
**Wendell Chun** *EdD '89* retired as superintendent of schools of Oakdale Joint Unified School District in 2008. Wendell is currently executive director and owner of Education Leadership Services, a superintendent search firm.

**Deborah Cullen** *EdD '89* has worked in several administration and faculty positions at Indiana University since 1990.

**Peggy Hayward** *EdD '89* has held various positions over the course of her career, including director, Orientation and Transition Services, CSU Fresno (1989–96); dean, Student Development & Matriculation, San Diego City College, San Diego Community College District, (1996–2002); and dean, Information and Learning Technology, San Diego City College, San Diego Community College District (2002–07). Peggy also attended the Fulbright Association Administrators Program in Germany (1998). Peggy moved to Medford, Ore., in 2012. She is enjoying life in Southern Oregon and her yearly travels to Europe.

**Linda McGee PhD '89** is retiring from the Federal Bureau of Prisons in October 2014, after 22 years. As chief psychologist she oversaw programs for seriously mentally ill inmates, an APA-approved pre-doctoral internship and two comprehensive drug treatment programs, including one for those with dual diagnoses. As a psychologist Linda has seen tremendous growth in the profession, especially in the application of evidence-based practices in psychotherapy. Although Federal age restrictions dictate that she retire from her current law enforcement position, she is excited to apply this experience to her next career step. Linda will continue her part-time employment as an adjunct professor for the Los Angeles Community College District, which is something she has thoroughly enjoyed for many years. Since her graduation, Linda and her husband have had three beautiful daughters, who, while challenging them to expand their horizons, grace their lives with joy.

**Suzanne Reynaud-Roepke ME '89 PhD '95** completed a post doctorate at Alvarado Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Hospital, La Mesa, Calif.; worked in private practice in Carlsbad; served as an educational consultant in learning disabilities, San Diego County; was a post doctorate fellow at UCSD Psychiatric Clinical Research Center in the study of schizophrenia; worked as a school psychologist and was a program specialist for Inyo and Mono Counties. Suzanne received her ME one week before the birth of her first child, who is now earning his MBA in the USC Marshall School of Business. During his undergrad studies he was on the USC swim team and the football team under Pete Carroll and Lane Kiffin. Her daughter is completing her GE requirements and transferring to UCSB, where Suzanne earned her BA in Psychology. Apples don't fall far from the tree!



**Wanda Ross PhD '89** managed the City Colleges of Chicago program on military bases across Europe and taught graduate school for Troy State University in Europe then in Virginia and North Carolina followed by Hawaii. After that,

Wanda managed educational programs at Bastyr University, a leading school of naturopathic medicine located in the Seattle area. In 1999, she moved to Silicon

Valley, where she has worked in executive search and done corporate recruiting for Google and Intuit. For the past three years, Wanda has worked at Polycom, where she is the senior manager, Americas and Executive Talent Acquisition. Wanda's passion is international travel. She is a member of the Travelers' Century Club, having traveled to over 100 countries. Her recreational passion is skiing. She has skied at over 150 places worldwide and is secretary of the Far West Ski Association. Wanda also enjoys golf, bicycling and sharing fun times with her friends. She shares her life with Mike Dhuey, an avid runner and bicyclist and former new design engineer at Apple and Cisco.

**John Spickelmier EdD & AdMed '89** is retired from the U.S. Army. He taught as adjunct faculty at several universities and is now teaching university courses in Vietnam. John discovered motorcycles at age 58. He is now 73 and has ridden through Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, New Zealand, Pikes Peak, Alaska, Smoky Mountains, Bay of Fundy, Canada, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Nevada, Texas, Arkansas, Hawaii, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Oklahoma, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Georgia, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C. This summer to Washington State, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska. John lived aboard a sailboat from 1988 until 2002 in Mississippi, Washington, D.C., Maryland and Hawaii. He also spent five years in Hanoi, Vietnam. He is still enjoying the happy partnership (now 38 years) with his wife, Diep, who recently worked international health stints in South Sudan, Namibia, Uganda, and Guyana in South America. "Lack of adventure eludes us."

**Michelle Wolfson MS '89** is the founder of Special Families Counseling and Advocacy in Carlsbad, Calif. Michelle also serves on the board of directors, NCCSE Community Advisory Committee, and is the immediate past chair. She also is a volunteer at the Autism Society San Diego. Michelle married Alan Wolfson in 1986, and they have three children: Steven (born 1987), Rachel (born 1992) and Danny (born 1996). Her younger two children have special needs and have been her primary focus for the past 20 years.

## Widney Alumni House Volunteer Award Winners from USC Rossier

On August 28, the USC Alumni Association honored the recipients of the 2014 Volunteer Recognition Awards for their dedication and service to the University of Southern California. The following six Rossier alumni received the Widney Alumni House Volunteer Award.



**Trudie Mann BS '66 MS '67** graduated from San Gabriel High School in 1962 and attended UC Santa Barbara for two years before transferring to USC in 1964. She taught school for 10 years in Newport Beach and then retired to raise her two sons. Her oldest was awarded a full scholarship to USC and received his degree in electrical engineering. Her youngest is also an electrical engineer. Mann, who has been a USC football season ticket holder since 1967, has always been involved in volunteering, whether as a soccer team mother, a PTA member, classroom helper or a member of a woman's service group. She is currently the president of the Trojan Guild of Orange County; she has been a member for 15 years. "Whether it be as membership chairman or historian, I have loved the chance to give back to my community and to USC," she said.



**Doreen Peterson MAT '10** is currently the president of the USC Alumni Club of San Gabriel Valley. She is a Language Arts Interventionist and has spent countless hours providing assistance for parents and inspiring students to get out of their comfort zones with her engaging workshops. Peterson serves on several education and child advocacy-related boards but feels most fulfilled when giving back to the Trojan Family.



**Patricia Poon BS '65** left her family in Texas to attend USC. She married her husband, Dudley, a mechanical engineer, in 1968. She spent 40 years as a math teacher in LAUSD and in the CSUN School of Education before retiring as an elementary math coach. The Dudley and Patricia Poon Endowed Scholarship was established to support the preparation of math and science teachers at USC Rossier.



**John Roach EdD '88** is currently the interim superintendent at Rowland Unified School District. He is also the owner of John Roach & Associates, an educational and leadership consulting firm, as well as an adjunct professor at USC Rossier, where he teaches courses in leadership and accountability. Roach served as superintendent of Carlsbad Unified School District from 2004 to 2012 and at Charter Oak Unified from 1998 to 2004. Roach was also an administrator in Brea Olinda Unified and East Whittier City School Districts. He is an active member of the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) and fundraising chair of the scholarship endowment committee for the Dean's Superintendents Advisory Group (DSAG) for Rossier.



**Guadalupe Simpson EdD '10** is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership & Policy Studies at California State University, Northridge. As a K-12 educator for over 38 years, Simpson pursued her mission to improve the educational attainment of the urban child. In addition to 17 years of experience as a secondary principal, Simpson served four years as Director for Small Learning Communities, Testing and Compensatory Programs and Parent Involvement at the district office level.



**Candace "Candy" Yee BS '68 MS '69** is a self-proclaimed "football fanatic from Houston." She came to USC, "the perfect university," in 1964 and attained BS and MS degrees in Elementary Education. She taught for 37 years in LAUSD. She volunteers for USC Athletics, local schools, libraries and the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, and has also interviewed athletes for her blog, trojancandy.com. Yee and her husband, Jim, endowed the James and Candace Chan Yee Endowed Scholarship. Their three children, Kelly, Steffany and Gregory, were all accepted to USC with scholarships.

## 1990s

### 1990

**Michelle Forrester MS '90 PhD '93** published a book for early childhood professionals, *Social Emotional Tools for Life: An Early Childhood Teacher's Guide to Supporting Strong Emotional Foundations and Success*.

### 1991



**Robert Bernatz MS '91 PhD '94** is a principal consultant with the Table Group, where he works regularly with CEOs and executive teams to quickly and successfully apply the highly effective models and concepts captured in the books by bestselling business author Patrick Lencioni, founder

of the Table Group. His clients are some of the most recognized names in the realms of technology, professional services, media and nonprofits. Bob is also the founder of Voxopolis.com, the world's first interactive anonymous messaging and communications platform. Originally launched in 2006, VOXopolis is an online communications platform that facilitates interactive anonymous messaging, feedback, surveys and digital media. Since 1991, Bob specialized in the psychological and relational issues that uniquely challenge executives, professionals, entrepreneurs and their organizations. As a licensed psychologist, Bob provided confidential advisement to individuals dealing with personal or organizational problems. Through his consulting firms, Bernatz & Associates and InsightGlobal, Bob and his associates have assisted hundreds of individual clients and organizations successfully to assess, analyze and overcome seemingly intractable problems. His clients included the *Baltimore Sun*, British Petroleum, First American Trust, KPMG, *Los Angeles Times*, *Newsday*, *Orlando Sentinel*, Pacific Symphony Orchestra, Symantec, Times Mirror, Tribune Company and the University of Southern California. Bob is married to Kimberly (USC '82) and lives in Newport Beach, Calif.

### 1992

**Edward Sullivan MS '92 PhD '98** was recently named assistant vice chancellor for academic research and resources at California State University.

### 1993

**Michael McQuary EdD '93** is the newly elected school board trustee (2014-18) to the San Diego Unified School District, which is the second largest school district in California with an annual budget of \$1.2 billion, more than \$5 billion in school bonds, 130,000 students, 15,000 employees, 6,000 teachers, 1,000 school vehicles, including 500 school buses, over 200 schools, 180 school sites, 50 public charter schools and 5 school board trustees. His sub-district includes the high schools and feeder schools located in Torre Pines, La Jolla, Pacific Beach, Ocean Beach, Point Loma, Linda Vista, Old Town and the downtown area west of I-5 and 6th Avenue.

**Karen Russikoff MS '93 PhD '94** is a full professor at Cal Poly Pomona and co-director of Real English Teachers.com.

### 1994

**Angela Albright PhD '94** is an emeritus professor in the School of Nursing at Cal State Dominguez Hills.

**Dennis Brown EdD '94** became a senior high school principal (San Diego Unified School District), an assistant superintendent of secondary education (Lodi Unified School District and Fremont Unified School District) and an adjunct professor of education at National University, San Diego State University and Cal State Hayward. He is now retired and does volunteer activities with Jazz Radio 88.3 KSDS in San Diego and Retired Seniors Volunteer Patrol with the San Diego Police Department.

**Daniel Carrillo BS '94** is principal of Independence Elementary School (LAUSD) in South Gate, Calif. Dan is married and the father of three wonderful children: Janine, 15, Jacob, 11, and Joshua, 9. He has been

working for LAUSD for 20 years. Dan is also the submaster for his son's pack in Whittier, Calif.



**Rebecca Constantino** *PhD '94* created a nationally recognized nonprofit, Access Books, that refurbishes inner city school libraries. She is a lecturer at UCLA and UC Irvine.



**Erika Daniels** *BS '94 MS '96* earned an EdD in Literacy from the University of San Diego and San Diego State University (joint doctoral program). She teaches in the School of Education at

Cal State San Marcos with an emphasis in middle level education and literacy development. Before arriving at Cal State San Marcos, Erika taught in East Los Angeles and Oceanside, Calif.

**Christopher Hall** *EdD '94* is currently an adjunct professor at McCoy College of Business Administration at Texas State University. Christopher served as a labor relations manager at California State University before retiring in 2009. He also served as an adjunct faculty member at Mihaylo College of Business & Economics at Cal State Fullerton from 1995–2009.

**Lumina Lagos-Alex** *BS '94 MS '95* is still teaching in same district where she began her career. Lumina is married to another alum and has one child.

**Patsy Maloney** *EdD '94* is the director of the Center for Continued Nursing Learning and professor of nursing at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash. Patsy is the wife of Richard Maloney (*EdD '96*); mother of Katherine, Nathaniel and Elizabeth; and grandmother of Jaxon and Carlton.

**John Malpass** *PhD '94* teaches online for Capella University in its Education Psychology Department and has developed several classes. John currently resides in Pinehurst, N.C.

**Maria Ott** *PhD '94* served as superintendent of the Little Lake City School District in Los Angeles County for seven years, as senior deputy superintendent for LAUSD for five years with superintendent Roy Romer and as superintendent of the Rowland Unified School District for seven years. She now serves as executive in residence for the USC Rossier School of Education. In addition to her career successes, Maria is the proud grandmother of seven grandchildren—five girls and two boys.

**Andrea Rashtian** *MFCC '94 PhD '98* has her own private practice. She also serves as an assistant faculty member at Los Angeles City College, part-time faculty at Cal State Northridge and an instructor at UCLA. She is the mother of beautiful 10-year old twins. Andrea is an active member of the PTA, Hadassah, and the children's activities (dance team, AYSO, Boy Scouts).

**Susan Rhee** *BS '94* has been an elementary school teacher at Kentwood Elementary in the Westchester area of Los Angeles (LAUSD) for the past 16 years. She currently teach 4th grade. Susan has her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership Studies from Cal State Northridge. She has been married for the past nine years to a loving and wonderful husband and has two fabulous little boys, ages 7 and 6. Susan has been residing in Los Angeles for the past 16 years.

**Janine Saunders Jones** *MS '94* moved back to Texas to continue her education after graduating from USC. She was a licensed LMFT and worked as a therapist for Austin Child Guidance Center while in graduate school. Janine graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a PhD in School Psychology in 1999. She moved to Seattle, Wash., to accept a faculty position at Seattle Pacific University. Janine also directed the School Psychology program at Seattle Pacific University and completed a postdoctoral residency at Sound Mental Health. In 2001, she started a private practice, which she continued while teaching part time at the University of Washington and Seattle University. In 2005, Janine accepted a tenure-track position and was awarded tenure at the University of Washington in 2011. She is currently the director of the APA-accredited School Psychology Program that offers both EdS and PhD degrees.



**James Teague EdD '94** served as the science department chairman for Los Angeles Baptist Middle/Senior School before retiring in 2013 after 34 total years of teaching. In 2004, James completed the requirements for a clear professional single subject California credential in physics, which has been renewed in five-year increments along with the required hours of professional development. This last year, he completed a 20-session coding course using Python through NCLab.com. In August, James will begin teaching online courses in physics, honors physics and algebra through NorthStar Academy. Students in these courses are located all over the world. James has two sons and nine grandchildren. Last year the family went to Stuttgart, Germany, to visit his oldest son's family with three of the grandchildren. They brought along a grandson from the other family to meet his cousins and to travel to Paris and Normandy. Standing at the top of Omaha Beach was truly a moment they'll never forget.

**Hsing Chi von Bergmann MS '94 PhD '98** joined the University of British Columbia (UBC) Faculty of Dentistry in September 2010 mainly to mentor and conduct educational research activities for faculty; design modules and professional development activities to enhance teaching capacity; and educational experiences for students. Her current research focuses on cognitive task analysis, curricular renewal specifically pertained to biomedical sciences integration in dentistry, differentiated instruction and learning and progress testing system as a part of competency-based professional programs. Prior to UBC, Hsing Chi held an appointment as an associate professor in science education at the University of Calgary, where she was the coordinator of curriculum, teaching and learning in the Faculty of Education, and an evaluation consultant for the University of Calgary's Faculty of Science. She was a visiting professor at Michigan State University and a visiting scholar in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame. Hsing Chi has been a member of the editorial board for the Contemporary Issues and Trends in Science Education series since 2009. In 2008, she was the co-founder of the Hong Kong Accord on Global Science Education. She got married in 2006 to a German and the couple has a four-year-old boy.

## 1996

**Rebecca Shore PhD '96** was granted permanent tenure and promoted to associate professor of educational leadership at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte last month. She is the author of *Baby Teacher: Nurturing Neural Networks From Birth to Age Five* and co-author with Guilbert Hentschke (retired faculty, USC Rossier School of Education) of *Adventures of Charter School Creators: Leading From the Ground Up*.

## 1998

**Robert Allard BS '98 MS '01** was named Azusa Unified School District Manager of the Year. Robert serves as principal at Paramount Elementary School. He enjoys being a principal because it gives him the opportunity to impact the lives of students.

**Ernest Black MS '98 EdD '04** is currently the Southern California regional director for the CalState TEACH program ([www.calstateteach.net](http://www.calstateteach.net)). CalState TEACH is a multiple subject teacher preparation program. It is the only CSU online multiple subject teacher preparation program.

**Anthony Borquez MS '98 EdD '04** founded Blue Label Games, Mobile Game Company in Los Angeles. Blue Label was acquired by Konami Digital Entertainment in 2006. Anthony is currently an adjunct professor in the USC Marshall School of Business and the USC Viterbi School of Engineering. In 2010, he started a new mobile app and analytics company called Grab. Anthony is married with two children/future Trojans: Brayden, 13, and Beckham, 6. Anthony also started Sacred Cellar (SC) Winery in 2009.

## 1999

**Rich Alvidrez MS '99** retired from Jet Propulsion Laboratory in 2013 after 22 years working in the education office. Rich is proud to have developed programs, scholarships, fellowships and internships for community college students.

**Deborah Bowers EdD '99** is currently the superintendent of the Atascadero Unified School District in San Luis Obispo County.

**Chinue Brown MFCC '99** has been a licensed psychologist since 2004. She is married and the mother of one son.

**Mary Conner BS '99** earned two master's degrees from the University of Phoenix—MM Master of Business and an MBA. She's the author of a new book titled *Is the Crime Worth Your Time?!*.

**Elizabeth Delaney BS '99** taught elementary school for 12 years. She eventually became an Orton-Gillingham-trained tutor working one-on-one with children with dyslexia. Elizabeth has continued the study of yoga since 1999 and now writes a related curriculum and runs two yoga schools. She has two children, Henry and Claire, and resides in Greenville, S.C.

**John "Tim" Denny PhD '99** has been a UNICEF education specialist since 2012. Previously, Tim was a professor at various universities in Taiwan and Japan (1999–2005) and also served as a consultant for UNESCO, UNESCAP, Asian Development Bank (ADB), ADB-funded projects and governments (2005–2012).

**Diane Dusick PhD '99** teaches full time at San Bernardino Valley College and also teaches in the online Doctor of Business Administration program at Walden University. Thanks to the overturning of Proposition 8, she was finally able to get legally married on Oct. 12, 2013, to her partner of 22½ years, Mary Strine. They recently celebrated their one-year anniversary.

**Mary Eason PhD '99** is a child psychologist with a government agency.

**Kimberly Ellis MS '99** remained in higher education for the past 15 years at diverse institutions and her education at USC Rossier created a great foundation for this rewarding professional career. She completed her EdD in Higher Education Administration in 2011 from George Washington University.



**Kate Esposito PhD '99** is a professor at Cal State Dominguez Hills.

**Afia Hemphill MS '99 EdD '08** became an elementary and middle school teacher shortly after graduation. In 2003, she became an elementary school assistant principal and in 2010 became an elementary school principal, which is the position she still holds today. All of her positions have been with LAUSD.

**Liwei Hsu MS '99 EdD '04** is an associate professor at the National Kaohsiung University of Hospitality and Tourism in Taiwan.

**Kari Hurley MS '99** is currently co-principal of curriculum and instruction at The Odyssey Institute for Advanced and International Studies in Arizona. Previously, she worked as a high school history teacher for 12 years. Kari is married to a USC alum and has two boys, ages 6 and 10.

**Alan King MFCC '99** is an attorney at Goetz and Eckland P.A., in Minneapolis, Minn.



**Jennifer (Arvidson) Krogh MS '99 EdD '10** taught in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District for seven years as a classroom teacher and a teacher on special assignment (TOSA) for the District's GATE Program. Currently, she is an educational consultant to a number of school districts in Southern California and is also a lecturer for USC Rossier's Master of Arts in Teaching Program. Jennifer teaches courses in pedagogy as well as courses for the university's certificate in gifted education.

**Tiffany Kuykendall** *MFCC '99* went on to become an adjunct professor at Cal State Long Beach and Santiago Canyon College and a counselor at Saddleback College. In 2001, Tiffany became a director of counseling services for a private prep high school in Orange County and sat on several state accreditation committees for private schools. She moved on to consulting with LAUSD and other Southern California districts under the No Child Left Behind Act in 2004. In 2005, she left education and began a career in software sales and completed an MBA with an emphasis in dispute resolution at Pepperdine University in 2007. Tiffany has since worked as a global sales and marketing subject matter expert for IBM and other software firms and is currently building a sales organization for a software company in Irvine.



**Trevor Leach** *MS '99* has been teaching English for 15 years in California public schools, five years at Azusa High School and 10 years at Quartz Hill High School. He also coached football and wrestling during his tenure at both schools. As the wrestling coach at Quartz Hill, his teams earned five league titles, a CIF championship and two

CIF Academic Championships. Trevor's teams have earned over 200 victories and finished in the top three academically nine times in 10 years in the CIF-SS. Trevor recently began a new adventure in the San Mateo County Office of Education. He married Crystal Leach on Nov. 1, 2008, and their son began his collegiate career as a Sun Devil this fall. They recently moved up to Half Moon Bay, fulfilling a lifelong dream of living at the mountains at the beach! Fight On!

**Terri Long** *EdD '99* was hired as a full-time faculty member in the earth sciences department at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, Calif. For the past five years she has also served as the dean of instructional services at Mt. San Antonio College.

**Carmen Lopez** *BS '99 EdD '11* worked as a general education teacher with LAUSD from 1999 to 2012. She then served as a categorical programs coordinator from 2012 to 2014. Carmen currently works as a Title III

access to core coach. She is also an adjunct professor at Cal State Dominguez Hills.

**Ruzbeh Malakuti** *PhD '99* worked at Pasadena Psychiatric Medical Clinic for about a year after graduation. Ruzbeh was then offered an opportunity to work at Washington Mutual in a management capacity and took it for a change of pace. He ended up becoming a vice president there and then was hired at Apple. He was at Apple for 7 years and quit in April from his job as a senior manager leading customer service quality management globally. His team was tasked with defining measures of customer service (interactions between agents and customers) and defining the training and development needs of agents on the phone and in chat. There was a lot of data analysis and experimental design work. Ruzbeh has been married for nine years. He has two girls, 7 and 9 years old. He loves living in Northern California and recently started riding motorcycles and joined a rock and roll band. Call it a midlife crisis if you want, but he prefers to think of it as doing cool stuff before he gets too old for it!

**Christina Meyer (Rubin)** *BS '99* spent four years teaching in a local school district. She taught third grade, fifth grade, and 2/3 GT. Christina left the district and found her true calling in early education. She spent six years at a local early education center teaching kindergarten, summer camp and junior kindergarten and also worked as an assistant director. Christina moved to a new center to become the director and then helped the owners open the only free standing Reggio Emilia Early Learning Center in her city. In the last two and a half years it has doubled its enrollment and created a wonderful working environment for its teachers. Christina was married in 2001 and had her daughter in 2006. She divorced in 2012 and now she and her daughter are loving their time together and the adventures of childhood.



**Natalie Miller** *BS '99* earned her JD from Wake Forest School of Law and practices elder law and estate planning in Mooresville, N.C.

**Josie Morris BS '99** has had the opportunity to work as a classroom teacher in three school districts located in two different states since graduation. Josie also worked as an instructional coach providing campus support, leading district-wide trainings, writing curriculum, analyzing student data, and writing district assessments. USC Rossier's focus on urban education prepared her well for all of these roles.

**Atineh Nazarian Haroutunian BS '99** taught at Glendale Unified School District in a split first and second grade and went back to USC to obtain her Master's in Communication Management with an emphasis in marketing from the Annenberg School of Communication. She currently works as a communications manager in local government. Atineh has two children.

**Sunny Nilchavee MS '99** is a faculty member at Southern California University of Health Sciences and a doctor of chiropractic at Back 2 Balance Chiropractic & Thai Bodywork.

**Joanne Olson PhD '99** is the current president of the Association for Science Teacher Education. She is an associate professor of science education at Iowa State University, where she co-directs their MAT program for secondary science teacher education. Joanne is the director of the ISU Center for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Education. Her research focuses on the development of science teachers' decision-making, and the nature of science and technology and the implications of these areas for science teaching and teacher education. She has more than 40 publications in refereed journals and in 2013 published her first book, *The Nature of Technology: Implications for Learning and Teaching*, with co-editors Michael Clough and Dale Neiderhauser. Joanne completed a first degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do after switching to that art from Kung Fu. After receiving tenure at Iowa State, she purchased a mandolin and began taking lessons. Joanne is now in three bands, including the Barn Owl Band ([www.barnowlband.com](http://www.barnowlband.com)) that regularly plays throughout Central Iowa. She has enjoyed satiating her interest in archeoastronomy and sundials and has visited several international henge and

sundial sites. She has still not adjusted to Iowa winters—brrr!

**Elva Palafox BS '99** is entering her 16th year of teaching. She taught kindergarten for one year, first grade for 11 years and second grade for three years.



**Jon Pearson MS '99** has served as a middle school science/math teacher, high school basketball and baseball coach, middle school and high school athletic director, special education coordinator, assistant principal, principal, and the director of student services and family

welcome enrollment center. Jon is married and has three children.

**Lindsay Reilly BS '99** earned a master's degree with an emphasis on reading instruction from National University. She has taught first, second, fourth and fifth grades. Lindsay got married in 2006 and became a mother 2012.

**James Shock EdD '99** served as superintendent of schools in the Gold Trail Union School District, Mendocino Unified School District and currently in the Arcohe Union School District.

**John Snavely EdD '99** became superintendent of the Porterville Unified School District in 2001 and continues to serve in that role.

**Sandy Tapia BS '99** earned an MA in educational psychology from Azusa Pacific University in 2006. She currently works as a school psychologist and is the mommy of two kitty cats!



**Ernest Zarra** *PhD '99* is a teacher, adjunct professor of education and professional development leader for the Kern High School District. He is the author of several books: *Common Core* (Spring 2015, Rowman &

Littlefield); *Teacher-Student Relationships: Crossing Into the Emotional, Physical, and Sexual Realms* (2013, Rowman & Littlefield); *It Should Never Happen Here: A Guide to Minimizing the Risk of Child Abuse in Ministry* (1997, Baker Book House). He has also served as a principal writer and co-chair for school-based accreditation teams for WASC. Ernest has been married to wife Suzi, also an educator, for 38 years.

## 2000s

### 2001

**Matt Dalton** *BS '01 EdD '09* was recently promoted to principal at Toll Middle School in the Glendale Unified School District. Matt has spent the past seven years at Toll Middle School as a teacher, teacher specialist and then assistant principal. He has worked for nearly 15 years in Glendale Unified, starting first as a fifth-grade teacher at Valley View Elementary School.

### 2002



**Georgia Lorenz** *PhD '02* has been appointed vice president of academic affairs at Santa Monica College and stepped into the position on July 1. Georgia was formerly associate director of the USC Rossier School of Education Center for Urban Education.

**Jean Nosco** *BS '02 MS '04* has been teaching fifth and sixth grade since 2002.



**Yuying Tsong** *ME '02 PhD '04* is an assistant professor, human services at Cal State Fullerton. Yuying was awarded the APA Division 45 Emerging Professional Outstanding Contributions to Services Award and serves as the

program coordinator for the 2017 National Multicultural Conference and Summit.

## 2003

**Elizabeth Blanco** *ME '03 EdD '09* is an assistant superintendent in the San Francisco Unified School District.



**Norm Brennan** *MS '03* was recently named the California State Science Fair Teacher of the Year for 2014 by the California Science Center Foundation. The California State Science Fair Teacher of the Year is the science teacher who has been most inspirational to 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students participating in the California State Science Fair by

encouraging students to develop a science fair project and to pursue their interest in science as a career.

**Denise Campbell** *ME '03 EdD '09* is the campus dean for DeVry University in Los Angeles, Calif.

**Miriam Ezzani** *BS '03 MAT '05 EdD '09* has been a faculty member at the University of North Texas since 2010. Prior to that, Miriam was a K-12 administrator in Chino Valley Unified School District. 2009 was a milestone year-she received her doctorate and got married. In 2010, she moved to Texas.



**Julie Hemphill** *BS '03 MAT '04* is a teacher of the deaf/hard of hearing with Denver Public Schools. She also served as blended learning instructional lead and special education team lead with Denver Public Schools. She has two children: Anna Pearl Hemphill, born June 10, 2008; and Caleb Jones Hemphill, born May 16, 2013.

**Joyce Perez** *ME '03 EdD '09* manages both academic affairs and student services for all PhD programs at the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

## 2004

**Kevin Baxter** *EdD '04* became principal at American Martyrs School in Manhattan Beach right after graduation in 2004. After five years as principal he became the superintendent of elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. There are 218 schools with an enrollment of 53,000. In addition to his role as superintendent, Kevin continued to teach part time in the School of Education at Loyola Marymount University in both the masters and the doctoral programs. He has published a number of articles in various journals and published a book (*Changing the Ending*, NCEA) in 2011.

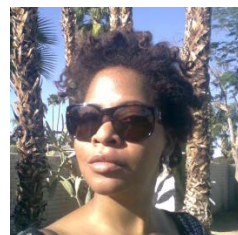
**Janette Brown** *EdD '04* is the executive director of the Emeriti Center and Emeriti College at USC. She also serves as adjunct faculty in the USC Davis School of Gerontology. Janette currently is the executive director for the Association for Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE). She has secured and manages a \$100,000 grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation as well as five endowments. Janette authored a faculty legacy chapter for *Faculty Retirement: Best Practices for Navigating the Transition* (2014, ACE/Sloan). She has also created, conducted and presented data for AROHE research surveys in 2008, 2010 and 2012. Janette presents survey data and consults with institutions across the U.S., Canada and Taiwan. She was a presenter at the 2013 National Academy of Sciences, Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy (COSEPUP) Workshop on Arc of the Academic Research Career: Issues and

Implications for U.S. Science and Engineering Leadership.

**Chris Chaves** *EdD '04* published a book, *Liberal Arts and Sciences Thinking Critically, Creatively, and Ethically*.



**Misun Choe** *MS '07* is currently enrolled in a PhD program in East Asian Languages and Cultures Department at USC.



**Miesha Clipper** *MS '04* is originally from Modesto, Calif., and is the first in her family to attend college. Miesha is now a counseling and education training professional committed to serving low-income and "at promise"

students and families. She has spent the last 13 years in K-12 and university level community outreach, project management, coordination and counseling. Miesha has worked across the state of California in school districts such as Los Angeles Unified School District, Long Beach Unified School District and Oakland Unified School District; she has additional experience in college preparatory services at UC Berkeley and UCLA. Dedicated to mental health/academic counseling and advocacy in urban communities, Miesha continues to support up-and-coming education professionals and school counselors through developing multicultural and college preparatory professional development trainings for school districts, adjunct teaching and clinical supervision. In 2009, Miesha married a fellow mental health professional, marriage family therapist Lydell Willis. Together, they partner to provide social, emotional and academic support to diverse adolescents and teens. In 2013, Miesha co-founded Still Growing, Inc., an organization dedicated to supporting middle and high school girls attending public schools in Oakland, Calif. Fight On Fellow Trojans!



**Wendy Correa** *BS '04 MS '07 EdD '12* spent eight years as a classroom teacher in LAUSD (second, fourth, fifth and sixth grades) and earned a Doctorate in Educational Leadership with an emphasis in educational psychology. She also spent one

year as a categorical program coordinator and two years as an intervention coordinator, grades four–six.

**Jeffrey Gervasi** *EdD '04* recently concluded 19 years of full-time teaching for Porterville College in Porterville, Calif. He is starting over again at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo as a professor of mathematics this fall.

**Merrill Grant** *EdD '04* is the superintendent of the Sierra County Office of Education in Loyalton, Calif.



**Linda Junge** *EdD '04* is the principal at Crescenta Valley High School (CVHS) in the Glendale Unified School District. Having worked in public education for 17 years, with a broad-based experience at both the school site and the district levels, Linda has

four degrees in the field of education (BA from BYU, 1997; two MAs from Cal State Northridge, 2000, 2001; and an EdD from USC, 2004), is fluent in Spanish, and has been a successful teacher and administrator at Glendale High School and Muir Elementary School in Glendale. In addition, she has worked at the university level as an instructor and adjunct professor in the USC Rossier School of Education teaching classes in Motivation & Learning Strategies (EDPT 110), Human Learning (EDPT 510), Human Lifespan Development (EDPT 570) and Instruction for Limited-English Proficient Students (EDUC 543A&B). She joined the staff of Glendale High School (GHS) in 1997, teaching first-through fourth-year AP Spanish, then became an assistant principal at GHS in 2004. Following her time as assistant principal, she headed two district-level departments as director of public information, assessment and evaluation for three years. Linda then decided to return to working directly with students, teachers and parents when she accepted the job of

principal at John Muir Elementary School in 2009. Promoted to the job of principal at CVHS, she returned to her high school roots and currently leads the school her husband, Jason Junge (USC PhD in Neuroscience, on staff in the Scott Frazer Imaging Lab at USC) claims as a CVHS alum.

**Wendy Lang** *MFT '04* has been seeing clients through private practice during the past 10 years. Her offices are located in Monterey Park and Beverly Hills. Wendy worked for the Department of Children and Family Services as a children's social worker for five years before her first child was born. Currently she is concentrating on private practice and working on the dissertation for her PsyD degree. Wendy is married with two children, a 4-year-old boy and a 20-month-old girl.

**Steven Lohr** *EdD '04* is currently working at the California State University Chancellor's Office as the chief of land use planning and environmental review.

**Christopher Lund** *EdD '04* is currently serving as director of research and director of elementary and K-8 schools for Long Beach Unified School District. He is also an adjunct professor in both the master's and doctoral programs at Pepperdine University.

**Janine Luzano-Braun** *ME '04* currently serves as the assistant dean of admissions and scholarship programs at the USC School of Social Work. She previously worked as the MBA director at the Peter F. Drucker & Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management at Claremont Graduate University, as well as the director of recruitment at Claremont Graduate University. Janine received an Executive MBA from the Peter F. Drucker & Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management. She got married in November 2010 after meeting her husband in Oxford, England, during a Drucker management course on global strategy. They welcomed their daughter, Kensington Emma Braun, on Nov. 30, 2013, and bought their first home in Huntington Beach in August 2013.

**Orley (Vanunu) Melamed** *ME '04* has worked as a consultant with several companies to establish new departments and develop new products in the food and beverage distribution industry. She has also been involved with charitable organizations and currently sits

on the executive board of an elementary school and temple for the department of social action and community service. This year Orley will celebrate her 11th wedding anniversary with her wonderful husband. She is the mother of three beautiful girls, ages 10, 9 and 6. Her family is what inspires her and encourages her to make a difference in this world any way she can, and a big reason why she is involved in various charitable organizations. She recently lost her father to lung cancer and made a commitment to honor his life by giving back and raising awareness to the cause.

**Michelle Otelsberg** *MMFT '04* is a licensed marriage and family therapist and a clinical specialist in the UCLA Semel Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital OCD Intensive Treatment Program, working both one-on-one with the patients as well as leading group therapy since 2008. In her private practice, Michelle specializes in cognitive-behavioral therapy to treat mood disorders and anxiety disorders including panic, generalized anxiety (GAD), social anxiety, post-traumatic stress (PTSD), obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and specific phobias. From 2009 to 2012, Michelle also worked in the UCLA Childhood OCD, Anxiety and Tic Disorders Program, where she participated in the evaluation and treatment of anxiety and related disorders in children and adolescents and acted as an independent evaluator for Tourette's Disorder and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder research studies. Michelle has been a presenter at the International OCD Foundation's annual conference.

**Edlyn Pena** *ME '04 PhD '07* is an assistant professor of higher education leadership at California Lutheran University. Her current research focuses on supporting the access and engagement of college students with autism and other disabilities. Edlyn's work is historically grounded in social justice and equity matters for students in postsecondary education.

**Shannon (Edwards) Pitman** *BS '04* has been teaching fourth grade, fifth grade, and sixth grade (and one year of kindergarten) for LAUSD. She just began her 11th year with the district. Shannon completed her master's degree from Cal State Dominguez Hills in 2009 and earned a Preliminary Administrative Services Credential. She married Andrew Pitman in August 2004 and

together they have two daughters, Samara (born 2011) and Avery (born 2013).

**Monica Quiroz** *BS '04* has been teaching for 10 years at Los Nietos School District in Whittier, Calif. Ranging from kindergarten to third grade. She married Juan Quiroz and has two daughters (3 and 6 years old).

**Tammy Robinson** *EdD '04* is currently the interim vice president of academic services at Lassen Community College in Susanville, Calif.

**Diane Rodriguez-Kiino** *PhD '04* is an assistant professor in the Graduate School of Education at California Lutheran University. Diane has received a Fulbright Scholar grant to teach at the University of Tokyo and Tsuda College in Japan during the 2014-15 academic year.

**Kevin Sampson** *EdD '04* currently serves as the chair of the Emergency Management/Homeland Security Department at Coastline Community College. He is the former chair of the Administration of Justice Department at Fullerton College and now serves as a professor of legal studies at the college. In 1999, Kevin was nominated to the California Department of Justice's P.O.S.T. Instructor Standards Council and still serves on the council today. In 2014, he was appointed to the California Community College Chancellor's Office Public Safety Education Committee acting as an expert in homeland security education. He co-chaired the California State University's Council on Emergency Management/Homeland Security's Associate Degree Program Model from 2011 to 2013. Kevin currently acts as a peer review editor and educational consultant for Pearson Publishing Company and is the author of supplement text for California Criminal Law Concepts, the top selling criminal law textbook in California colleges.



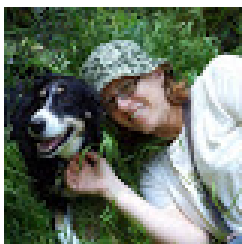
**Theresa Saunders EdD '04** served for several years as general superintendent of schools (PreK–14) in Highland Park, Mich. In 2004, she became superintendent of schools in East St. Louis, Ill., and served one term as school board member for Juvenile Justice System in Illinois. Currently, Theresa is an assistant professor in education leadership at Eastern Michigan University; and this year is facilitating the John W. Porter Series in Urban Education. Additionally, she is a consultant in school improvement with the Michigan Department of Education, where she facilitates the African American Young Men of Promise Initiative. This is an innovative research-based program designed to eliminate the achievement gap in Michigan. Theresa has had the opportunity to do a significant amount of travel and has studied the public education systems in Great Britain, The Netherlands, Kenya, Namibia, Sao Tomé, China, Vietnam, Korea and Mexico.

**Timothy Scully EdD '04** left his position as principal at North High in Torrance, due to illness. After leaving North, Timothy was offered various positions as an adjunct professor and visiting professor in the Loyola Marymount University Graduate School of Education as one of two boots on the ground practitioners. He also served in the Teacher Education Division working with Teach for America fellows and Los Angeles Teaching Fellows. Providing focused motivation with these groups brought about significant results and having fellows continue their commitment beyond their two-year pledge. He also worked at the Center for Learning Unlimited in Palos Verdes in the shifting of a benign tutoring service for high functioning asperger's and autistic youngsters ages 11–18 into a fully functioning school. He continued to work at this school until it was WASC certified with a six-year accreditation. This was a wonderful experience and process for all involved. Timothy was elected four times by the Palos Verdes Unified School District Board of Education to serve on the Citizen's Oversight Committee for Parcel Taxes P, V and M. He resigned after 11 years. He has a 9-year-old granddaughter, Rose. She is cute and smart at Mantua Elementary. His grandson is a seventh grader at Luther Jackson Middle School. Both schools are located in the Fairfax County Public School District in Fall Church, Va. After nearly 35 years of living with creeping Hepatitis C, his wife was put on two medications at UCLA Pflieger

Liver Center, Solvadi and Olysió, for two twelve-week series. At week 12 every liver function measures was perfect with no evidence of HEP C. The same was true at week 24. This is nothing short of a miracle. Miracles do happen, a wonderful gift. He and his wife putter around living on our medically drained fixed income. He remembers being told by Dr. Gothold and by Dr. Dick Vladovic to enjoy the doctoral process. Their advice was echoed for him throughout a long and difficult process. Timothy feels so fortunate to have met so many wonderful faculty members and engaged colleagues. Even at 67 he would do it again. Fight On!

**Paula Selvester EdD '04** is currently the president of the faculty at Cal State Chico (CSUC) and chair of the Academic Senate. Paula is a full professor in the School of Education. Her courses at CSUC include literacy methods, access and equity in education, research methods and curriculum development, including fieldwork supervision courses in Northstate public schools. Her teaching practice and research interests include emergent and adolescent literacy development, technology in higher education, and second language teaching and learning. Paula's education policy interests include curriculum development, technology use in higher education and faculty rights. Paula has authored numerous articles on teaching and learning in *Issues in Teacher Education*, *The International Higher Education Teaching and Learning Review*, *College and University Media Review*, *Educational Studies*, *The Reading Professor* and *The California Reader*, among others. She has recently co-authored a book that provides a framework for a socially responsible pedagogy of literacy development for young adults, *Adolescent Voices: The Power of a Socially Responsible Literacy Pedagogy* (2102), published by Teachers College Press, Columbia University. For her work in teaching issues of access and equity in education, Paula received the Taking It to the Classroom Award from the CSUC, Office of Diversity in 2012.

**Shadidi Sia-Maat PhD '04** is an education programs consultant at the California Department of Education. Subsequent to his current position in the Adult Education Office, he worked in the High Priority Schools Office and the P-16 Division.

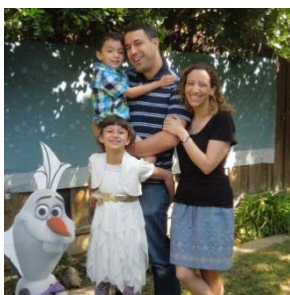


**Jo Smith** *PhD '04* is a professor in the Department of Educational Methodology, Policy and Leadership at the University of Oregon's College of Education.



**Kimberly White-Smith** *EdD '04* is associate dean of educator development and associate professor of education at Chapman University. As a member of the American Educational Research Association, Kimberly is

the current program chair for Division K, Teaching and Teacher Education. She oversees a number of scholarly activities that serve to identify educational environments, policies and teaching strategies that promote academic achievement for traditionally underserved students. Additionally, she has authored articles and book chapters on urban education and leadership, such as "The Struggle for Identity in a Teacher Community," in Etta R. Hollins' latest book, *Learning to Teach in Urban Schools*.



**Maya Yereslove** *ME '04* worked as a secondary school counselor at LAUSD for seven years. After her family relocated to the Bay Area in 2012, she became a secondary school counselor at Union School District in San Jose. Her daughter, Lia, was born in

2006, and her son, Aviv, was born in 2009.

**Jacques Zalma** *ME '04* is an assistant dean of students at UCLA.

## 2006

**Ross Dammann** *MS '06* is a senior analyst in data analytics and performance management at the University of San Diego Health System. Ross oversees data governance and data/reporting definitions and responds to complex ad hoc and recurring data and

report requirements from both human resources—internal and external customers. He works closely with human resources management and line leadership to provide strategic analyses of human capital management activities.

**David Dunstan** *MS'06 EdD '14* is a program coordinator, district office at Antelope Valley Union High School District. He assists with the implementation and supervision of all special programs (EL, GATE, international student exchange and migrant) at eight comprehensive high school sites in the district.

## 2007

**Steve Martinez** *EdD '07* was recently appointed dean of student services/affairs at the Relativity School in Los Angeles.

## 2008

**Dennis Kramer** *ME '08* is an assistant professor of higher education and associate director of the Institute of Higher Education at the University of Florida's College of Education. He earned his PhD in higher education from the University of Georgia in August 2014.

## 2009

**Jody Adewale** *MFT '09* is currently working in television doing psychotherapy on reality shows.

**Antonio Bartolome** *ME '09* is as senior advisor for the USC Thornton School of Music. He formerly served as an academic advisor for the USC Roski School of Fine Arts (now called the Roski School of Art and Design). He got married in 2008 (Heather) and they welcomed their son in 2011 (Alipio).

**Monica Bennett** *MAT '09* completed a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Madrid, Spain (2009–10). Since 2010, Monica has worked at Glendale Unified School District's Franklin Magnet International as a first grade (2010–11), third grade (2011–14) and soon to be fifth grade Spanish dual-immersion teacher. She has also served as the school's technology leader since 2010. Monica was voted Masonic Recognition Employee by colleagues in 2014. She recently presented "10 Free iPad Apps for the Dual-Language Classroom" at the Association of Two-Way and Dual Language Education (ATDLE) Conference in Sacramento in June 2014.

**Brian Boyle** *MS '09* was recently hired as career specialist in the Education/Workforce Development department in the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. Brian will be providing work-based learning support at four LAUSD high schools, where he will be brokering industry sector partnerships with similar themed HS career pathways. More specifically, he will be developing relevant guest speaker networks, advisory boards, job shadowing opportunities, workplace tours, mentorships and internships for classes in healthcare related career pathways. His assigned schools' pathways range from health advocacy to sports medicine and are located mostly in the South Los Angeles community: Augustus Hawkins High School – Community Health Advocates School, Linda Marquez High School – A Huntington Park Institute of Applied Medicine; Orthopedic Hospital Medical Magnet; and Westchester High School – Health and Sports Medicine Magnet.



**The Bui** *BA '09* is a middle school teacher in Ontario, Calif. He is a district trainer for teacher gifted certification and a demonstration teacher for the California Association of the Gifted (CAG). He

regularly conducts professional development for schools and school districts. He is engaged to Amber Wallen. They met in junior high. It was love at first sight for him but it took Amber a few years to come around. They got engaged on New Year's Eve 2013 surrounded by friends and family.



**Veronica Corona-Popovic** *ME '09* is the scholarship operations manager in the Financial Aid & Scholarship Department at Cal State Northridge. In 2012, Veronica was the keynote speaker at the Women's Youth Empowerment Conference, hosted by USC's Educational Talent Search program. In July 2013, she married

Anthony Popovic. Veronica met him a few years after graduating from USC. Since then they have traveled to several countries together including Mexico, Croatia, Italy, France, Greece and Turkey. She is a member of Virtual Verite, a performance troupe founded by artist Harry Gamboa Jr. Virtual Verite's latest work is on exhibit at the Hollywood & Highland metro station: [www.metro.net/about/art/artworks/vidrio/](http://www.metro.net/about/art/artworks/vidrio/). Veronica appears in two of the pictures in the exhibit.

**Chris Coulter** *Edd '09* is currently principal of Woodrow Wilson Middle School in Glendale Unified, where he has served since 2011. Chris previously served as principal of Allan F. Daily High School (Continuation), associate principal at Hoover High School and associate principal at Crescenta Valley High School. All schools were part of Glendale Unified. His daughter, Siena, was born shortly after graduation. She just turned 5 and started transitional kindergarten this year. They also recently finished a major home remodel.

**Timothy Council** *ME '09* recently transitioned to graduate school admissions after spending nearly six years in law school admissions. As of March 2014, he is now the director of admissions and outreach at the University of San Diego, School of Leadership and Education Sciences.



**Hasmik Jasmine Danielian** *EdD '09* served as associate superintendent of secondary schools at Hacienda La Puente Unified School District from 2005 to 2011. In December 2011, she became superintendent of Brawley

Union High School District in Brawley, Calif. She is in her third year of superintendency in Brawley. Hasmik is a proud grandma of two adorable boys: Darron, 4, and Nicholas, 3.

**Patricia Dickenson** *EdD '09* is an assistant professor of teacher education at National University. She has three children: Braeden, 6, Cullen, 4, and Catherine, 1.

**Kristen Doorn** *ME '09* earned her PhD in Teaching and Learning (emphasis in multilingual literacy) from the University of Miami in May 2014.

**Jessie Downey** *ME '09* is the director of congregational engagement and religious education at University Synagogue in Los Angeles. Jessie previously served as a learning disabilities specialist at UCLA in the Office for Students Disabilities.

**Lauren Elan Helsper** *ME '09* worked previously at Pitzer College in Claremont, Calif., and Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., and is now the associate director for student support and advocacy in the Office of the Vice Provost for Student Affairs at USC. Lauren is also currently in her first year of the EdD program at USC Rossier.

**Eman Elturki** *MAT '09* joined a doctoral program in language, literacy and technology at Washington State University after graduating from USC. Eman is in her fourth year and will defend in spring 2015. She is also a part-time ESL instructor at the same university. Eman had her daughter when she was in her first semester at USC. Her daughter is a big girl now! She is 5½!

**Keith Fulthorp** *EdD '09* is currently an assistant professor at Cal State Long Beach in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies. Keith's research interests are in the area of municipal recreation and

parks in urban areas, leadership, teambuilding and school counseling. Keith has presented both educational and research-focused sessions at many local, state, and national conferences including local school districts in California and Nebraska; state school counseling associations in Arizona, California, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Utah and Washington; the American School Counselor Association, California School Counselor Association, California Park and Recreation Society, the National Recreation and Park Association, and the Academy of Leisure Sciences Teaching Institute. Since graduation in 2009, Keith and his wife, Carol, have two beautiful daughters: Aleena, 4, and Brielle, 2.

**Eimi Tomimatsu Garcia** *EdD '09* is currently working in Garden Grove Unified School District as the assistant director of K-12 educational services.

**Brett Geithman** *EdD '09* is currently the executive director of educational services in Manhattan Beach Unified School District. Previously, he was the principal of Alvarado Elementary in Long Beach Unified School District from 2008 to 2013 and the executive director of human resources in Manhattan Beach Unified School District from 2013 to 2014. Additionally, Brett has taught in the MAT Program as the USC Rossier School of Education, was a Cal State Long Beach EdD Faculty Fellow from 2011-13, and presented at NAESP, TASH and UCEA national conferences.

**Bonnie Glick Michalek** *MAT '09* worked for four years at Santa Clara High School right after graduating. She had a wonderful time teaching and coaching some amazing students at that school. Bonnie moved to the Mountain View Los Altos District last year. She has learned and continued to grow in her new position and looks forward to growing even more this year. Bonnie married an amazing man in July 2013. They live in San Jose and enjoy spending time with friends and family whenever they can.

**Tanaz Golshan** *MAT '09* taught at New Designs Charter School in Watts as the English literature teacher then worked at a nonprofit called Heart of Los Angeles as the English teacher/tutor and currently works at an alternative school named Fusion Academy as the English and psychology teacher for middle and high school.

**Helen Ha (Lee) ME '09** currently serves as an assistant director for the Center for Student Formation at Boston College. She married Andy Ha in July 2013 and moved to Brookline, Mass.



**David Haglund EdD '09** was promoted to assistant superintendent of instructional support in the Riverside Unified School District during the 2013 school year and transitioned to become the deputy superintendent and chief

academic officer in the Santa Ana Unified School District in January 2014. In Santa Ana, David is responsible for the 60 preK-12 school programs and oversees district programs, including special education, technology, curriculum and instruction, assessments, research and program evaluation. David married off his youngest son (Tobias) to a beautiful second grade teacher (Kristen Henry) in San Diego. His oldest son (Tyler) is now teaching physics and chemistry in Victorville. Things are great!

**Zachary Helsper ME '09** is currently the assistant director of student engagement at UCLA where he is responsible for student engagement programming through alumni affairs. He previously served as a residence hall director at Cornell University for three years and a resident director at Loyola Marymount University for one year. He married Lauren Elan Helsper, a fellow USC Rossier PASA graduate, on June 17, 2012, and they recently celebrated their second anniversary.

**Alina Hernandez PhD '09** continues to work as a counselor and professor at Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC), where she was working when she started her program at USC. Her professional activities have not changed much since obtaining her PhD. Alina was recently appointed by the College Academic Senate to represent the faculty as Co-Chair to the Student Equity Committee. In this capacity, she will finally be able to use much of the research knowledge and writing experience from the doctoral program in writing (in collaboration with the other committee members) the Student Equity Plan for Mt. SAC. Alina is very excited to

be a part of this effort to help correct the negative impact some educational practices have on some of the students in our institution. Alina traveled through Italy with a group of friends. She loved every city. It was a wonderful experience! She lost her mother after a long battle with Alzheimer's and dementia (which she suffered even when Alina was going through the program). Although it was difficult being responsible for her care for many years, it has been life altering not having her mother in her life anymore. Losing one's mother is significant for anyone. Life takes on a different dimension. Now she is beginning to look at becoming more involved in new professional and personal projects.

**Spencer Holtom EdD '09** was named 2014 Riverside County Principal of the Year. Spencer was recently promoted to director of student, community and personnel support for the San Jacinto Unified School District.

**Rebecca Hong EdD '09** is the director of university assessment, Office of University Effectiveness at Biola University and also serves as an assistant professor in Biola's School of Education. Recent publication: co-authored with A. Jun in 2012, "Women's Self-Efficacy Perceptions in Mathematics and Science: Investigating USC-MESA Students," *Metropolitan Universities: An International Forum* 22 (3).

**Brooke Howland EdD '09** currently teaches part-time at UC Irvine focusing on elementary, secondary and multimedia literacy courses and is looking forward to expanding her teacher education career to include administrative instructional support. Previously, she worked as a full-time professor teaching online for the MAT program at USC Rossier. Brooke is loving her hectic life raising three busy boys!

**Yueyi Huang ME '09** is currently a research analyst in the Institutional Research Office at Citrus College.



**Mary Javier Funaoka EdD '09** is the language arts coordinator for the Orange County Department of Education. She married Lance in 2009 and together they have two children: Elias, 3 years old, and Mila, 1 year old.

**Kristina Jovin MAT '09** worked as a substitute teacher after graduation before moving to central California for a full-time teaching position. There she taught fourth and eighth grade at a performance-based school, which allowed students to move ahead or spend extra time on a standard depending on their needs. In 2012, Kristina moved back to Eastvale to be closer to family and has since taught for Alvord Unified School District in third grade. She also serves as an advisor for Student Council, president of School Site Council, and is her grade level lead. Kristina and her sister spent the summers of 2012 and 2013 traveling Europe. This summer she is blessed to be buying her first house.



**Michael Keller EdD '09** is so grateful and proud to be a member of the USC family. After he graduated in 2009, Michael felt well positioned to seek out and obtain progressively advancing K-12 leadership opportunities. Over the past five years, he has held four K-12 leadership positions, including: school

psychology department chairperson, an administrative program specialist position in special education, a coordinator of special education position and, most recently (and currently), a director of special education position. Michael has also had multiple opportunities to train adult learners as an adjunct faculty member in graduate programs at USC and Cal State Long Beach in the fields of teacher education and educational psychology. He attributes so much of the opportunities that he has had professionally to his USC doctoral

training experience that has afforded him an exceptional training and supervision experience and established invaluable connections to alumni and affiliates of the program. Fight On!

**Brianna Kennedy-Lewis PhD '09** is an assistant professor at the University of Florida.

**Stephanie Kim EdD '09** serves as adjunct faculty in the MAT Program at the USC Rossier School of Education, teaching courses in content area literacy and ELA methods.

**Lindsey Kuka MAT '09** was hired in the Anaheim Union High School District in fall 2009 and is still at the same site teaching biology. She also serves as one of the girls' soccer coaches, and helps support a number of extracurricular activities.

**Szuling Liao MFT '09** worked as a therapist at Asian Pacific Counseling and Treatment Centers.

**Syndia Limon ME '09** was promoted to associate director of the Student Services Contact Center for the Offices of Admissions & Financial Aid at USC. She also got married since graduating from USC!

**Melissa Lox MFT '09** became licensed as an LMFT after graduation. Currently, she owns and develops an international healthy active lifestyle coaching business. Melissa currently lives in Los Angeles and would love to connect with her classmates.

**Angela Mackenzie MS '09** is currently a technology specialist at Village School in Pacific Palisades, Calif. She is involved in incorporating the STEAM movement (science, technology, engineering, art, making) into our PreK-6 curriculum as well. Angela had two more children since receiving her degree, so she now has 9- and 4-year-old sons and a 10-month-old daughter.

**Sable Manson ME '09** has been named as one of the top 50 emerging leaders shaping the future landscape of faith in Los Angeles. Sable is a current PhD candidate at USC Rossier and the director of residential life at the USC Office of Religious Life. The list, titled Futures50, is a project of the USC Center for Religion and Civic

Culture and the Interreligious Council of Southern California (IRC). The two organizations seek to discover, spotlight and provide support to the rising generation of leaders inspired by their faith who are committed to the IRC's core values. According to the website of the USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture, the individuals highlighted in the Future50 report represent leaders who bridge divides, build communities and bring together the astonishing array of religious groups in the Los Angeles region. They include young congregants, nonprofit professionals, educators, volunteers, board members, organizers, artists and activists.

**Andrea McKinley** *MAT '09* is currently teaching biology at Math and Science College Preparatory High School. Previously she taught physical science at Richard Merkin Middle School for five years.

**Wendy Michels Dooley** *MAT '09* is in her fourth year teaching fifth grade for the El Segundo Unified School District. She is on the committee to develop a language arts curriculum as it transitions to the common core. Wendy also got her certification to teach GATE. She got married in 2012 and this year they bought a house!



**Gregory Millward** *ME '09* is an assistant athletic director in the USC Athletic Department. He married Evita Ruiz on July 27, 2014.

**Natasha Nanda** *BS '09* taught kindergarten in Santa Clara, Calif., immediately after graduation. After one year, she decided to pursue a Master's Degree in Special Education at Santa Clara University. Since 2012, Natasha has been teaching a third-fifth grade special day class at a public elementary school in Millbrae, Calif.

**Brandi Nichols** *ME '09* currently works as an academic advisor and adjunct faculty member for Tarrant County College District, the sixth largest college or university in Texas. She teaches the Introduction to College course and coordinates several programs with local school districts. Brandi is currently completing the 3,000 hours required to become a licensed professional counselor,

which will allow her to practice independently in personal, marriage, family and career counseling.

**Angela Patriarca** *ME '09* is an assistant director in the MBA Program Office at Georgetown University.

**Audrey Reille** *EdD '09* coaches smart professionals on time management, strategic planning, achieving goals in record time, work/life balance and living a fulfilling life! Awaken to your true potential and take your life to the next level! Visit her at [www.AudreyReille.com](http://www.AudreyReille.com).

**Dustine Rey** *EdD '09* joined the adjunct faculty in the Graduate School of Education and Psychology at Pepperdine University in 2011. Being a mother and an educator has also inspired Dustine to design the philosophy and curriculum for schools that address the gap between what parents and students are looking for and what is available locally. To that end, she founded The Gratitude Garden Preschool and TESLA Tech Academy. Both schools address the gap of high quality educational environments aimed at nurturing curiosity and strengthening resiliency through balancing innovative STEM curriculum, artistic expression and emotional strengths. They are currently developing the lovely building that will become the first Gratitude Garden Preschool in San Clemente opening in February 2015. Their program invites curiosity, develops gratitude, instills a love of learning and introduces STEM concepts, all of which are necessary for success in meaningful learning and in 21st-century life. TESLA Tech Academy is a nonprofit independent kindergarten through sixth grade school currently under development. The founding families and advisory board are collaborating to bring North County San Diego an advanced school for inquisitive learners. TESLA stands for: technology, engineering, science, leadership and art. The academy will have a balanced focus on STEM, personal and global well-being, physical movement and expression, artistic expression, foreign language, service learning and creativity. Becoming a mother has been Dustine's greatest blessing. Her daughter is 4 years old and enjoys nature and creating art.



**Jonathan Rivas** *ME '09* is awaiting orders from the State Military to attend Officer Candidate School (OCS) for the National Guard's "Sunburst" Youth Challenge program. "If it wasn't for some of the things I learned from the amazing staff and faculty at Rossier, I wouldn't be the person I am today. I am extremely grateful for everyone who helped me

become a more efficient and effective leader, employee and person. Everyday as a school counselor for the state of California and the National Guard, I am fortunate to touch the lives of many youth and the future leaders of tomorrow. I frequently remind these students/cadets that getting an education in school is a lot like shining our Army boots. The more of a foundation you build up, the better you can shine. Thank You 'SC, Fight On!"

**Christine Sanders** *EdD '09* is currently an elementary school principal in LAUSD.

**Norman Sauce** *EdD '09* recently began his third year as principal of an elementary school in Johns Creek, Ga., just north of Atlanta. He previously served as a principal of an elementary school in metro Atlanta. Also since earning his degree he served as assistant principal at two different high schools in Southern California, and a third high school in metro Atlanta.

**Aura Sburlan** *EdD '09* has been involved in several projects and activities with a global perspective. Aura was selected as a global leader for the North America Region by the World Forum on Early Care and Education with sponsorship from the California Early Childhood Mentor Program. As a global leader, Aura developed, worked and presented a Global Leader Advocacy Project titled "Quality Teaching through Mentoring." At the state level, she provided professional development for mentor teachers participating at the Mentor Institute under the initiative to "act locally and think globally." Recently, Aura was selected as a global leader mentor and paired with a mentee from Zambia. She is looking forward to this experience with much interest. She

presented a workshop at the Diversity Conference Strategies for Change in September 2012, at El Camino College, Calif. with the topic "Can Intercultural Competence Be Learned?" The Diversity Conference provided professional development to college faculty, administrators and staff. At her local college, Aura developed training workshops for college students and teachers on a variety of early childhood education topics such as teaching math to preschool children, group time practical strategies for success, working with children with special needs and outdoor activities. Since earning her EdD from USC Rossier, her daughter, Suzana Elena Sburlan, earned a PhD in Physics from the USC Viterbi School of Engineering in 2013. They are very proud to have two USC doctors in the family!

**Diane Shammass** *PhD '09* presented a paper, "Delivering the Pedagogy of Power and Global Solidarity to University Students Under Siege: an American Ethnic Studies Course," on Aug. 11, 2014, at the International Peace Research Association in Istanbul, Turkey. Diane is also working on the manuscript for publication.



**Rachel Shasha** *MFT '09* moved to New York and now works in the finance industry.

**Kimberly Shotwell** *EdD '09* is teaching as a part-time instructor with the MAT program at USC Rossier.

**Stephanie Stenta-James** *MMFT '09* completed her MFT internship hours working at Harbor View Adolescent Center in Long Beach and Five Acres Residential Treatment Center in Altadena. She currently sees clients in a private practice. Stephanie married Randy James in April 2012 and opened her own psychotherapy practice in February 2014!

**Katherine Thorossian** *EdD '09* is the superintendent of the Monrovia Unified School District.





**Matt Torres EdD '09** completed the School Business Management Certification Program at USC Rossier in 2010 and is currently the assistant superintendent/ chief business officer for the Fruitvale School District. He also serves as an adjunct professor for

Point Loma Nazarene University and Cal State Bakersfield.

**Edward Trimis EdD '09** served as principal of City of Angels School (2 years) and now Verdugo Hills High School (3 years). He is president of LAUSD's Senior High School Principals Organization and a board member for the Association for California School Administrators State Board of Directors. Edward is a member of the Music Center (Performing Arts Center) of Los Angeles Education Council, LAUSD Principals Finance Advisory Committee and Principals Ad Hoc Committee. This year, Edward's fourth child graduated high school and his older daughter earned a PhD in Epidemiology. His younger daughter graduated from the University of Maryland. His older two children have both been married since he graduated.

**Sheryl Tschetter EdD '09** has been actively participating in classroom instruction for transfer students, both general and honors, since graduating from USC. Additionally, she has participated in shared governance through membership on several committees, including Accreditation; Student Success Committee; and Institutional Strategic Planning Committee. Sheryl has served as a member on a visiting team for her local accrediting agency. Also, she serves on her discipline, department, and the college as writing lab coordinator of a TBA lab that serves approximately 2,300 students each semester. Most recently, she has been named interim dean of instruction for Norco College beginning this June.

**Hayden Victor MMFT '09** attended Pepperdine University for her PsyD and completed her internship at The Help Group. She is currently working on finishing her dissertation. Hayden got married in 2012 and in July 2014 she gave birth to a baby girl!

**Cassandra Villa MAT '09** is an english teacher in the Downey Unified School District. Cassandra is also a current PhD student at Claremont Graduate University. She expects to graduate in summer 2015.

**Virginia Ward-Roberts EdD '09** is senior director, pupil personnel services at Compton Unified School District where an array of support services such as health, mental wellness, interventions, attendance-related issues, enrollment and alternative placements, and disciplinary concerns are provided to students in various sub-groups (homeless, foster youth, hospital/home bound, general and special education). The ultimate goal is to alleviate barriers to learning and promote an environment of academic success for students in need of assistance.

**Nicole Webb MFT '09** is a program director at The Help Group. She runs the afterschool programs, teen club and camp programs for children with autism spectrum disorder. She got married in October 2014.

**Mary Westendorf EdD '09** was named superintendent of the Fruitvale School District in 2012.

**Patricia Wu EdD '09** is serving as the director of math and science programs at Green Dot Public Schools. She works with a team of coaches to provide support to teachers to help them develop their craft.

**Terrence Yu ME '09** is working at Glendale Community College as a research analyst.



**Francisco Zamudio ME '09** was fortunate enough to work as an assistant dean of residential life for Sixth College at the UC San Diego right after graduation. While there he supervised a student staff of 25. Francisco was also able to teach a course for first-year first-generation college students and oversee large- and small-scale programming. In July 2012, he made a big change personally and professionally when he accepted the position of assistant director of new

student orientation and family programs at Rutgers University. In addition, to coordinating the program and supervising a staff of over 50 students he has been charged with assessment of the program. He has represented the program at both national and Big 10 conferences. Shortly after accepting the position at Rutgers, Francisco packed up his 2010 Ford Fusion and spent the next five days driving from San Diego, Calif., to Edison, N.J. While he has enjoyed shoveling snow and buying a winter coat, he still misses California, especially Dodger games. He has taken up running and ran his first half marathon in June 2012.

## 2010s

### 2010

**Ryan Corner EdD '10** is associate vice president of strategic planning and innovation at Pasadena City College. He is responsible for guiding the college through all planning processes and ensuring integration with resource allocations to maximize student success, lead to the completion of the college educational master plan and incentivize innovative practice.

**Lindsey Goldstein ME '10** is an assistant dean of students at UCLA, where her current role is to uphold the university's expectation and standards of community through the adjudication of the student conduct code. Additionally, she supports and provide outreach to campus partners such as academic units and faculty, orientation and Greek life.

**Lui Hokoana EdD '10** has been confirmed unanimously by the Board of Regents to be the University of Hawaii Maui College's chancellor. The confirmation for the next chancellor for UH Maui College was approved by the full Board of Regents in October. Lui started his higher education career at the University of Hawai'i (UH) in 1991 and has served as the vice chancellor for student affairs at UH West Oahu since 2013. He also served as associate vice president for student affairs for the UH System, vice chancellor of student affairs at Windward Community College, and director for various programs at UH Maui College. Hokoana has secured more than \$20 million in county, state, federal and private funds to support

various UH system wide initiatives that have contributed to unprecedented enrollment growth, financial aid access, service to underrepresented groups, and overall student success. He was named State Manager of the Year by the State of Hawaii in 2011.

**Akilah Lyons-Moore MAT '10 EdD '14** is director of curriculum and instruction at Pathways Community School in Los Angeles.

**Camille Ramos-Beal ME '10 EdD '13** is principal of a public grade 7-12 health sciences academy in the Pomona Unified School District.

**Leslie Rockwell ME '10** married long-time love, Patrick Rockwell, on June 20, 2014, at Ponte Winery in Temecula, Calif.

### 2011

**Matthew Brown MAT '11** submitted a successful charter petition for the creation of the Public Policy Charter School, which is scheduled to open for the 2015-16 school year for fifth and sixth grade students. The school will be located in the vicinity of USC. Matthew will act as the founding director of data and implementation.

**Kathleen Hugill Ledic MAT '11** is a program and curriculum manager at Sylvan Learning Center in Castro Valley, Calif. Kathleen oversees the lessons that are being taught to students, inserts lessons based on skills that require growth and tracks student improvement. On Oct. 26, 2013 she married Philip Ledic at The Ranch at Little Hills in San Ramon, Calif.

**Regina Zurbano EdD '11** is house principal at Santa Monica High School. As a site administrator, Regina, along with the other house administrators, communicates the vision and facilitates the mission goals as defined by the district and the site principal. They manage the day-to-day operations at the school site and oversee the school program. Regina facilitates the activities of House O and monitors the academic and behavioral progress of approximately 600 students. She also coordinates school-wide state standardized testing (CAASPP). As an instructional leader, she works together with faculty members to analyze instructional

practices through evaluation of student performance, one-on-one and through the school's PLC structure.

## 2012

**Monica Claxton** *MAT '12* is currently completing her second year at Desert Hot Springs High School. Monica currently teaches English IV and senior AVID. She is an elected member of the school site council, the PSTA rep, junior class advisor, interact club advisor and a member of the Teacher Leadership Certification Academy. Monica is truly blessed to use her USC education in her classroom everyday! Fight On — Go Trojans!



**Christina Han** *MAT '12* is the founder of Spilt Arts ([www.spiltarts.com](http://www.spiltarts.com)), a nonprofit organization founded to help children from underserved locations to showcase their talents in literature, art and photography. Christina initially started the concept of Spilt Arts as an undergraduate at UCLA. Back then, it was a zine that taught people about alternative art. Since 2003, Christina has worked a variety of jobs, including private English teaching, working on political campaigns and

working as a freelance magazine writer. During her time at USC, she learned a lot about scaffolding and educational psychology, basically supporting a child emotionally to lead her to grow as a student. That aspect of teaching really struck her, and talking with community members and school stakeholders reaffirmed her belief that children really can't be expected to succeed when they don't believe in themselves or face dire circumstances at home.

**Frances (Martinez) Kellar** *Edd '12* is associate chair for the Division of Teacher Education at Fresno Pacific University, where she provides overall leadership for developing and sustaining a research-based clinical practice component for their multiple- and single-subject credential programs that serve the greater Central Valley. She also directs the division's mentoring

program, recruiting and training university mentors who supervise teacher candidates in early field experiences, student teaching and internships. Frances is also an assistant professor of education, teaching courses on foundations of education, curriculum perspectives and design and research methods in education.

**Chirag Patel** *MAT '12* is working on her ME in higher & postsecondary education at Teachers College, Columbia University. She is expected to graduate in May 2016.

**Jesse Payne** *Edd '12* is a professor and the founding director of education at Amen Clinics, located throughout the country. Jesse has written *Change Your Brain Change Your Life (Before 25): Train the Developing Mind for Real World Success*, an owner's manual specifically for the young, developing brain. Packed with practical tips, brain prescriptions and a two-week Brain Smart Plan emphasizing goal setting, healthy eating, and reflection, the book promises young adults that the success of their future is within their own grasp.

**Jane Rosenthal** *Edd '12* was recently named the assistant dean of the School of Applied Life Sciences at the Keck Graduate Institute at Claremont Colleges in Claremont, Calif. As assistant dean, Jane is heading up several initiatives in active learning/student engagement, student success, and assessment. This will also include working on accreditation, faculty development, and institutional effectiveness teams.



## The Ellen DeGeneres Show Visits a Rossier Alum's Classroom

Earlier this year, **Tara Prieto** *MAT '11* got the surprise of a lifetime. After decades in another industry, Tara recently changed careers and is now a second-year fifth grade teacher at Saint Brendan School in Los Angeles. Tara's story, detailed below, is quite possibly the most inspiring testament to keep it up — to keep doing what you're doing.

Back in December The Ellen DeGeneres Show asked students to write in about their teachers. My students told me about it, and a handful of them asked me if they could stay in at recess and write letters. I honestly did not have the heart to tell them that they were probably wasting their time. After all, we had written letters to the troops that went unanswered, and we had written letters to other fifth grade classes around the country that had also been ignored.

They printed their letters out and I had the chance to see what they had written. I was floored. Though they didn't exactly use the proper English that I had been teaching them, their messages were sincere and very touching. Christmas vacation came and went, and one of the students mentioned how, once again, their letters were ignored. I reminded them that there were probably thousands of children around the country who had written in about their teachers and that their efforts were totally appreciated by me.

Fast forward to March when I received a text message from a parent who said, "I just got off the phone with The Ellen DeGeneres Show, and they are going to call you. You better pick up!" Moments later, my phone rang. I was preparing my students for physical education class, so I decided it was OK to answer my phone. "Hi, my name is Ian from The Ellen Show. We got a letter from one of your students and were wondering if we could ask you a few questions." The entire class erupted in screams when they heard me say, "Why, yes, of course I would be happy to talk to The Ellen Show!"

As soon as the excitement died down, I made arrangements to be interviewed later that day while the kids were in gym class. During the interview, we talked about how much our students love the show, and we talked about how much they LOVE Sophia Grace and Rosie, two little rappers from England who appear regularly on the show. At the end of our chat, the Ellen rep asked if he could speak with our principal. I gave him her information and didn't think about it again

until... Two weeks later, two little girls burst into my classroom with cameramen and producers during our weekly spelling test! Just as I read the word "determination," my students and I got the surprise of our lives! Our visitors screamed, "Miss Prieto, we're taking over your classroom!!" At that point all I could say was, "I guess our spelling test is cancelled!" The students went crazy, crumpling up their tests and giving each other high fives. It was bananas! No fewer than three of my students were in tears — tears of joy! As soon as everyone calmed down, Sophia Grace and Rosie presented me with a crown and a tutu and a token of appreciation on behalf of my students - a weekend at a Beverly Hills hotel and spa treatments! The fun was just beginning, however.

After the gifts, my students spent about a half hour with our guests, asking them lots and lots of questions like, "Do you like being on television?", "What's your favorite subject in school?" and "Do you have any pets?" The girls were so full of energy and even treated us to a performance of the rap song that first got Ellen's attention. We had a blast.

When it was time for the girls to go, we said our goodbyes and it was impossible to get my students to calm down. Moments after they left our room, our guests came over the loudspeaker and announced, "We took over Miss Prieto's classroom, and now we are taking over the school!" We were in shock! We were instructed to go to our gym.

When we arrived, we saw a huge screen set up and there was a popcorn machine, cotton candy and coconut water for every student! For 90 minutes, the school screened the not-yet-released full-length movie that Sophia Grace and Rosie. When the movie was over, students had a chance to snap pictures and express thanks to our two guests. It was a magical experience that undoubtedly will remain in our students' memories for a lifetime.

## 2013

**Terilyn Colacino-Jackson** *EdD '13* married Edward Jackson, a fire marshal for the State of California, on May 10 at Muldoon's Irish Pub in Newport Beach, Calif. She is now Dr. Terilyn Jackson.

**Lauren Fedorkowicz** *MAT '13* is a science teacher at the East Millbrook Magnet Middle School in Raleigh, N.C.

**Miriam Otero** *MAT-TESOL '13* received a grant to teach English in Madrid, Spain through the Fulbright program. Her responsibilities include teaching English to high school students, while also participating in community outreach and research opportunities.

**James Winter** *MAT '13* is an ESP professor at Colegio Pentagono (Perdizes) and Colegio Aldeia dos Pandavas in São Paulo, Brazil. Colegio Pentagono has 3 locations, and James works in the Perdizes School. He also work as a teacher at Colegio Aldeia Dos Pandavas, which is an elementary and middle school. Both are private schools in São Paulo. James teaches students from kindergarten through 11th grade. James will be starting the EdD program at the USC Rossier in January 2015. He will focus on organizational change and leadership. James is extremely excited for this opportunity and for what lies ahead of him.

## 2014

**Taylor Ainslie** *ME '14* is a graduate program coordinator/advisor in the Department of Anthropology at UC Santa Cruz.

**Amber Anderson** *ME '14* is a residence hall coordinator at San Diego State University.

**Heather (Anding) Baker** *MAT '14* is a teacher in the Kenal Peninsula Burrow School District in Nikiski, Alaska.

**Daniel Assisi** *EdD '14* is the managing director of data, operations and information technologies at California Charter Schools Association.

**Brad Baker** *EdD '14* is assistant principal at Capistrano Unified School District in Laguna Niguel, Calif. Brad has

been appointed to the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) State Co-Administration Committee.

**Benjamin Balderrama Jr.** *ME '14* is coordinator of student life at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va. where he is involved with the Campus Activities Board, greek life and diversity programs.

**Carlos Benitez** *ME '14* is a college counselor at Alliance Gertz-Ressler High School in Los Angeles.

**Robin Bishop** *PhD '14* is an assistant professor of Psychology at Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles.

**Doug Bourget** *MAT '14* is a high school English teach at Connections Academy, the first virtual charter school in Maine.

**Lawrence Bradford** *EdD '14* is vice president of academic affairs at Los Angeles Southwest College, where he serves as the chief instructional officer.

**Amber Bradley** *ME '14* is an academic advisor at USC Educational Talent Search-TRiO Programs.

**Kyle Bruich** *EdD '14* is an assistant high school principal in the Glendale Unified School District.

**Viet Bui** *ME '14* is an academic advisor at the USC Thornton School of Music.

**Megan Burton** *EdD '14* is director of academic support at Cathedral Catholic High School in San Diego.

**Maria Centanni** *MAT '14* is a teacher and director of the mentoring program at Nativity Prep Academy in San Diego. She teaches seventh and eighth grade English and runs the mentoring program, where she finds adult volunteers to make a one-year commitment to mentor middle school students. Nativity Prep provides a free Catholic education to students. Students must be eligible for free/reduced price lunch to be accepted to the school.

**George Cheung** *EdD '14* is a development executive at Apple, Inc. in Los Angeles.

**Lise Choucair** *EdD '14* is assistant professor and director, retention & progression at Hawaii Pacific University in Kaeohe, Hawaii.

**Luciano Cid** *EdD '14* is a teacher in the Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District.

**Katrina Council** *MAT '14* is a history teacher at Manhattan Comprehensive Day and Night School, a non-traditional high school that is part of the New York City Department of Education. Katrina teaches global studies and economics to ninth and tenth graders.

**Jessica Cowan** *ME '14* is an athletic academic advisor at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tenn., overseeing women's basketball, men's basketball, baseball, cheer and dance.

**Erin Craig** *EdD '14* started an education consulting business called E=MC<sup>2</sup> Consulting, LLC. She is writing a charter with plans of opening a charter high school in Orange County next fall.

**Margie Cruz-Hassan** *ME '14* is a program coordinator at the Riordan Programs at the UCLA Anderson School of Management. She coordinates two outreach programs that serve first-generation and underrepresented students. Programs are for high school and undergraduate students.

**Rocio Diaz** *ME '14* is an advisor of disability services and programs at USC. She manages the online accommodation process and day-to-day activities, provides outreach and establishes working relationships with key personnel and evaluates disability documentation to provide accommodations for students with disabilities.

**Michelle Dominguez** *ME '14* is a program manager for student engagement and activities at University of Washington, Bothell.

**Matthew Duque** *PhD '14* is a researcher at Baltimore County Public Schools in Baltimore, Md., as part of a two-year fellowship with the Harvard Strategic Data Project.

**Jannah Fitch** *MAT '14* is a science teacher at Highline High School in Burien, Wash., where she teaches four classes of freshman integrated science and one section of chemistry.

**Marie Freschl** *MFT '14* is a marriage and family therapist intern at the Richstone Family Center in Hawthorne, Calif.

**Kimberly Fricker** *EdD '14* is a principal at Orange Unified School District in Anaheim.

**Laura Garcia** *ME '14* is a transfer center student services assistant at Rio Honda College in Whittier, Calif.

**Lynn Garrett** *EdD '14* is director of alternative education at the Orange County Department of Education in Santa Ana overseeing special education, safe schools, foster youth and health and nutrition.

**Alexis Garrobo** *MAT '14* is a fourth grade teacher in the Champaign Unit 4 School District in Champaign, Ill.

**Breanna Gastaldi** *MAT '14* is a special education teacher in the Richland (Wash.) School District. She teaches in an intermediate, structured, special education classroom designed for children on the autism spectrum.

**Thomas Gillgannon** *MAT '14* is a fourth grade teacher at Albert Einstein Academies Charter School in San Diego. He serves as a 50 percent English language teacher in an English/German immersion class.

**Patrick Gittisriboongul** *EdD '14* is director of educational technology and information services in the Huntington Beach Union High School District.

**Renee Goff** *MAT '14* is a kindergarten teacher at Iroquois Point Elementary School in Ewa Beach, Hawaii.

**Keisha Goosby** *MAT '14* is an enrichment teacher at Springs Charter Schools in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. She designs and implements enrichment workshops for students in grades 1-8 to supplement their home-school education plans.

**Jennifer Hanson** *MAT '14* is a professor in career technical education teaching business, marketing, management and statistics courses at Pasadena City College. She is leading the development of new programs, including marketing research, social media marketing and e-commerce. Jennifer also serves as a consultant in the Small Business Development Center, working with area businesses to help the city of Pasadena achieve it's growth and branding goals.

**Benjamin Heddy** *PhD '14* is an assistant professor of educational psychology at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Okla.

**Emily Hernandez** *EdD '14* is an assistant professor, tenure track, at Cal State Los Angeles. After her second year in the EdD program, she began the application process and was hired as an ABD with Cal State Los Angeles as a full-time assistant professor in the Masters of Counseling, School-Based Family Counseling Program through the Division of Special Education and Counseling, Charter College of Education, at Cal State Los Angeles. Emily began teaching during the third year of the EdD program while completing her dissertation, which was a real challenge! She got through it with excellent reviews on her first-year evaluation and finished her doctorate and graduated on time! Emily is excited to fully immerse herself into her teaching position and as a full-time faculty at the university. She is also an alumna of Cal State Los Angeles and is honored to be a faculty member in the same program where she earned her master's degree. Professor Ahmadi and Dr. Stowe were instrumental in helping Emily obtain this position and providing her the guidance and letter of recommendation that helped her to secure this position.

**Josh Holzer** *MAT '14* is a PhD student in political science at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo.

**Howard Hsia** *Global EdD '14* is vice principal at Kai Ping Culinary School in Taipei, Taiwan.

**Emily Hubbard** *MAT '14* is a social studies teacher at Gilbert Public Schools in Gilbert, Ariz., where she teaches 11th grade American and Arizona history.

**Hannah Hudson** *MA '14* is a first grade teacher at Tom Bradley Global Awareness Elementary in Los Angeles. Both of Hannah's student teaching placements were at Tom Bradley (kindergarten and fourth grade) and she was lucky enough to get a first grade teaching job where she is able to teach her kindergarteners from last year!

**Daisy Jauregui (Mendez)** *MAT '14* is a math teacher at Alliance College Ready Public School's Media Arts and Entertainment Design High School in Los Angeles teaching Integrated Math I and II.

**Chantal Jones** *ME '14* is a graduate researcher at UCLA, where she is pursuing a PhD in higher education and organizational change.

**Tiana Kamiko** *MAT '14* is an ELL newcomer teacher, responsible for teaching all subjects (similar to an elementary teacher) for English Language Learner newcomers in sixth, seventh and eighth grade at Kalākaua Middle School. These are students who are new to the U.S. and have lived in America for less than one year. Due to language barriers, these students test into first, second and third level content areas although they are technically in middle school. For that reason, we follow an assortment of standards from differing grade levels to allow for as much differentiation as possible.

**Lisa Kamrany** *ME '14* is an academic advisor at USC advising undergraduate students within the Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences' Humanities Cluster.

**Lauren Kaupp** *EdD '14* is a state educational specialist for science at the State of Hawaii Department of Education in Honolulu, Hawaii.

**Emily Kim** *MAT '14* is a sixth grade English language arts teacher at PUC Triumph Charter Academy in Sylmar, Calif.

**Katerina Kulagina** *EdD '14* is assistant dean, School of Continuing Studies at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. She oversees the Semester in Washington Program, custom program education and international partnerships.

**Helen Kwok** *MAT '14* is an English teacher at Alliance Collins Family College-Ready High School in Huntington Park, Calif.

**Sylvia Landaverd** *EdD '14* is a human resources officer at Switzer Learning Center in Torrance, Calif.

**Ruby Le** *ME '14* is a counselor at eHarmony, Inc. in Santa Monica, Calif., providing supportive counseling and coaching to eHarmony plus premium members. In addition, she plays the role of personal matchmaker for all members to enhance their offline experience.

**Coreen Lee** *EdD '14* is the owner at Konane Consulting Group, LLC in Honolulu, Hawaii.

**Jonathan Lee** *MAT '14* is a social studies teacher at Hollywood High School in the Los Angeles Unified School District. He teaches AP psychology, U.S. history, and world history.

**Claire Ligioso** *MAT '14* is a junior high mathematics instructor, technology coordinator at St. Dominic School in Benicia, Calif.

**Michael Lindsay** *Global EdD '14* is head of school at Rio International School in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

**Stanley Liu** *MAT '14* is a social science teacher at Los Angeles International Charter High School.

**Adriana Loera** *MAT '14* is a seventh grade math teacher at KIPP Los Angeles College Prep School.

**Lana Lui** *MAT '14* is an eighth grade math teacher at Magnolia Public Schools in Bell, Calif.

**Nik Madalinski** *MAT '14* is a Middle Years Program (MYP) design technology instructor at Canadian Academy in Kobe, Japan, where she teaches high school design courses to ninth and tenth grade students using the framework.

**Doris Magana** *MAT '14* is a teacher in the Los Angeles Archdiocese.

**Lauren Maggart** *MAT '14* is the sole sixth grade English teacher at Heronfield Academy, a small independent

school in eastern New Hampshire. Along with her teaching responsibilities, she will be working as an advisor, field trip coordinator, and will oversee the school's eighth grade speech program and service learning program.

**Julio Mata** *ME '14* is a college counselor at Alliance College-Ready Public Schools in Los Angeles.

**Tatevik Melkumyan** *ME '14* is a program assistant for the PhD program in the USC School of Social Work.

**Robert Mijares** *MAT '14* is a math and science teacher at Busan Foreign School in Haeundae, Busan, South Korea. The school's curriculum is designed to provide an American-based education that graduates students who are accepted at American universities. He will be teaching pre-algebra in the middle school as well as integrated math, environmental science and digital media in the high school. Robert will also be coaching the soccer team.

**Sana Mohammed** *ME '14* is a career guidance counselor assistant at East Los Angeles College-First Year Completion Program. She provides assistance and guidance to first year students at the community college level.

**Erica Monsegue** *ME '14* is an academic mentor (intern) in the UCLA Athletic Department.



**Isabel Morales** *EdD '14* was recently selected as one of the Los Angeles Unified School District's 2014-15 Teachers of the Year. Isabel has been teaching high school social studies for the past 10 years, developing community-based learning experiences for her students.



**Vanessa Muniz** *MAT '14* is a social studies teacher at Assurance Learning Academy, an independent study charter school helping students in low-income, high-need communities in Harbor City, Calif. She teaches world history, U.S. history, government and economics.

**Stephanie Na** *MAT '14* is a special education teacher, teaching standard English in an SDC classroom to students at all grade levels at Workman High School in the City of Industry, Calif.

**Joseph Nettikaden** *EdD '14* is chief information officer at ESOL Education in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

**LaShunda Nugent** *MAT '14* is an intervention/English teacher in the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District in Seaside, Calif. She will be teaching sophomore English and intensive English for students new to the country/language.

**Veronica Obregon** *EdD '14* is a parent education coach with the Los Angeles Unified School District.

**Angela Pan** *ME '14* is an adjunct instructor/ counselor at East Los Angeles College.

**Bryan Pang** *EdD '14* is a district resource teacher at the Hawaii Department of Education in Wahiawa, Hawaii.

**Amber Payne Hepp** *ME '14* is a senior admissions coordinator at the USC School of Social Work, where she oversees the application and admission process for the Master of Social Work (MSW) program.

**Marisa Plescia** *ME '14* is department head of science for Fusion Academy, a private alternative school in San Mateo, Calif. Marisa supports students academically and emotionally as a science and math teacher/mentor.

**Sebastian Puccio** *EdD '14* is coordinator of administrative services and public information in the Glendale Unified School District.

**Raul Ramirez** *EdD '14* is director of English language learner and parent engagement programs in the Santa Barbara Unified School District.

**Ashley Ramos** *ME '14* is an academic support coordinator at Whittier College.

**Natalie Raymundo** *EdD '14* is a middle school principal in the San Bernardino City Unified School District.

**Jon Rey** *ME '14* is a program manager at USC advising the undergraduate student government program board, which plans many of the large events on campus.

**Ann Robinson** *MAT '14* is an elementary school teacher in the Moreno Valley Unified School District.

**Shaheed Sabrin** *MAT '14* is an English language fellow at English Language Fellow Program in Kelantan, Malaysia, funded by the U.S. Department of State.

**Jessica Salinas** *ME '14* is a college counselor at PUC (Partnerships to Uplift Communities) Lakeview Charter High School in San Fernando, Calif.

**Puja Savla** *MAT '14* is a science teacher at Green Dot Public Schools in Inglewood, Calif.

**Todd Schmidt** *EdD '14* is principal at Harbor View Elementary in Corona del Mar serving students in grades Pre K-6. The school has roughly 500 students, 18 general ed teachers, 15 specialty teachers and 35 classified staff members. They pride themselves on their response to instruction program and their 1:1 iPad initiative in grades 4-6 (grade level carts are in K-3). They also follow John Wooden's Pyramid to Success as the foundation of their character education program and have been recognized three times as a California Distinguished School and once as a National Blue Ribbon School.

**Jae Schock** *MAT '14* is an English teacher at King's College, the British School of Murcia in Roldan, Spain. Jae serves as a supplementary English teacher for years 7, 8 and 9. Cover (substitute) and teacher for secondary (years/grades 7-13).



## Rossier Graduate's Experience as a Wheel of Fortune Contestant

**Tensie Taylor ME '14** appeared on Wheel of Fortune! Tensie, who currently resides in Los Angeles but is a native of Franklin County, N.C., went through a rigorous process to get on the show. A year before, in 2013, Tensie applied online to be a contestant every single day: 365 days total, and she even went to a Wheel Mobile event, but she was never selected to audition for the show. However, on Jan. 2, 2014, Tensie applied online again, and five days later she received an email saying she had been selected to audition! ***Here's the account of the audition process and the taping of her show.***

The audition process was quite intense. To audition, a puzzle was placed on the screen, and each person in the room called a letter twice. This was done to see how well individuals pronounce letters, how much energy they have, if they have a fun personality, and if they can keep the game moving. Tensie called out her letters loud and clearly, and even ended up solving the puzzle! For her prize, she received a Pat Sajak bobble-head doll.

After calling letters, each person is given a 16-puzzle quiz and only 5 minutes to solve the puzzles. The puzzles only have two or three letters, and the only information given is the category. Out of 16 puzzles, Tensie solved 13. Following the puzzle quiz, the judges deliberate and take into consideration a person's performance with calling letters and how well (s)he did with the quiz. Next, the judges come back in the room, and it goes from 100 contestants to 15.

The next part of the audition consists of simulating an actual game of Wheel of Fortune. Three contestants line up at a time and play through a round. A fake wheel is spun, and each person has to introduce himself/herself. This gives the judges a chance again to see the person's personality and how well (s)he plays the game. In the pretend round, Tensie solved yet another puzzle! After the audition, one of the judges says that those who are selected will receive a letter in the mail from Wheel of Fortune within 14 days. And so the waiting began for Tensie!

On Jan. 24, the eighth day, Tensie received the letter saying that she had been selected to be on Wheel of Fortune. She screamed in glee and immediately called her parents! When a person receives the letter, (s)he has up to 14 months to appear on the show. Luckily, Tensie taped the show on May 2, 2014...four months later.

The day of the taping was intense, exciting, and nerve-racking. Tensie's brother, Jemonde Taylor, flew into Sony Picture Studios in Culver City to support her. In addition, Tensie's USC classmate and friend, Margie Cruz, supported her as well. The wheel is HEAVY! To spin it is a hard task because it weighs 2,400 pounds! Tensie found it to be a struggle to spin, especially since she only weighs 110 pounds.



Tensie's episode aired on Oct. 9, 2014. She solved two puzzles but came in second. Tensie considers it a tremendous honor to be on the show because one million people apply each year, 10,000 get selected to audition and only 600 make it as a contestant on the show.

**Nancy Shelnut** *MAT '14* is high school mathematics teacher at Rockdale County High School in Conyers, Ga. She teaches mathematics to ninth grade students.

**Alyssa Shepherd Moore** *MAT '14* is a teacher at Augustus F. Hawkins Schools for Community Action (LAUSD) in Los Angeles. Hawkins High School is a pilot school that was founded by teachers. There are three schools for community action on one campus. Each school has its own principal and funding code. RISE (Responsible Indigenous School of Entrepreneurship, C:/DAGS – Critical Design and Gaming School, and her school CHAS – Community Health Advocates. They are located just south of USC at 60th and Hoover. Hawkins is entering its third year of instructional excellence.

**Jennifer Sieh** *MAT '14* is an EFL instructor at Gyeongnam Province Office of Education in Namhae, South Korea.

**Minkyung So** *MFT '14* is an FSP clinician at Pacific Asian Counseling Services in Long Beach, where she provides mental health services to Asian Pacific Islanders with severe mental illnesses.

**Jessica Stamen** *MAT '14* is a sixth grade ELA teacher at Nueva Esperanza Charter Academy (part of the PUC Charter School Network) in San Fernando, Calif.

**Edgar Stepanyan** *EdD '14* is a teacher at Hoover High School in the Glendale, Calif.

**Stacee Stricker** *MAT '14* is an English teacher at the Performing Arts Community School @ Diego Rivera Learning Complex in Los Angeles. Stacee teaches high school English literature classes.

**Kenisha Strong** *ME '14* is an academic programs instructor/coordinator with Hawaii Job Corps.

**Shamsiah Zuraini Kanchanawati Tajuddin** *EdD '14* is a senior lecturer/director of the Institute for Leadership, Innovation and Advancement at Universiti Brunei Darussalam. As the director of the Institute for Leadership, Innovation and Advancement, Shamsiah is responsible in developing and coordinating executive leadership development programs for leaders from private and public institution in Brunei. In addition,

Shamsiah is also facilitating leadership programs for the Ministry of Education, particularly for school leaders.

**Dana Jo Tate** *EdD '14* is a professor, teacher education at Cal State Long Beach.

**Lauren Terschluse** *MMFT '14* is a residential therapist at Optimist Youth Homes and Family Services in Highland Park, Calif.

**Shalyn Tharayil** *ME '14* is a college counselor at Alliance College Preparatory Public Schools in Los Angeles.

**Ken Tokunaga** *MAT '14* is an eighth grade U.S. history teacher at Crown Preparatory Academy in Los Angeles.

**Crystal Turner** *EdD '14* is an assistant superintendent in the Tustin Unified School District.

**Starleen Van Buren** *EdD '14* is the director of the Small Business Development Center at El Camino College. She manages and directs the operations of the center, an economic development program of El Camino College funded in part by the Small Business Administration.

**Jennifer Sarah Weinman** *EdD '14* is director of student and academic services at University of Nottingham Ningbo China in Ningbo, Zhejiang, China. She leads academic services, counseling, human resources, organization and people development and projects office units for 6,500 students and 700 staff members. Jennifer serves on the management board driving strategic direction and development of the campus.

**Oryla Wiedoeft** *EdD '14* is an elementary school principal in the Redondo Beach Unified School District.

**Brooke Williams** *MAT '14* is an ESL Instructor at FLS International in Philadelphia, Pa.

**Maritza Williams** *MAT '14* is a lead kindergarten teacher at Chattahoochee Hills Charter School in Palmetto, Ga.

**Shawn Wolfe** *MAT '14* is an English as a second language program developer at West Virginia Regional Education Service Agency III in Charleston, W.Va.

**Jennifer Young** *MAT '14* is a secondary teacher at Hawaii State Department of Education in Honolulu, Hawaii. She also serves as the journalism and yearbook adviser and as an ELL teacher.

**Stella Yuen** *ME '14* is a career development program coordinator at South Central Scholars.

## STAY CONNECTED, STAY ENGAGED!

### Submit an update for *Class Notes*

Starting with this issue, USC Rossier is publishing *Class Notes*, a bi-annual e-newsletter featuring alumni updates. Complete the **online update survey** to share both professional and personal updates.

### Volunteer!

There are numerous ways you can volunteer, from helping with Rossier admissions efforts to assisting current students and fellow alumni with their career development. To learn more about available opportunities and register to be a volunteer please visit the **online alumni engagement survey**.

### Fight On!line

YOU complete the Trojan Family Network. **Fight On!line** is your portal to the Trojan Network. You can update your profile, search for alumni worldwide, stay up-to-date on news and events, and much more.

### Follow USC Rossier on Social Media

Stay up-to-date on the latest news — follow the Rossier School of Education on **Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest** and **Flickr**.