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## WELCOME!



Over the past few months we collected **over 275 professional and personal updates from Rossier alumni** for our third issue of *Class Notes*.

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

To view past issues please visit our **Class Notes website**.

### Fight On!

Matt DeGrushe ME '04  
Director of Alumni Engagement

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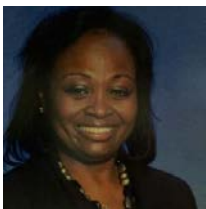
## 2015 Rossier Commencement welcomes 700+ graduates to the Rossier Alumni Network



## 1970s

**James “Jim” Hearn MS '73 EdD '90** is currently a member of the Senior Executive Service (brigadier general equivalent) with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Northwestern Division. He continues to show Trojan pride in the land of Beavers and Ducks (Portland, Ore.) and has been married to Lauren for 32 years!

**Thelma Moore-Steward MS '74 EdD '90** has served in the following capacities: principal, John F. Kennedy High School (Orange County, Calif.); assistant superintendent, Parkway School District (West St. Louis County, Mo.); area/community superintendent, Boston Public Schools (Boston, Mass.); deputy superintendent, Richmond School District (Contra Costa County, Calif.); assistant/deputy superintendent, Compton Unified School District (Compton, Calif.); associate professor of education leadership, Cal State Long Beach; and professor, educational leadership, Cal State San Bernardino. Thelma has been married to Michael Steward since 1994 and they have two grandsons. She has been an activist for cancer research and has been fighting metastatic thyroid cancer since 2011.



**Audrey Broussard-Holmes BS '76** is the director of employment services for Homeboy Industries. She is responsible for the oversight and supervision of employment services staff in all aspects of employment development, establishment of employer business relationships maintenance and development of a comprehensive and active network of employers who provide access to demand occupations, nontransitional occupations for women and high-skill occupational training.

**Bertie Wood MS '76 PhD '85** worked as a resource teacher for the English as a Second Language (ESL) and Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs at Torrance Adult School (TAS) while working on her master's and doctorate. She continued in that position until retirement in 1998 ending 25 years of work. Following retirement, Bertie set up a CBET program for TAS and was one of its first teachers. During her working years, Bertie taught one graduate class at USC and one at Cal State Los Angeles, which was enough to know that college teaching was not for her. She also presented adult literacy talks locally and in Illinois. In the fall of 2007, Bertie began three years as a program specialist with the Comprehensive Student Assessment System (CASAS), assisting local adult education agencies with testing and reporting their ESL students' progress.

As an 84-year-old wife of 62 years, mother of four delightfully positive people and grandmother of eight more, Bertie notes that USC was a complete pleasure for her. She encourages classmates to get in touch if you are near Torrance and would like to chat, have a light lunch, play a game of Scrabble, take a hike on the hills of Palos Verdes Peninsula or just watch the finches emptying our feeder.



**Veis Djalali PhD '78** published a book, *Reflections on Psychotherapy and Paths for Wellbeing*, in May 2015.

**Judy Lieb MS '78 EdD '95** retired in 2007 as the coordinator of technology and media services in the Fullerton School District. Since retirement, Judy has served as an educational technology consultant for the Orange County Department of Education. Outside of work, she has served as president of the Opera League of Los Angeles (2009-11); a member of Town and Gown of USC, currently serving as the co-chair, hospitality and

courtesy; and as a member of the Trojan Guild of Los Angeles, currently serving as corresponding secretary, ACC website and products treasurer.

## 1980s

**Sandra Smith** *MA '80 PhD '85* works in private practice with specialty in the disorders of children and adolescents, ages 4 through 18. She serves as a court-appointed psychologist for high conflict divorce/coparenting counseling in family law court and psychological assessment in immigration court. She also has experience as a consulting psychologist for pediatric medical centers. Sandra serves as an adjunct faculty member for the MFT program at USC Rossier. She has been happily married for a quarter of a century with two daughters and two granddaughters.

**Renee Coggins** *BS '85* spent 16 years teaching in various districts and private schools in the Southern California area. Renee also served a missionary to Cambodia from 2000 to 2006. She married Eric Coggins in 1989 and together they have five children.

**Gordon "Dick" Jones** *EdD '85* served as the director of academic computing at Western State University of Colorado from 1986 to 1988 and then as the director of computer research for the Western Colorado Census in 1990. Dick has been a professional bridge player since 1990 and has been a bridge director and lecturer on over 30 cruises spanning the globe.



**Kenneth Kelly** *MS '85* is the director of student orientation advising and registration (SOAR) and parent and family programs (PFP) at Cal State Long Beach. He recently earned his EdD from Cal State Long Beach.

**Robin Lewis** *PhD '85* taught in the USC Counseling Psychology MS and PhD programs from 1996 to 1997 before going to the USC Asian Division in 1998. She continued to teach for seven years in the master's program for the University of Maryland, Japan. Robin moved back to the US (Morro Bay, Calif.) where she was hired as adjunct faculty for the master's in clinical psychology and undergraduate psychology programs at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. She is a California licensed psychologist and has been in private practice for 26 years. Robin worked clinically in a number of environments (Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Psychological Services, private practice on Kadena Airbase, Okinawa, and clinical supervisor for Navy and Marine Corps Drug and Alcohol Programs, Asia Pacific). She is currently retired (faculty emeritus) from Cal Poly after 17 years, though she continues to teach in master's and undergraduate programs. She also maintains a private practice in Morro Bay.

**Mark Scheid** *MS '85* is a brigadier general in the US Army and resides in Tiffin, Ohio.

**Margo Zink** *EdD '85* served as an assistant/associate professor of nursing at Wayne State University (Detroit), Boston College, Pace University (N.Y.) and Southern Connecticut State University (where she was also the department chair). In addition, Margo provided home healthcare consultation for home health, hospice and private duty organizations. She was a site visitor for a community health accreditation program and an expert consultant for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) leading national training courses and regulatory document reviews. Margo has been published numerous times and has been a regular speaker on home health related topics.

Margo has been married for 49 years to Russ Zink and has two married sons (one son, Russell Todd

Zink is also a USC graduate) and five grandchildren. She lived on the East Coast during her working years, but has now relocated to California in her semi-retirement. Margo also lived in Germany for three years while working on her doctorate from USC through DOD program oversees (1983-85). Her extensive travels since graduation have taken her to Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Turkey, Korea, Japan, Costa Rica, Mexico and Vietnam.

**Philip Barrett MS '86** is a disaster reservist for the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs in Phoenix. Following a disaster declaration, Philip works with state and local governments to assist them with rebuilding their damaged infrastructure and assisting applicants with project applications and cost estimates.

## L'Cena Brunskill Rice '53 inducted into Half Century Trojan Hall of Fame

L'Cena Brunskill Rice '53 has been inducted into the Half Century Trojan Hall of Fame by the USC Alumni Association. Rice has been a devoted volunteer for USC for the past 50 years. In addition to serving on the boards of the Trojan League of South Bay, Friends of the USC Libraries and the USC Rossier School of Education for many years, Rice is a lifetime member of Cardinal & Gold, EDUCARE and the USC Associates at the Presidential level.



## 1990s

**Susana Contreras Cuevas BS '90** works for the Los Angeles Unified School District, where she started as a teacher then became a categorical program coordinator, assistant principal, principal, certificated performance evaluation support coordinator and currently serves as a staff relations field director. Susan is married and has two wonderful sons, ages 12 and 8.

**Carol Cooper EdD '90** has been retired since 1998. Her last full-time professional position was dean of instruction at a California community college. Carol enjoyed other administrative positions at the same college in her 27-year tenure. After retiring, Carol did some part-time contractual work serving as an administrative curriculum developer for a consortium of 13 colleges in the San Francisco South Bay/Silicon Valley region. Carol relocated to Oregon with her husband in 2005. She remains actively involved in AAUW (American Association of University Women) and serve as a liaison with a nearby university. She has also become an avid quilter and her work has been displayed in a number of venues.

**Mary Ann Goodwin EdD '90** retired in 2009 as a state administrator for charter schools at the California Department of Education. She served as team lead for a Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) high school accreditation team. Mary Ann is also a private contractor for new school development.

## 2015 Leadership Conference inspires audience of current and future leaders

The Dean’s Superintendents Advisory Group hosted its annual Leadership Conference on July 23 at the Radisson. Keynote speaker, Wesley Smith EdD ’05, executive director of the Association of California School Administrators, spoke on “Leadership: Protecting Student Rights and Ensuring the Realization of Their Dreams.” The standing-room only workshops sustained the passion and enthusiasm of the opening session. Two workshops focused on practical organizational tools: “Crisis Management in the Age of Social Media” and “Staff Management—Hiring, Managing & Retention.” Another set highlighted career advancement: “Successful Job Search Strategies” and “Pathways to Leadership.” And a third set of workshops offered alternative career strategies: “Leveraging Your Education Degree in a Business Setting” and “Diverse Pathways in Education.”

You can view pictures of the event on [USC Rossier’s Flickr](#). See also the Twitter feed under the hashtag [#USCEdConf](#).



**Paul Gunadi** *PhD '90* has been a pastor in Los Angeles since 2005 and is currently at the First Indonesian Baptist Church in Monrovia, Calif. From 1991 to 2005 Paul taught counseling at the Southeast Asia Bible Seminary in Malang, Indonesia. Paul writes, "I always look back on my years at USC as perhaps the most transforming period of my life. I was tremendously blessed by the teaching and the lives of Paul Bloland, Michael Morris, Rod Goodyear—to name a few. God used my training at USC not only to shape me to be a more effective counselor but also to be a more effective person in His hands."

**Barry Kayrell** *Edd '90* is the superintendent of schools for the Hemet Unified School District. He previously served as superintendent of schools for the Beaumont Unified School District and Oroville Union High School District. Barry also serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Redlands.

**George Keeler** *PhD '90* is a professor of journalism and department chair of communications at the University of La Verne. George and his wife Jeanette have two children, Nathan and Rebecca.

**Brandy Kelly** *BS '90* taught for several years in the Anaheim City School District while earning a master's degree from National University. Brandy taught briefly at the American School in London and Chicago Public Schools. After several years away from the classroom raising her two children, she has returned to the classroom teaching fourth grade in Santa Monica.



**Ann Kwinn** *PhD '90* is associate professor and director of instructional strategy for Azusa Pacific University's (APU) Office of Innovative Teaching & Technology, supporting faculty and conducting research in blended and online course design. Before APU, Ann served as vice

president, interactive learning for CallSource, was director of eLearning for Clark Training & Consulting and co-wrote the book *The New Virtual Classroom*, with Ruth Clark, and the e-books *The eLearning Guild's Handbook on Synchronous eLearning* and *The Guild Research 360 Report on Synchronous Learning Systems*. Ann consulted with and taught for Bellevue University, Walden University and UC Irvine.

**Christy Lao** *MS '90 PhD '93* is an associate professor at San Francisco State University.

**Sandra Rich** *PhD '90* served as chair of the Dental Hygiene Department at the USC Ostrow School of Dentistry from 1990 to 1995. From 1995 until her retirement in 2013, Sandra taught DDS students and periodontology residents, in addition to serving one year as assistant dean for educational development. During this period, she conducted research at the dental school with several different colleagues, publishing articles for the Journal of Dental Education as well participating as a researcher and author for numerous scientific dental journals. After 35 years of teaching at the Ostrow School of Dentistry, Sandra is enjoying her retirement at home and participating with USC Emeriti Center.

**Karen Sherman** *BS '90* is currently a library media specialist for a middle school in Saratoga, Calif. She earned her master's degree in library and information science from the University of Texas, Austin. She also earned a master's degree in Montessori early childhood development and an AMI Montessori diploma. Karen served as lead teacher and program director at a Montessori middle school in Vancouver, Wash., for three years.

**Michael Tokmakoff** *MS '90* worked as a classroom teacher and math coach in the Los Angeles Unified School District until retirement in 2012. He got married in 2001.

**Kathleen Grubb EdD '93** is a coach at Pivot Learning Partners. Also, as a TPA assessor for the State of California, Kathleen provides valuable input in regards to a teacher's ability to design and implement effective Common Core State Standard lessons. Kathleen serves as a lecturer at Cal State Long Beach.

**David Grant MS '94 PhD '00** has been the owner/operator of Arizona Assistive Technology, a community-based education consultancy and assistive technology company serving disabled youth and adults as a vendor to the Arizona State Department of Economic Security since 2006. In 2006, he served as a Peace Corps Crisis Corps volunteer in Jamaica, where he produced special education transition curriculum for the Ministry of Education. Other past experiences include special education consultant for the Navaho Reservation and Vocational Services; vice president for the Arizona Easter Seals; assistive technology advisor for the Solano County (Calif.) Department of Education; curriculum developer for the Lewis & Clark bicentenary for the US Army Corps of Engineers; and special education teacher for Georgia Juvenile Prison in Plains, Ga.

He served as a board member of the Arizona State Special Education Advisory Panel from 2010 to 2013. Currently, David is the chairman of the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) International Special Interest Group (I-SIG). David published the e-book *Community-Based Assistive Technology* on Amazon Kindle in 2014.

**Joyce Bellinger Little EdD '95** retired as a SELPA director in Santa Cruz County, Calif., and together with her husband and partner developed the Individualized Education Program (IEP) facilitation process. They provide training to school districts and state education agencies all over the country. IEP facilitation was designated an educational best

practice in 2002. She has been married to Doug Little for 15 years.

**Lori Breeden MFT '95** has been in private practice as a licensed marriage and family therapist since 2004. She also earned a PhD in occupational science from USC in 2008. Lori is happy living in Beaverton, Ore., with her wonderful guy, John and their dog, Remi. They enjoy traveling to tropical locations to balance out life, especially to their favorite spot, the Dominican Republic!

**Margaret Chidester EdD '95** represents over 50 California school districts, charter schools, ROPs, JPAs and related education agencies in all legal, general counsel, litigation and administrative law issues. She provides workshops and employee training on matters pertaining to public schools. Maggie's law practice emphasizes the importance of preventive school law to solve potential legal issues early, limit litigation exposure and legal expenses and allowing their education clients to focus resources on instruction. Maggie provides timely, early response and options to clients, many of which she has worked with for over 25 years.

In addition to her law practice, Maggie is serving in her 20th year as an adjunct professor in the EdD Program at USC Rossier. She also serves as faculty in the USC Rossier Chief Business Officer (CBO) certificate program, a presenter for ACSA Superintendents Academy (since 1995) and an instructor in School Employers of California (SEAC) training for school administrators in collective bargaining. She continues to serve on the USC Rossier Board of Councilors, which advises Dean Gallagher. Maggie is a proud 20-year donor for EdD Scholarships through the Dean's Superintendents Advisory Group (DSAG).

**Shane Martin** *PhD '95* is dean and professor of the School of Education at Loyola Marymount University, where he also serves as dean of graduate studies. He has served as a commissioner to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing since 2008.

**Matt Nelson** *PhD '95* has worked at Northwest University in Kirkland, Wash., in the roles of professor of psychology and dean in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences since earning his doctorate.

**Joan Sando** *EdD '95* served as an elementary principal in Atascadero Unified School District until 1999. She moved to Nevada in March 2000 to help a group start Explore Knowledge Academy (EKA), a project-based charter school similar to the EdVisions Schools started by the Gates Foundation. After moving on from EKA, Joan helped start Silversands Montessori Charter School in Henderson, Nev. She received federal grants and EdVisions grants to start both schools.

**Natalie Torres** *BS '95* taught middle school math and science for the Los Angeles Unified School District and the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District after graduation. Natalie also taught ESL adult school at night, which was very rewarding. She moved to Connecticut in 2000 and her credential wouldn't reciprocate so she took a leave from teaching and worked in retail management. She moved back to Southern California in 2005 and returned to education last year working for a nonprofit that assists foster youth in attaining their post-secondary education. Natalie is the education manager for The Children Youth and Family Collaborative.

Natalie has been with her wife since 1994 but they were officially married in 2008 just days before Proposition 8 passed in California outlawing same sex marriage. They have one son, born in 2004.

They were also foster parents to 10 different children over four years while trying to adopt.

**Arianne Teherani** *MS '99 PhD '00* serves on the faculty at UC San Francisco where she has an administrative, teaching and research role.

## 2000s

**Michelle Browning** *PhD '00* is a full professor for National University's School of Business and Management and lead faculty for the Leadership Program and Los Angeles Regional Center. Michelle recently celebrated her 36th wedding anniversary with her husband, Darrel, and their four children and one grandchild.

**Marva Cappello** *PhD '00* is an associate professor of literacy in the School of Teacher Education and the director of the Center for Visual Literacies at San Diego State University. Marva's research focuses on the use of visual texts to support literacy learning and as qualitative data for analysis.

**Kate Franceschini** *PhD '00* is the assistant superintendent of educational services in the Temple City Unified School District. The family tradition of educators continues as her older daughter is a first-year teacher for students with autism in the Arcadia Unified School District.

**Christopher Francis** *BS '00* is beginning his first year as an elementary school principal after serving the previous three years as an assistant principal at an intermediate school. Prior to that, Christopher was the teacher association president representing about 2,000 members. He has been happily married for 12 years and his third daughter is on her way!



## Merrill Irving Jr. EdD '07 Named President of Hennepin Technical College



The Board of Trustees of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities appointed Merrill Irving Jr. as president of Hennepin Technical College. His appointment became effective July 1, 2015.

“Merrill Irving has devoted his career to developing academic programs that prepare students for technical careers and skilled jobs in high demand,” said Steven Rosenstone, chancellor of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. “Dr. Irving is passionate about Hennepin Technical College’s power to transform students’ lives and serve the communities of Brooklyn Park and Eden Prairie.”

Irving has served as the associate vice president of continuing education, training and workforce development at Oakton Community College (IL) since 2012. Previously, he served Miami Dade College as the chair of the School of Continuing Education and Professional Development at Wolfson Campus and director of the Department of Labor Biosciences program. He was the interim executive director of the Center of Long Beach (CA), the director of education at the Homecare Workers Training Center (CA) and a regional director and business consultant at the Los Angeles Business Resource Group, Business Interface Inc. He holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from West Virginia University in addition to his doctorate from USC Rossier.

Hennepin Technical College is Minnesota’s largest technical college, serving more than 10,000 students at campuses in Brooklyn Park and Eden Prairie. HTC offers more than 45 programs of study leading to certificates, diplomas, and Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) or Associate of Science (A.S.) degrees. The college offers many evening, weekend and online courses. In addition, cutting-edge continuing education is available through HTC’s Customized Training Services.

**Liss Jackson MS '00** is a high school English teacher and currently resides in Manhattan Beach, Calif. She is engaged to be married next year to a retired rocket scientist.

**Elaine Keeley EdD '00** is director of curriculum, instruction and professional development in the Merced City School District.

**Romina King MFCC '00** is an independent contractor for New Perspectives Center for Counseling and Therapy in Salem, Ore. She is also a clinician for the Center of Integrative Medicine in

Bend, Ore., and a certified equine facilitated psychotherapist for Bend Horse Talk (<http://www.bendhorsetalk.com/romina-king>). Romina lives on a 10-acre horse ranch with four horses, one dog, one goat, one cat and one husband.

**Kerrie Krol Merritt ME '00** married Jeffrey Merritt in November 2007 and together they have two children, Jaden Jeffrey (born June 2010) and Jax Krol (born January 2014).

**Li-fen Lin** *MS '00* earned a PhD in linguistics from UC Davis in 2011 and has been a tenure-track assistant professor of English/TESOL at National Taiwan Normal University since 2012.

**Kimberly McDaniel** *PhD '00* is the vice president, student services and enrollment management at Cosumnes River College in Elk Grove, Calif. She serves as the chief student services officer of the college by providing leadership for academic programs and services that support student learning and student development.

**Mixim Murchison** *ME '00* worked in student affairs at UC San Diego and in student outreach at San Diego State University from 2000 to 2004. In 2002, Mixim made the decision to make a slight career change and returned to school and earned a master's in counseling with a PPS credential. In 2004, she left the student affairs profession and transitioned to K-12 work. For the past 11 years, Mixim has been happily employed as a middle school counselor with the Sweetwater Union High School District in Chula Vista, Calif. She believes her first master's in education from USC Rossier provided her with a strong research base that guides her work as a school counselor. In addition, her work in postsecondary administration and student affairs has taught her that college preparation begins at the elementary level. As a middle school counselor, she has the ability to influence and prepare young students for future success in college.

**Kory O'Rourke** *BS '00* earned a master's degree in English/creative writing from San Francisco State University. She's taught high school for over 10 years in the Bay Area. Kory is participating in the Mindful Schools year-long teacher certification program and has already begun incorporating mindfulness within her classrooms

**Francisco Ramos** *PhD '00* is a professor at Loyola Marymount University's School of Education, where he teaches courses on second language acquisition theories and methods.

**Megan Smith** *BS '00* has been a fifth grade teacher at Pacific Rim Elementary in the Carlsbad Unified School District since 2000. She has also served as the fifth grade district facilitator for the past four years.



**Petti Van Rekom** *Edd '00* practiced her profession in large US corporations from 2000 to 2007. Since 2007, Petti has been consulting to large organizations. In addition, she is teaching in a doctoral program in training and performance improvement and mentoring doctoral candidates. In her spare time, Petti has become active in community and national issues, including leadership positions in a local California League of Women Voters.

**Mary Wong** *PhD '00* is a professor at Azusa Pacific University. Mary has twice been selected as a Fulbright scholar — first, working in Hong Kong from 2012 to 2013 and currently working in Myanmar.

**Gabriela Mafi** *MS '00 Edd '02* has been the superintendent of Garden Grove Unified School District (GGUSD) since 2013. She served as a principal, director and assistant superintendent in GGUSD. She is also a former director of the Edd Program at USC Rossier. Gabriela has been married to Eugene Mafi for 28 years and together they have three children — ages 26, 20 and one on the way.

**Anel Nevarez** *BS '01 MS '05* has served previously as a ready to learn (Rtl) coordinator and assistant principal at New Designs Charter School. Anel got married in June 2015.

**Richard Sheehan EdD '02** was named superintendent of the Covina-Valley Unified School District, which serves the communities of Covina, West Covina, Glendora, San Dimas and Irwindale.

**Kevin Baxter EdD '04** was named director and superintendent of Catholic schools for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, the largest diocese in the country. He will be responsible for 218 elementary and 51 high schools, a total of 80,000 students.

**Jeanette Chien EdD '04** is the assistant superintendent, educational services for the Chino Valley School District.

**Rena Burton ME '05** continued to work in the Academic Review Department at USC for about six months after graduation. She then accepted an academic advising position at UC Riverside. Rena now serves as the interim director of the Academic Resource Center at UC Riverside.

**Vivy Chao ME '05** started and continues to run an education nonprofit, Yang Camp. Vivy is about to begin work with Camperoo, a technology camp designed for kids based in the Bay Area.

**Tara Daylami MFT '05** is a licensed marriage and family therapist in private practice in La Cañada, Calif.

**Kenneth Geller ME '05** was appointed the vice chairman of the department of surgery at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles shortly after earning his degree. He retired from that position in 2010 and assumed his current position of director of the Office of Pre-Health Advisement at the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences.

**Dale Hillyer EdD '05** is currently an elementary principal at Stoddard Elementary in Anaheim City School District. In 2013, Stoddard became the first

STEAM Academy in Anaheim and is now a leader in the area with students learning programming, engineering and robotics during the instructional day. Dale is the proud father of three amazing children: Reese (10), Julia (7) and Hudson (6). He is married to a wonderful woman, Maribel, and she is the senior director of elementary for the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools.

**Greg Knotts PhD '05** is a professor of elementary education at Cal State Northridge, where he also serves as the director of new faculty orientation and director of queer studies.

**Lanore Larson MS '05** works at the USC Marshall School of Business as an educational program designer. She supports on-campus faculty to most effectively utilize educational technology to improve student achievement. Additionally, Lanore works with faculty and staff to develop Marshall's first online MBA, as well as develop other online courses. She also contributes to the AACSB Accreditation process. Prior to joining Marshall in 2014, Lanore worked with the University of the Pacific's Equity & Access Professional Development Program as a presenter and educational coach. Prior to that, she worked as marketing director and curriculum developer for Social Studies School Services, a secondary curriculum provider, representing them and presenting at national, state, regional and local education conferences. Lanore also served as adjunct faculty at the Loyola Marymount University Graduate School of Education.

**Brian McElfish EdD '05** is a technology teacher, published author, filmmaker and father of four.

**Greg Misiaszek MS '05** is an assistant director at the Paulo Freire Institute at UCLA. He received his PhD in education (comparative education & international education) from UCLA in 2011. Greg also serves as an assistant professor at Beijing

Normal University, Faculty of Education and as the director of communications for the World Council of Comparative Education Societies (WCCES).

**Carolee Ogata EdD '05** is the deputy superintendent of human resources in the Huntington Beach Union High School District. She writes, "Earning my doctorate in education with the Fullerton cohort was an amazing experience with so many talented individuals."

**Korby Olson EdD '05** was named superintendent for the Middletown Unified School District (Calif.) in 2006 and served in that role for nine years before retiring in June 2015.

**Nancy Padilla EdD '05** currently works as an educational consultant for a USDOE SLP grant, in partnership with the California League of Schools and Compton Unified School District, as their chief high school mentor serving as a leadership coach for four high school and two middle school administrative teams. In addition, Nancy is working part-time as a high school associate principal for the Monrovia Unified School District.

In 2006, after completing her fifth year as a middle school principal, the superintendent moved Nancy to serve as the principal of Nogales High School in the Rowland Unified School District. She served in that role until 2013, when, after 33 years of service in education, she took an early retirement incentive offered by the school district. Nancy traveled to China and provided educational consulting services in several provinces during 2013-14.

Nancy is happily married to her kindergarten sweetheart, David. Their eldest daughter works in education and lives in Pasadena. Their middle daughter is attending college, still undecided on her major. Their son, who was only seven when Nancy graduated from USC Rossier, is a senior in high school looking to join the Navy after graduation.

**Glen Parsons EdD '05** completed a career as an administrator for Chapman University. He is semi-retired now and continues to teach economics courses for Columbia College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Excelsior College. Glen is crew chief for Parsons Racing, a racing team run by his son for drivers wishing to race Formula Mazdas and supporting him in the SCCA Pirelli World Challenge Pro Series.

**Stefanie Phillips EdD '05** is currently serving as a deputy superintendent in the Santa Ana Unified School District.

**Bianca Strong Neves MAT '05** is a teacher in the ABC Unified School District in Cerritos, Calif. She also serves as an elementary writing coach and teacher leader. She is married to Ruben Neves and they have a two-year-old daughter.

**Matthew Swindle EdD '05** is an independent study teacher in the Brea Olinda Unified School District. He has three children: Jackson (14), Olivia (12) and Eliana (8). He is also a director for the Pateadores Soccer Club.

**Keith Tomes EdD '05** is the superintendent of the Trona Joint Unified School District in Trona, Calif. Previously, Keith served as superintendent of the Pixley Union School District (2012-15); superintendent of the Baker Valley Unified School District (2008-12); and elementary school principal in the Las Virgenes Unified School District.

**Sarah Walker PhD '05** is a research assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Washington School of Medicine. She is married with three daughters (ages 9, 6 and 4) and enjoys living in Seattle!



**Curren Warf ME '05** is a pediatrician with a specialty in adolescent medicine. He was on staff at USC School of Medicine/Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA),

Department of Pediatrics/Division of Adolescent Medicine when he completed his degree. He also served as the director of the Adolescent Medicine Fellowship Program at CHLA. In 2009, Curren relocated to British Columbia Children's Hospital/University of British Columbia Faculty of Medicine, where he has developed a Division of Adolescent Health and Medicine including a new accredited subspecialty residency for pediatricians in adolescent medicine. Curren recruited another physician to direct the program. He is also involved in the education of pediatric residents and medical students. His current position is the head of the Division of Adolescent Health and Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, BC Children's Hospital/UBC Faculty of Medicine.

**Anna Weidhofer EdD '05** is an assistant professor at Spring College; director and chief business officer for a charter school; and regional director II, in charge of approving 40 LCAPs and running the Administrator Induction Program.



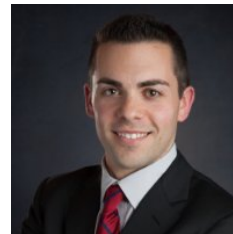
**Greg Schulz EdD '06** was named interim president of Fullerton College. Fullerton College offers 93 majors leading to the AA or AS degree in both academic and vocational

subjects, as well as 147 programs leading to vocational certificates. The college has one of the highest transfer rates in the state, sending graduates to the University of California, California State University campuses and other institutions of higher education.



**Jomeline Balatayo MS '07** graduated in 2014 with a PhD in Education with an emphasis in teaching and learning from the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education at UC Santa Barbara.

She also serves as a member of the Committee on Accreditation, appointed by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.



**Christopher J. Grillo ME '07** serves as the chief operating officer for the Boston College, Connell School of Nursing (CSN), managing CSN resources, including human

resources, budgets and facilities. He advises and assists the dean in developing and implementing policies and procedures that support the strategic direction of the college. Christopher provides administrative direction and integration of nonacademic and operational activities for the Connell School and works with the dean and school leadership team to develop strategic goals and assess their operational impact.

**Erin Kunkle MAT '07** is the director of statewide writing assessment at the Nebraska Department of Education in Lincoln, Neb.

**Marcy Newman ME '07** is the director of campus partnerships in the Office of Career & Professional Development at Loyola Marymount University.



**Lachlan Sands ME '07** was named president of Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Pasadena, where he serves as the principle administrative officer responsible for

successful operations of the campus.

## Carlos Turner Cortez PhD '06 Named President of San Diego Continuing Education



Carlos O. Turner Cortez PhD '06 will serve as the next President of Continuing Education with the San Diego Community College District. He most recently served as Dean of Academic Pathways, Workforce Development, and Student Success and Acting Vice President of Instruction at Berkeley City College (BCC). Turner Cortez is also an adjunct assistant professor at USC Rossier, where he has worked in various capacities since 2001. His research interests center on the role of educators and administrators of

color in the historical development of American social welfare and education policy. He is also an expert in the area of promoting equity and access in urban education through literacy and policy initiatives. Before BCC, he also served as Director of Education Extension at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). Prior to UCLA, he worked in education at the P-12 level as a classroom teacher, administrator, and researcher.

He began his career in education as a Teach for America Corps member. His experience spans the public, private and charter school sectors in Washington, DC, Houston, New York City, Los Angeles and Berkeley. Turner Cortez served as principal of New Village Charter School in Los Angeles and as assistant principal at Grape Street Elementary School. In these positions, he was known for his dedication to teachers and students, the development of innovative programs and services, and sound fiscal management. He has worked primarily with underserved student populations from low income communities and has been a staunch advocate for policy and finance reform as a member of various state and federal level legislative task forces, including most recently the California League of Community College Legislation Advisory Board. His commitment to social justice drives his passion for urban education reform.

Turner Cortez's educational background also includes a bachelor's degree in History and Sociology from Georgetown University and a master's degree in Race and Gender Politics from New York University.

**Kristen Azevedo** *ME '08* is the director of student-athlete leadership and development at Stanford University. She develops innovative leadership and student development programming for all Stanford student-athletes.

**Julio Fonseca** *EdD '08* was named superintendent of the San Ysidro School District in June 2015.

**Rendy Opdycke** *ME '08* is an account manager at Turbo Medical Marketing in Costa Mesa, Calif.

**Lindsay Butler** *EdD '09* is the head of curriculum at NextLesson in San Francisco. NextLesson offers high-quality K-12 resources that engage students through topics they love, such as books, movies, technology and sports. Their projects and lessons provide students with opportunities to develop and apply critical thinking skills in real world situations.

All resources are aligned to Common Core and other state standards, ready-to-use and easily adapted to any classroom environment. As head of curriculum, Lindsay leads the evolution of NextLesson's curriculum strategy, manages the NextLesson curriculum team on efficacy, development and production strategies as well as external authors and teachers in curriculum writing.

**Jay Camerino EdD '09** is the assistant superintendent, middle & K-8 schools in the Long Beach Unified School District. The assistant superintendent plays a critical role in the leadership, development and support of school site principals. This position, within the executive staff, provides departmental direction and oversight, district leadership and contributes to the building of systems and supports that increase student achievement across schools.

**Hasmik Danielian EdD '09** was named superintendent of the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District, which includes 28 schools serving over 19,000 K-12 students.

**Dan Hirsch ME '09** is the associate dean of students for campus life at Pitzer College, where he is responsible for all campus and student life programs and offices outside of residence life.

**Diane Shammass PhD '09** authored "Underreporting Discrimination Among Arab American and Muslim American Community College Students: Using Focus Groups to Unravel the Ambiguities Within the Survey Data," which was published in the *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*.

## 2010s



**Sunday Abbott EdD '10** is a SpringBoard district coach based out of the College Board's Western Regional Los Angeles office. As a district coach, Sunday provides

instructional and implementation support to district and site leaders that have implemented the College Board's SpringBoard curriculum in their Western Regional states.

**June Ahn PhD '10** is currently an assistant professor at the University of Maryland, College Park, and holds a joint appointment in the College of Information Studies and College of Education.

**Craig Bartholio EdD '10** is an assistant professor in the special education program at Azusa Pacific University.

**David Bealer EdD '10** is the superintendent of schools for the San Pasqual Valley Unified School District in Winterhaven, Calif. He has served in this position since 2011.

**Wendy Bennett MAT '10** is in her fifth year as a high school English teacher at Sparta High School in Sparta, Wisc. She recently began working toward her EdD in K-12 educational leadership and is scheduled to defend her dissertation in fall 2018. Wendy is not sure of the direction she will take after graduation, but she will hold pupil services, director of instruction and superintendent licenses. Additionally, Wendy was a state finalist last year for the Herb Kohl Teacher Fellowship and has been accepted to present at this year's fall conference for the Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English. Most everything has remained the same except her

kids are larger now. Connor is a junior this year and Jarett is an eighth grader. They are both doing well.

**Melissa Borek Calderon** *ME '10* began her full-time career as an academic advisor with USC Dornsife prior to graduation, from 2009 to 2011. From 2011 to 2013 Melissa worked at UCLA in the Department of Psychology as an academic advisor and educational services coordinator. Since 2013, she has been working for USC in the Department of History as an academic advisor working with undergraduate and graduate student populations, graduate admissions and curriculum coordination. On Aug. 2, 2014, Melissa married her husband, Rommel Calderon.

**Anneka Busse** *MFT '10* earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from Pepperdine University. She was recently hired as the crisis therapist/care manager at the Claremont University Consortium, Monsour Counseling and Psychological Services (MCAPS).

**Kimberly Cabrera** *Edd '10* transferred as the assistant principal at Chino Hills High School to Chino High School. In 2014, she was named the principal of Don Antonio Lugo High School in Chino.

**Laura Castaneda** *Edd '10* is a professor of professional practice at the USC Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism. She returned to the faculty after a five-year stint in administration, most recently as associate director of the Journalism School.

**Iris Chiang** *ME '10* continued to pursue her education and earned an additional certificate in applied behavior analysis in educational settings from Cal State Los Angeles after graduating from USC Rossier. After completing 1,500 internship hours, Iris sat for the National Board certification exam for Behavior Analysis and passed on her first try! She was then promoted from ABA program coordinator to assistant director of clinical services

for an ABA agency within 3 years of graduating. After serving a year in that position, Iris was again promoted to director of clinical services and given her own brand new office to manage and grow in Long Beach.

Since graduating, Iris married her boyfriend of four years, who she met at USC in the graduate program. They have a daughter, Riley, who is now 2½ years old. They are looking forward to a family trip to Washington, DC, later this year and an international vacation to Japan in 2016!

**Malinalli Cooke** *MAT '10* taught an additional four years of geology at Montebello High School after graduating, for a total of eight years. She then left Montebello Unified School District for Walnut Valley Unified District, where she recently started her second year teaching honors and regular chemistry at Diamond Bar High School. Her daughter, Raquel, was born in 2011, followed by her son, Julian, in 2013. Her husband, Spencer, graduated from the USC Marshall School of Business in 2011. They purchased their first home last year.

**Patrick Crispen** *Edd '10* is currently the director of educational technology for USC's Keck School of Medicine, where he also holds a faculty appointment as an assistant professor of clinical medical education. Patrick is also an adjunct assistant professor at USC Rossier, where he teaches face-to-face and online master's and doctoral classes. Between 2010 and 2014, he served as a manager in USC's Information Technology Services, where he managed USC's enterprise-level learning management system and ancillary course technologies budgeting, staffing and support services.

**Ian Douglas** *MAT '10* is a seventh grade teacher at an international baccalaureate middle school in Ontario, Canada.





**Merav Efrat EdD '10** is an assistant professor in the Department of Health Sciences at Cal State Northridge. She has been published in *Health Education Journal*, *Journal of Physical Activity & Health*, *The Journal of School Health* and *Health Education and Behavior*. Merav has also been successful in securing over \$1.3 million in grants from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the US Department of Agriculture, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the USDA/NIFA Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Education Grants program. The largest grant funded a study aimed at reducing the childhood obesity rates of low-income children in the Van Nuys neighborhood.

**Thomas Esparza MAT '10** is a 2/3 lead teacher at Aspire Titan Academy in Huntington Park, Calif., where he has taught since completing his degree. He was selected to a national project for blended learning through the BetterLesson Master Teacher Project (<http://betterlesson.com/user/221582/freddy-esparza/strategies>).

**Michael Feinberg MAT '10** is a social studies teacher in Chicago serving students in grades 6-8.

**Kelley Finch MAT '10** is a second grade teacher at Sacred Heart School in Atherton, Calif. She received a certificate from USC Rossier in teaching gifted learners in 2014. Prior to her current position, Kelley taught second grade at Culture and Language Academy of Success Charter School in Los Angeles and fifth grade at the Carlthorp School in Santa Monica.

**Susan Friedman ME '10 EdD '13** is a senior instructional systems designer at the Boeing Company. She develops enterprise learning

solutions focusing on compliance and lean methodology.

**Chey Gaston MAT '10** spent half a year at Legacy Charter High School as an algebra and geometry teacher. When the school filed for bankruptcy, she moved to teaching algebra in the ninth grade house at Crenshaw High School from spring 2011 to June 2012. Chey then became a math and AP psychology teacher and head girls and boys volleyball coach at the newly built Augustus Hawkins High School where she currently works. She has also served as the first graduating class' advisor and as the athletic director. Chey got engaged in December 2014 and will be getting married in March 2016.

**Darlene Grover MAT '10** is currently the 12th grade academic counselor and 12th grade English teacher at Westmark School, a private school for students with language-based learning differences in Encino, Calif. She has also been maintaining her own one-on-one teaching practice for the past three years for private clients with learning differences, specializing in dyslexia, dysgraphia and executive functioning issues.

**Rose Hajian MAT '10** has been working at Ararat Charter School for the last five years as a first grade teacher.

**Lizeth Hernandez MAT '10** is currently teaching English to 11th and 12th grade students at IPH Schools in Surabaya, Indonesia. She is also preparing 12th grade students for the Indonesian high-school exit (English) exam, as well as a class of advanced students (11th grade) for the Cambridge General Paper exam.

**Christopher Hert EdD '10** is the principal of Mesa Elementary School in the Covina-Valley Unified School District.

**Jennifer Hirsch ME '10** is the assistant dean of admission at Claremont McKenna College. She

previously held positions as the assistant director of admission at Colby College in Waterville, Maine, and admission counselor and then assistant director of admission and coordinator of campus visits and events at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa. Jennifer married another Rossier alum, Dan Hirsch (ME '09) in June 2012.

**Stan Holt** *ME '10* is the head coach of the men's basketball team at Langston University in Edmond, Okla. He is also the owner/broker of Real Property Solutions.

**Anna Huerta** *ME '10* worked at Knowledge Adventure, a children's edutainment company and the Walt Disney Company making game features

and content for Pixie Hollow, an online world for girls, after graduation. Currently Anna is a senior game designer at Zynga on the Words with Friends team. She utilizes instructional design, motivational theory and organizational psychology in her work everyday whether it is in designing features, running game teams or implementing a positive work environment company wide. Anna is also on the board for Zynga's Culture Committee, Women at Zynga group and Zynga Triathlon Club.

**Ryan Itchon** *ME '10* is a school counselor at University High School in Irvine, Calif., where he provides academic, personal, social and emotional support for students.

## THE ROSSIER ROUNDUP



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**Stephanie Kyle** *MAT '10* moved to San Francisco after graduation to teach sixth grade writing at KIPP San Francisco Bay Academy in the Western Addition neighborhood during the 2011-12 school year. That year, her students worked tirelessly, showed incredible growth and their school became the #1 ranked middle school in San Francisco! Since then, Stephanie has moved into academic administration. She is now the director of after-school programs at the Town School for Boys in San Francisco and just completed her fourth summer as camp director for Camp Galileo, an innovation camp for kids that was founded 13 years ago in conjunction with the Stanford D School and the deYoung Museum.

**Akilah Lyons-Moore** *MAT '10 EdD '14* is an assistant principal for PUC Community Charter Early College High School.

**Richard Maddox** *EdD '10* serves as the director of the Early Entrance Program at Cal State Los Angeles. To learn more about the program visit <http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/eep/>.

**Nairi Mathewsian** *MMFT '10* currently functions as a lead clinical supervisor for Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services, Child and Family Division, in Glendale, Calif.

**Joanne McClellan** *MAT '10* is teaching at the Vidant Medical Center Hospital School in Greenville, N.C. It is a joint program with Pitt County Schools. Joanne teaches patients that are admitted to the hospital for five or more school days. She is responsible for K-12 instruction as well as all exceptionalities and ESL students.

**Marisa McConnell** *ME '10* currently works at San Jose State University (SJSU) as an academic advisor/orientation coordinator. She works primarily as an academic advisor, but has a dual role as orientation coordinator. In her other role,

Marisa is responsible for coordinating all aspects of SJSU's transfer orientation program. Additionally, during the summer Marisa works closely with the frosh orientation program, coordinating the advising aspect of the program, which includes GE advising presentations and course registration. In May 2014, Marisa had the opportunity to be a part of the first ever SJSU frosh orientation in Hawaii. As part of the planning team, she helped design and implement the offsite orientation program, conducted the advising presentation and oversaw course selection/registration. It was incredibly rewarding to build a program from the ground up and see such positive results. The first program was such a success that Marisa and her colleagues went back to Hawaii for a second time and hope to yield even more students to SJSU. Marisa will present at the 2015 Annual NODA Conference in Denver. Her presentation will focus on serving out-of-state students, using SJSU's frosh orientation in Hawaii as an example.

On Oct. 2, 2010, Marisa married Chris McConnell in beautiful Santa Barbara, Calif. They have two adorable white mini schnauzers named Emma and Dash, who keep them very busy! Marisa and Chris recently celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary.

**Jessica Mellen Roberts** *MAT '10* is a third grade teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District. She recently completed the first year of the three-year process of national board certification. Jessica taught at a charter school from 2010 to 2013, where she taught first, second and fifth grade.

**Shaine Melnick** *ME '10* is a career advisor for online programs at American University. She develops and administers a comprehensive set of career services to support professional development for the growing student population in the School of International Service's master of international relations online program.



**Margit Moreland** *MAT '10* is a teacher/case manager at Toyon Middle School. Previously she worked as teacher/case manager at Arroyo High School; teacher/special day class at Borel Middle School; teacher/special education at Sterne School; and an English teacher at Hercules High School. She published an article titled “Bridging the Gap with ASD Students: Behavior Management Tips for Teachers of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder” and developed an online special education resource guide to provide a more visual type of connection to special education information through the use of image links and a brief description of website purpose.

**Kelly Nelson** *EdD '10* moved to the Caribbean island of Dominica with her husband, Matt Nelson (*EdD '10*), and their two daughters after submitting her dissertation. They worked for Ross University School of Medicine. Kelly was the director of student services and Matt was the director of student development. They lived and worked there for three years. In 2013, they moved to Doha Qatar to work in Education City. Matt is the assistant director for residence life for HBKU Housing and Residence Life. Kelly worked for University College London in Qatar for two years and as of Aug. 1, 2015, became the director for student affairs at Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar.

Their daughters are now in the third and fifth grades. They were attending an international school in Doha, which had a hybrid US-UK curriculum. This year, they are attending a Finnish school in Doha. They are all learning why Finland is a world leader in K-12 education!



**Alysia Odipo** *EdD '10* is the director of elementary education in the Bellflower Unified School District. She is married and has two children, ages 2 and 4. Alysia also works with her family's nonprofit organization that cares for villages in Kenya.

**Tammi Oyadomari-Chun** *EdD '10* is assistant superintendent for the office of strategic planning at the Hawaii State Department of Education.

**Arturo Perez** *ME '10* works for the computer science department at USC serving the master's population through academic advising. Prior to USC, Arturo worked in admissions at Loyola Law School.

**Gemma Quick** *MMFT '10* is currently in private practice in Century City and Silver Lake.

**Margaret Redling** *ME '10* is currently an instructional specialist at Lowe's in Charlotte, N.C. Previously, she was a learning and development manager at Korn Ferry International in Houston. In 2013, Margaret earned her doctorate of education from the University of Houston.

**Alaisen Reed** *EdD '10* is a technical writer and editor of scientific research.

**Shavon Roberts** *MAT '10* is currently an assistant principal in the Chino Valley Unified School District. She previously served as an English teacher, head track and field coach and English language arts curriculum writer. Shavon earned her preliminary administrative credential in 2014. She is expecting her first child in winter 2016.

**Leslie Rockwell** *ME '10* obtained a position after graduation as an area director at the University of Miami in Florida. Leslie served in that position for

two years before finding a position back in California at Cal State San Marcos as the associate director of residence education in 2012. Leslie recently transferred positions at Cal State San Marcos and, since June 2015, she has been serving as the associate director of student conduct in the Dean of Students Office. In June of 2014, Leslie married her long-time love of seven years, Patrick Rockwell. She met him during her time at USC and they look back on those times fondly.

**Aimee Ronnow** *MAT '10* teaches IB English and ELD (English Language Development) at South Salem High School in Salem, Ore. Aimee also serves as the ELL site facilitator at the school.

**Alexis Rose** *MAT '10* continues to teach middle school theatre at South County Middle School in Lorton, Va. She also serves as the education outreach coordinator, company member and stage manager at the Keegan Theatre in Washington, DC. Alexis also completed Yoga Alliance RYT 100-hour training. She recently became a single lady again and reclaimed her maiden name — Hartwick.

**Dawn Santiago** *MAT '10* is teaching math classes for grades 7-12 at a charter school in West Hills, Calif. Dawn is the department head, a mentor for new teachers and coach of the high school varsity softball team. Her daughter is headed off to college in N.Y. next year. While she didn't choose USC for her undergrad, Dawn is hopeful her daughter will come back to California and attend USC for graduate work.

**Robert Schwartz** *ME '99 EdD '10* moved to the Bay Area to accept a position as executive director of the Level Playing Field Institute. After almost three years in the role, Robert left to become chief of staff and senior advisor at the New Teacher Center. Most recently, he accepted a position as partner at Silicon Schools Fund leading the Human Capital

Initiatives, which invests in blended and personalized learning schools across the Bay Area.

**Alissa Smith** *MAT '10* is teaching AP world history, AP US government and AP comparative government at Cottonwood High School in Murray, Utah, where she also serves as the head softball coach.

**Robert Stender** *EdD '10* is the new executive vice president of education at Kamehameha Schools, where he is responsible for leading Kamehameha Schools' educational programs, including preschools, K-12 campuses, community education and Ho 'okahua.

**Regina Sumell VanderWyst** *MAT '10* taught in local public schools for two years before having her daughter. She is now starting the first cooperative preschool in the Sun Valley, Idaho, area. Wood River Cooperative Preschool is a nonprofit school designed to serve families who might not otherwise have access to early childhood education. They will begin accepting students in fall 2016. Regina married Brian VanderWyst in 2012, and they welcomed their daughter, Vivian, in 2013. They are currently expecting their second daughter.

**Angela Sun** *MAT '10* taught English at a private university in Japan for four years. She just recently completed her first year in the PhD program at Stanford University Graduate School of Education.

**Nicole Tempel Assisi** *EdD '10* opened two charter management networks: Da Vinci Schools in Los Angeles and Thrive in San Diego. She received a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and others to open six charter schools built on the principles of academic excellence and equal access for all. Two of these schools were selected as national models for the next generation of education and were listed in the top 100 schools nationally worth visiting. Since leaving USC, Nicole also got married and had a beautiful baby boy. Life

is busy between work and family, but she's always looking forward to (re)connecting with friends.

**Dee Uwono EdD '10** is the director and Title IX coordinator at the University of Hawaii, Manoa. She previously served as the director of judicial affairs at the university. In addition, she was the interim dean of students at Honolulu Community College from 2014 to 2015.

**Christine Van Ruiten (now Tenorio) MAT '10** taught second grade until 2013 and is now teaching child development courses at Santa Rosa Junior College.

**Justin Vance EdD '10** was named 2015 Hawaii History Educator of the Year. He is currently an associate professor of history at Hawaii Pacific University, where he also serves as the associate dean for academics.

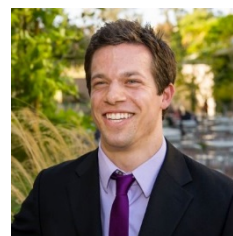
**Michael Vargas ME '10** is currently an attorney at Rimon, P.C. a mid-size law firm in Palo Alto, Calif., where he specializes in business and securities law. Michael also moonlights as a lecturer at the Santa Clara University Law School, where he teaches courses in corporate law and startup businesses. Prior to working at Rimon, Michael received his JD from the University of Minnesota Law School and clerked for the US Equal Employment Opportunities Commission in Minneapolis, where he authored one of the office's first briefs on transgender employment discrimination, which eventually became the foundation for a series of successful lawsuits on behalf of transgender plaintiffs in Minnesota. Michael also serves on numerous nonprofit boards and committees, including the American Constitution Society, the American Bar Association and the Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom, and provides pro bono legal service to underserved communities through the UC Hastings Legal Garage and the San Francisco LGBT Center.

**Bridgette Will MAT '10** is a social studies teacher at Academy of Our Lady of Peace in San Diego.

**Marcellus Brookshaw ME '11** is an educational opportunity program (EOP) advisor at Cal State Chico where he is responsible for utilizing transitional and student services programs to assist low-income and educationally disadvantaged students in making a positive transition to the university along with increasing EOP student retention and graduation rates. He provides academic advising and personal counseling to EOP students along with motivating and guiding students to reach their educational, personal development and career goals. He also coordinates a new mentoring program called the EOP Brotherhood, which focuses on increasing the graduation and retention rates of EOP male students through faculty, staff and professional mentorships who assist their path toward attending graduate school and pursuing beneficial career fields.



**Julisa Maldonado MAT '11** teaches sixth grade ELA and social studies to middle school students at Alta Public Schools in southeastern Los Angeles County. She collaborates with colleagues to create and implement international baccalaureate unit planners using project-based learning.



**Steve Antonie ME '12** is a talent management analyst at the Cetera Financial Group, where he builds and manages employee recruiting, learning, professional development and performance management programs to optimize employee skills and company revenue.

**Jennifer Craig** *ME '12 EdD '15* is director of graduate student services at UC Irvine.

**Kelsey Ekeberg** *MAT '12* is an education specialist at Classting, an educational app and website that helps students, parents and teachers communicate. This app creates 24-hour learners, not just in classroom learners. Currently in Korea 96 percent of schools use Classting; Kelsey's job is to make that true here in the United States.



**Kent Hatashita** *MAT '12* is a lecturer at Senri Kinran University in Osaka, Japan. Kent is in charge of the department of food and nutrition's one-month study abroad in

Auckland, New Zealand. Kent has a BS in foods and nutrition from San Diego State University. Students do a home-stay and participate in daily English lessons, food and nutrition related activities (cooking classes, nutritional tours) and other fun activities. Kent is also a member of the team that develops the English portion of the university's entrance exam.



**Jenny Morgan** *MAT '12* is a teacher at Carlthorp School in Santa Monica, Calif., where she focuses on guided reading and reading intervention with her students (K-6).

**Mary Nguyen** *ME '12* is a retention services coordinator/counselor at San Jose State University.



**Karla Pasos** *MAT '12* is a knowledge management analyst at Green Dot Public Schools. She works primarily with student data, which encompasses demographic, academic and historic information for all Green Dot

students. Karla also provides support to all stakeholders for online assessment tools and other education related applications.



**Morgan Smith** *EdD '12* is the principal of the Fountain Valley High School. He recently moved into this new position after serving as the principal of Dwyer Middle School in Huntington Beach City School District for the last five years.

**Ryan Smith** *EdD '12* is the principal at Norwalk High School. Previously he served as a high school principal on assignment in the Santa Ana Unified School District and as principal at Leuzinger High School in Lawndale, Calif.

**Arthur Stanley** *MAT '12* is a math teacher at Cedar Ridge High School in Round Rock, Texas.



**Amanda Dickinson Beirne** *ME '13* is assistant director for community life in the College Housing Office at the University of Chicago, where she oversees three communities of approximately 600 students.

**James Huerta** *MAT '13* is an English teacher at the American School of Tampico in Tampico, Mexico, where he teaches 10th grade world literature, 12th grade British literature and AP literature and composition.

**Caitlin Keeler** *MAT '13* is a chemistry and physics teacher at Newbury Park High School.

**Ben Lukoski** *ME '13* is the K-12 district counselor and district testing coordinator for Cloudcroft Municipal Schools in Cloudcroft, N.M.

**Rebecca Masters** *MAT '13* is a social sciences teacher at Larchmont Charter High School. During the 2015-16 school year she will be teaching the school's inaugural senior class. Her classes include government/economics as well as ninth grade geography.

**Miriam Otero** *MAT '13* is a history teaching associate at the Archer School for Girls in West Los Angeles. Perfectly summed up by Archer's Head of School, Elizabeth English, "Archer's purpose is to educate the future female leaders of this country."

**Clair Rutherford** *MAT '13* is an ESS teacher for the City Schools of Decatur in Decatur, Ga.

**James Winter** *MAT '13* teaches English to seventh and eighth grade students at Lumens Scholar Institute in Provo, Utah. He writes, "As the school is in its inaugural year, there is much to be seen...the fun part is that this is no ordinary public charter school. The school is administered and taught online. I am excited and privileged to be in the same camp as the very qualified individuals who make up this team. I cannot wait to see what is in store for me as far as the curriculum and readings as well as the assignments that will be given out. I am very interested in the platform they choose and how everything will blend. I will be teaching seventh and eighth grade English as there is no high school just yet; that comes next year."



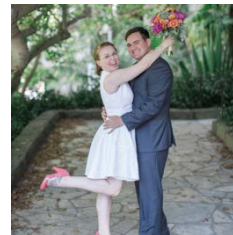
**Matthew Wong** *MAT '13* is a social studies teacher in the Arcadia Unified School District, where he teaches US history and sheltered social science (world history for English language learners).

**Nicole Wong** *MAT '13* accepted a fifth grade teacher position at Wilshire Park Elementary

School, the school she student taught at during her time at USC Rossier.

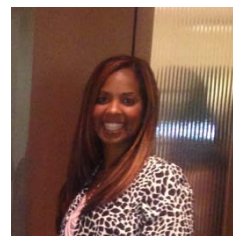
**Beverly Chang** *ME '14* is an assistant principal in the Buena Park School District in Buena Park, Calif.

**Thomas Crowther** *Edd '14* is the principal at Toll Middle School in Glendale, Calif.



**Kristine Drew** *ME '14* married Brendan Geraghty in Santa Barbara, Calif., on June 18, 2015.

**Greg Francois** *Edd '14* is director of educational services, secondary schools in the Paramount Unified School District.



**AyEsha Leonard McLaughlin** *ME '14* is a school director for ICEF Public Schools, where she manages the organizational and operational aspects of a school site. She looks forward to having impact in her new position and her ability to create a culture and climate where they "Teach to Reach" our youth.



**Jessica Lew** *MAT '14* is a high school biology teacher at Gabrielino High School, where she teaches biology to freshman. The school has 80 percent students on free or reduced lunch. The demographic breakdown of the school is 60 percent Asian, 30 percent Hispanic and 10 percent other.





**Oscar Macias** *Edd '14* is the principal of Luther Burbank Middle School in the Burbank Unified School District.

**Dominica Patterson** *ME '14* is the special projects intern/Chan Siblings coordinator at the UCLA Dashew Center for International Students and Scholars (DCISS), where she works with various aspects of the W. T. Chan Fellows program and other DCISS events. The Chan Fellows program sponsors six international exchange students from China. Additionally, Dominica is exclusively responsible for the Chan Siblings program, where six domestic students are selected to engage with the Chan Fellows throughout the program.

**John Pringle** *ME '14* is an English teacher and head boys water polo coach in the Whittier Union High School District.



**Tian Qin** *ME '14* is a regional coordinator for the Texas Tech University Independent School District, which provides online K-12 education for international students.

**Raquel Rall** *PhD '14* was awarded a UC Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellowship at UC Riverside. She will spend the fellowship looking at higher education governance, with an emphasis on boards of higher education. Specifically, Raquel will focus on the strategic apex of higher education and ideologies of access, diversity and inclusion in California higher education.

**Raul Ramirez** *Edd '14* is assistant superintendent of elementary education in the Santa Barbara Unified School District.

**Matt Rohrer** *ME '14* is the vice principal of Prairie Vista Middle School, a Title 1 school with an enrollment of about 1,000 students in the Hawthorne School District. The school is an arts academy with many fine arts programs available to students and was recently awarded a Gold Ribbon by the California Department of Education.



**Shaunte Ross** *ME '14* is an academic advisor at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Ga.

**Kristen Shultz** *MAT '08 Edd '14* is a program administrator in the office of professional development at the USC Rossier School of Education.

**Oryla Wiedoeft** *Edd '14* is the principal of Venice High School, a large, diverse urban high school in the Los Angeles Unified School District. The school is working to be the star of Silicon Beach and epicenter of 21st-century learning.

**Kat Williams** *MAT '14* is an ELL high school teacher in the Dennis Yarmouth School District in Yarmouth, Maine.

**Constance Wong** *MAT '14* is an education resource specialist at USC Hybrid High School. She started her new position in July. Through the use of technology in the classrooms, she is able to facilitate instruction and guide students through a personalized experience in their English courses. Constance has also been working with students one-on-one to help students meet their goals!

**Scott Acornley MAT '15** is a 12th grade British literature teacher at New West Charter High School in West Los Angeles. He teaches three classes of academic British literature/college prep writing, one class of honors British literature and one class of creative writing in a small charter school. The kids are great, the staff and administration are remarkably passionate and supporting and he could not have found a more ideal position suited to his teaching style.

**Cindy Bak EdD '15** is an assistant principal in the Fullerton School District.

**Alex Ballard EdD '15** is a high school principal in the Hemet Unified School District.

**Ilana Blumenfeld-Gantz ME '15** is a study abroad advisor at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.

**Kortnee Burrell ME '15** is a retention specialist at Cal State Fullerton.

**Trisha Callella EdD '15** is director of educational technology in the Los Alamitos Unified School District. Her role involves coaching, training and designing system-wide innovations to ensure that technology will be used at the transformational level.

**Esmeralda Cardenas MAT '15** is a math teacher at Assurance Learning Academy in Los Angeles.

**Karla Castro ME '15** is a resident director at Marymount California University in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.

**Steven Catano MAT '15** teaches seventh grade world cultures and eighth grade US history at Eastlake Middle School in Chula Vista, Calif.

**Stephanie Cocchia MAT '15** is a math teacher at McNair Academic High School in Jersey City, N.J.,

where she teaches four sections of honors algebra II/trigonometry and two sections of web design.

**Leolani Corpuz MAT '15** is a math teacher at Maui High School in Kahului, Hawaii.



**Jennah Crofts ME '15** is a scholarship programs coordinator at USC School of Social Work. She champions student financial success to enable driven students to create change. This includes managing the full awarding process of scholarships totaling \$4 million for over 3,700 students as well as working with individual students on their finances throughout their academic career in MSW program. Jennah also participates in recruitment and admissions efforts and manages the elite Dean's Leadership Scholars program.

**Nancy Dayne EdD '15** is a tenure-track assistant professor in child development and family studies at Cal State Long Beach.

**Traci Demuth EdD '15** is the head of school, director of curriculum and founding teacher at a brand new nonprofit, private Reggio-inspired elementary school currently working toward enrolling students ages 4-12 part-time to full-time in a homeschool environment, with active investment in recruiting a full-time classroom of children ages 4-8 next school year. Simultaneously, Traci is the owner of Dream AcadeME, which is functioning as an LLC STEAM afterschool, tutoring and summer camp program.

**Shana DeVlieger MAT '15** is a fourth grade teacher for the Hawaii Department of Education in Kihei, Hawaii.

**Sheena Dreher ME '15** is an academic advisor at the USC Marshall School of Business.

**Kristine Drew ME '15** is a curriculum instruction specialist at Learn4Life Concept Charter Schools in Ventura, Calif.

**Julia Duncheon PhD '15** is an assistant professor in the Educational Leadership and Policy department in the College of Education at the University of Texas, El Paso. She conducts research on college access, readiness and equity in the Borderlands, focusing on underserved student populations in urban schools. Julia teaches courses on the philosophical and historical foundations of education, diversity and education and qualitative methods.



**John Epstein EdD '15** accepted a public school leadership position in Delaware, where he will work with the Delaware Leadership Project reaching nearly 7,500 of Delaware's greatest need students.

**Joann Ferrara-Genao EdD '15** is a student advisor at El Cerrito Middle School in the Corona-Norco Unified School District.

**Ashley Flinn ME '15** is associate director of admissions at the USC Leventhal School of Accounting.

**Roxane Fuentes EdD '15** is the assistant superintendent of educational services in the El Rancho Unified School District in Pico Rivera, Calif.



**Corinne Garcia MAT '15** is an academic English/ESL lecturer at UC Irvine.

**Jose Garza EdD '15** was recently selected by the US Department of Education as a Fulbright

Distinguished Educator. He is one of 48 teachers in the nation to receive this prestigious and competitive award. Jose will travel to London in January 2016 to conduct original research, foster global connections about a universal problem of practice and provide professional development to educators. He will create a counseling intervention program for at-risk boys. The program provides full funding. Here is a link to an article with more information: <http://rossier.usc.edu/usc-rossier-graduates-and-alums-receive-fulbright-awards/>

**Kaitlin Goodwillie EdD '15** is an assistant principal at Green Dot Public Schools. She acts as an instructional leader by coaching a caseload of nine teachers and helping to develop weekly teacher professional development. Kaitlin also lead the school culture committee and works alongside their parent coordinator to organize and facilitate parent meetings and workshops. She has an amazing administrative team, faculty, staff and student body that keep her excited to go to work every day!



**Brian Guerrero EdD '15** is a senior associate director in the Career Center at UC Berkeley.

**Christopher Guyer ME '15** is an assistant principal at Health Services Academy High School, part of Alliance College-Ready Public Schools.

**Samantha Hahn MAT '15** is a fourth grade teacher in the Hesperia Unified School District.

**Stephanie Halsall MAT '15** is currently starting her own school in Busan, South Korea, to teach students from the surrounding area. The lessons will focus on English integrated with key subjects

such as math, science, social studies, arts and physical education.

**Amber Harris** *MAT '15* is a sixth grade teacher in the Alum Rock School District in San Jose, Calif.



**Jeanne Herman** *EdD '15* is a lead advisor for undergraduate programs in the Office of the Provost at USC. She provides academic counseling specifically for first-generation college students and assists

with the concerns or challenges they face as they transition into life at USC and the real world. Jeanne also monitors student progress in honors and probation programs, identifies and recommends scholarship recipients based on eligibility requirements and evaluates student problems - academic, administrative or personal. She liaises with other offices identifying and assisting specific populations in an effort to increase retention and graduation rates of undergraduate students at USC.

**Susan Huynh** *ME '15* is a residence hall assistant director at New York University where she serves as a member of the three-person leadership team for the residence hall. Susan manages the residence hall's day-to-day community development initiatives and programs in an effort to create residential living/learning communities, supervises resident assistants and advises hall council, provides crisis intervention to residents and conducts investigations of alleged violations of university and residence policies.

**Steven James** *EdD '15* is the coordinator for alternative placement for student success in the South Monterey County Joint Union High School District in King City, Calif. In addition, he serves as the principal of the continuation high school in the district.

**Melissa Kalbfleisch** *MAT '15* is a youth tech instructor at Ucode in Beverly Hills, Calif.

**Gursharan Kaur** *MAT '15* is a first grade teacher in the San Juan Unified School District in Carmichael, Calif. She has the honor and privilege of working at a Title 1 school with a very diverse group of students and staff. Gursharan is digging up every resource she gathered throughout her education at USC to fulfill the unique needs of her students. She looks forward to going into work each and every day. It's not easy, but it is definitely worth it to see the smiles! She writes, "I know I'm already making a positive difference in these students lives. It's a beautiful thing."



**Timothy Khoo** *ME '15* is a program coordinator at Cal Poly Pomona where he designs and implements orientation services for incoming students and families. He recruits, hires,

trains and supervises student staff of 30-40 students.

**Steve Kim** *ME '15* is a program specialist at the USC Marshall School of Business, Office of Executive Education.

**Emma Klein** *MAT '15* is a resource specialist teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District.



**Vigor Lam** *ME '15* is an academic coordinator at Duke University's Pratt School of Engineering.



**Catalina Lara EdD '15** is director of admissions at the Westmark School in Encino, Calif.

**Caitlin Latta ME '15** is the assistant director of admissions at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa.

**Kenneth Chio Heng Long EdD '15** is the CEO of Jwail Group LLC, a real estate development and property management company in Honolulu, Hawaii, whose business includes student housing for higher education.

**Anabel Luna EdD '15** is high school chemistry teacher at Patriot High School in Riverside, Calif.

**Marianne Lynch MAT '15** is a fifth grade teacher at Antelope Elementary School in Littlerock, Calif.

**Jessie Marion EdD '15** is the principal at Marina High School of Huntington Beach, Calif.

**Gianmarco Masoni EdD '15** is director of STEAM and innovation at Milken Community Schools.

**Richard May EdD '15** is a program manager in the Office of Research Advancement at USC, where he helps faculty start or build sponsored research programs.

**Melissa Medeiros ME '15** is assistant director, AME student affairs at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering, Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering (AME).

**Madeleine Mejia EdD '15** is a program manager at the USC Rossier School of Education where she directs professional development programs at the national and international level. She writes and creates curriculum for credential and certificate

programs (i.e., reading certificate, reading credential, induction, alternative Teaching Credential Intern Program). Madeleine also writes and facilitates instruction in the Reading Certificate program (CTC approved). She has also created the following courses: Diagnosis of Reading Disabilities and Remediation of Reading Disabilities. Madeleine facilitates instruction in international programs. She has also presented on the following topics: Self-Reflection Practices for Teachers and Self-Regulation: Learning How to Learn.

**Nathan Menacher ME '15** is an Honors College student success counselor at the University of Arizona.



**Arlan Mendiola ME '15** is the program manager for SOAR/student media/cultural arts and diversity (SOMeCA) at UC Santa Cruz, where he develops, implements and supervises programs and activities with registered campus-wide student organizations.

**Briana Munoz-Flores ME '15** is graduate program assistant at UC Santa Barbara.

**Andy Ng ME '15** is a resident director at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

**Jennifer Olson MAT '15** is a seventh grade English language arts teacher at Casteel High School in the Chandler Unified School District in Chandler, Ariz.

**Daniel Payton ME '15** is a community director in housing and residential life at Arizona State University.

## Rossier Alumni Honored at 2015 Volunteer Recognition Dinner

The USC Alumni Association hosted their annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner on Thursday, September 3 at Town & Gown.

The **Widney Alumni House Volunteer Awards** recognize volunteers for their loyalty, support and dedication to USC. This year **Kathy Bihr EdD '05** and **Stephanie Paggi '74, MS '78, EdD '90** were among the honorees.

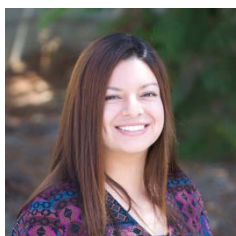
The **Alumni Volunteer Friend of the Year Award** is given to a USC faculty member or staff member in recognition of outstanding support of alumni volunteers. This year, **Scott Jacobson ME '05** received the award. Scott is an associate athletic director in the USC Athletic Department.



*Kathy Bihr with Dean Gallagher*



*Scott Jacobson*



**Eliza Peña ME '15** is an adjunct professor at East Los Angeles College, where she teaches a career planning course to first-year college students. In her role, Eliza introduces students to the higher education system and their role as students. She assists them in exploring their personal attributes needed for college success. Some of the topics that are covered include critical thinking skills, effective study strategies, communication skills, diversity issues, time-management, health issues and lifestyle choices, the career planning and decision-making process

and transfer and educational planning. An overview of campus resources and policies is also provided.

**Seth Pickens EdD '15** is the senior pastor of Zion Hill Baptist Church in Los Angeles.



**Chelsea Riley MAT '15** is a fifth grade teacher at Peterson School, an international, bilingual school in Mexico City.

**Thalia Rodriguez MAT '15** teaches seventh and eighth grade math in the Santa Ana Unified School District.

**Matt Rohrer** *ME '15* is an assistant principal of a middle school in a highly urban area in Hawthorne, Calif. The school has about 950 students enrolled; over 90 percent qualify for free and reduced lunch. Matt is tasked with school discipline and educational leadership.

**Rolando Ruvalcaba** *MAT '15* is a resource specialist teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

**Sarah Sarns** *MAT '15* is a first grade teacher in the Mountain Empire Unified School District in Pine Valley, Calif.

**Casey Simon** *ME '15* is a resident director at Loyola University in Chicago, Ill.

**Michelle Sorochan** *ME '15* is the academic advisor for the Weber Honors College at San Diego State University. She works closely with honors students as they complete their honors minor in interdisciplinary studies requirements and encourages students to participate in high-impact educational practices, such as studying abroad and research, leadership and service opportunities.

**Rita Suh** *Edd '15* is an adjunct professor at Cal State Long Beach.

**Autumn Taylor** *ME '15* is a resident director at Loyola Marymount University.

**Adam Tekurio** *ME '15* is the assistant director for the Master of Medical Management program at the USC Marshall School of Business.

**Vikki Thompson** *MAT '15* is a secondary science teacher in Alamogordo Public Schools in Alamogordo, N.M.

**Christine Ullerich** *Edd '15* is a sixth grade teacher in the Perris Elementary School District in Perris, Calif.



**Joaquin Valdez** *EdD '15* is assistant principal of student services at Arroyo High School in the El Monte Union High School District. He oversees discipline, attendance and

guidance and supports the principal with everyday duties pertaining to student success and teacher support.

**Alina Vehuni** *Edd '15* is an assistant principal in the Saugus Union School District in Santa Clarita, Calif.

**Thomas Weinmann** *Edd '15* is a science teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District.



**Alan Weinreb** *ME '15* is a resident director at Cal State San Marcos.

**Eunhyun Yang** *MAT '15* is an English teacher at Global Vision Christian School in Eumseong-gun, Chungbuk, Korea.

**Xinyi Hu** *MAT '16* is a teaching assistant at Francis Liu in Tianjin, China.

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spring issue of *Class Notes*?**

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