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## Welcome!

Over the past few months we collected **over 125 professional and personal updates from Rossier alumni** for our second issue of *Class Notes*.

Also included in this issue are photos from the 2014 USC Rossier Homecoming Picnic as well as fun facts about the USC Rossier Alumni Network interspersed throughout the issue.

If you would like to include an update for the fall issue, please complete the **online alumni update survey**. This summer we will also reach out to alumni from the classes of 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2010 for a special edition, Reunion Year *Class Notes* Newsletter.

### Fight On!

Matt DeGrushe ME '04  
Director of Alumni Engagement



## FEATURE STORIES

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



### Leadership Conference

Thursday, July 23, 2015  
4:00 – 7:30 pm  
USC Radisson Hotel



### Homecoming Picnic

**USC vs. Arizona**  
Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015  
TBD, 3 hours before kickoff  
USC Campus

*Check your email and USC Rossier social media for more information closer to the event.*

## 1960s

**Jack Nelson EdD '67** retired in 1998 as Distinguished Professor of Education, Rutgers University. During his career, he published 17 books and about 200 articles and chapters, including: *Critical Issues in Education*, 8th edition, McGraw-Hill, 2013 (with Stuart Palonsky and Mary Rose McCarthy); "Prejudice, Race, and the Social Studies Curriculum," with Valerie Pang, in *The Social Studies Curriculum*, 4th edition, ed. by E. Wayne Ross, State University of New York Press, 2014; "A Creed for the Non-Religious: Intellectual Freedom," chapter in *The Importance of Teaching Social Issues*, ed. by Samuel Totten, Routledge, 2015; and "Progressing through Education," chapter in *Leaders in Social Education*, ed. by Christine Woyshner, Sense Publishers, 2014.



**Fred Stroock BS '69** is completing his fifth and final year as director of instruction for the Southern California Soccer Officials Association.

## 1970s



**Cecilia Velástegui (Spenuzza) MS '77** was featured in the article "Fabulous Fiction: A Latina Writer Finds her Own Path to Success," which appeared in the [fall 2014 issue](#) of *Latino Magazine*.

**Todd DeMitchell EdD '79** was named John and H. Irene Peters Professor of Education at the University of New Hampshire. In addition, his seventh book, *The Challenges of Mandating School Uniforms in the Public Schools: Free Speech, Research, and Policy*, co-authored with Richard Fossey, will be published in June 2015 by Rowman & Littlefield.

## 1980s



**Don Brann EdD '82** is a state trustee for the Inglewood Unified School District, where he serves as both superintendent and governing board member for a school district in receivership.

**Ava Innerarity Rosales BS '87** is executive director for science at Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), the fourth largest school district in the nation, and the district program director for SECME, a pre-college alliance for the diversity in STEM education. On Feb. 7, 2015, Ava coordinated and directed the annual Miami-Dade STEM Expo of competitions for the combined Elementary Science Fair (South Florida Regional Science and Engineering Fair and SECME K-12 STEM competitions) which draws thousands of participants, both at the competitor and spectator levels. This year's STEM Expo yielded more than 10,000 participants.

**Paul Wilson EdD '87** has been elected the 2015 president of the Greater Albuquerque Association of Realtors, a 3,000-member organization serving central New Mexico. The Albuquerque association has over half of all Realtors in the state of New Mexico. Paul has been a Realtor since 1997; he retired from the US Marine Corps in 1992 as a lieutenant colonel. He and his wife, Judy, are owners and brokers of Home Team Realty ([www.HomeTeamRealtyNM.com](http://www.HomeTeamRealtyNM.com)) in Albuquerque. He received his undergraduate degree from the US Naval Academy, graduating with the Legendary Leadership Class of 1968.

**Attention Classes of 1985, 1990 & 1995**  
[Submit your reunion year update!](#)

## Six Rossier Alumni Become First-Time Superintendents

The tradition of USC Rossier alumni rising to the position of superintendent continued during the 2014-15 school year, with the following alums being named superintendent of a school district for the first time in their career.



**Rick Bagley** *EdD '13* was named superintendent of the Ross Valley School District in Marin County, Calif, which includes four elementary schools and one middle school, which provide outstanding academic instruction, as well as visual and performing arts classes, to students that live in the Marin County towns of San Anselmo and Fairfax. Previously, Rick was the deputy superintendent of administrative services for the Manhattan Beach Unified School District. He started on Aug. 1, 2014.



**Alex Cherniss** *EdD '08* was named superintendent of the San Marino Unified School District, which includes two elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. Previously, Alex was the chief financial officer for the Los Angeles County Office of Education. He started on July 1, 2014.



**Chuck Hinman** *EdD '02* was named superintendent of the West Covina Unified School District (WCUSD), which serves the community of West Covina, Calif., in eastern San Gabriel Valley. WCUSD currently serves over 14,000 students in 15 local area schools and two charter schools. Previously, Chuck was an assistant superintendent in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District. He started on Jan. 5, 2015.



**Mark Johnson** *EdD '11* was named superintendent of the Fountain Valley School District. Educating 6,322 students in Fountain Valley and Huntington Beach, the Fountain Valley School District has ten local schools. Previously, Mark was an assistant superintendent in the Los Alamitos School District. He started on Jan. 1, 2015.

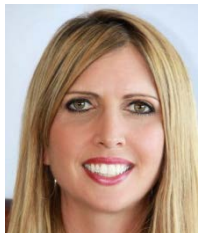


**Catherine Kawaguchi** *EdD '14* was named superintendent of the Sulphur Springs Union Elementary School District, located in Canyon Country, Calif., and including nine schools that serve 5,783 students in grades KG through 6. Previously, Catherine was the assistant superintendent of educational services in the Oxnard Unified School District. She started on Jan. 5, 2015.



**Melissa Moore** *EdD '14* was named superintendent of the El Segundo Unified School District which includes five schools that serve 3,242 students in grades KG through 12. Previously, Melissa was the assistant superintendent of human resources in the Yucaipa-Calimesa School District. She started on July 1, 2014.

## 1990s



**Rachel Isgar** *PhD '93* is the owner of Please Pass the Manners, a company dedicated to teaching children, adults and businesses how to use proper etiquette for creating the most effective conversation and interactions. Topics range from cell phone and social media etiquette to making a great first impression to interviewing over a business lunch and table manners. Please Pass the Manners has been featured on NPR, *Readers Digest*, and Yahoo. Rachel started this business as a way to creatively use her teaching skills to reach people who are seeking to fine-tune their manners. She works with many Los Angeles-area schools as well as companies like Whole Foods.



**Phaedra Ranges** *BS '93* is co-founder and president of a new education nonprofit in Hawaii, Hoku Alaka'i, whose mission is to increase the quality of life for children and adolescents with cancer living in the Hawaiian Islands by providing them with the support and services they need to access a quality education while they are unable to attend school regularly due to cancer treatment.

**Kent Keith** *Edd '96* accepted the position of president of New Hope Christian College/Pacific Rim Christian University, a newly constituted university in Honolulu, effective July 1. Kent has taught two five-day intensive courses on Christian servant leadership at the school while helping the staff with the transition to a new, independent legal status. It is a very small institution with many challenges but also immense opportunities. The mission of the university is to prepare servant leaders, so he sees it as a new way to continue his work in the servant leadership movement. Kent has agreed to serve as president for three years.

**Rebecca Shore** *Edd '96* was recently awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor in the Department of Educational Leadership at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

## 2000s

**Attention Classes of 2000 & 2005**  
[Submit your reunion year update!](#)

**Jennifer Hutchison-Harris** *PhD '01* established FirstSteps for Kids, Inc., shortly after earning her PhD. FirstSteps is a non-public agency dedicated to helping children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Partnering with local school districts and regional centers, Jennifer's practice has grown tremendously in its 10 years with offices in Hermosa Beach, West Los Angeles, Westlake Village and Walnut Creek. With a team of over 200, FirstSteps currently provides home- and community-based services to over 250 children and their families.



**Neera Puri** *PhD '01* has been implementing leadership development programs for Texas independent school districts. She also has corporate leadership programs in the Caribbean, and in India is helping develop 1,000 orphan leaders. She is grateful for USC Rossier PhD training for opening the doors of worldwide, corporate leadership.

**Rachel Madsen** *ME '02* accepted a position as assistant professor of sport management at Ithica College in Ithica, N.Y., starting in fall 2015.

**Hilda Blanco** *ME '04* is director of the placement department at the Consulate General of the State of Kuwait in Century City, Calif.



**Vivy Chao** *ME '05* has earned an Edd, led a venture-funded EdTech startup team, started blogging for the *Huffington Post* and is now expanding her nonprofit that uses tech startups to help kids learn how to solve problems. On a personal note, Vivy got married in 2014 to another Trojan she met at a UCLA-USC football rivalry week alumni mixer!





**David Verdugo EdD '05** was named executive director for the California Association of Latino Superintendents and Administrators (CALSA). CALSA is a community of diverse educational leaders skilled in addressing the needs of Latino/a students and dedicated to increasing the number of highly effective Latino/a administrators.

**Ruben Zepeda II EdD '05** serves as the superintendent of the Aromas-San Juan Unified School District. He serves as the district's chief instructional leader and secretary to the board of trustees. Ruben works collaboratively with the principals of Anzar High School, Aromas School, San Juan School and Mi Esculita Preschool to raise student achievement results and to prepare all students for college and careers. He also serves as a member of the board of directors for the Community Schools Foundation of San Juan.



**Karri Holley PhD '06** was recently named editor for the *International Journal of Researcher Development*, a journal focused on graduate, doctoral and postdoctoral education as well as early career faculty and researchers.



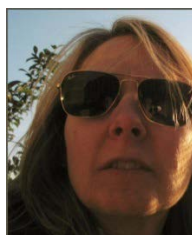
**Jenny Granero (Rodriguez) ME '07** is a human resources business partner at In-N-Out Burger in Orange County, Calif.



**Marcy Newman ME '07** was promoted to associate director of career services and internships at Mount Saint Mary's University in Brentwood, Calif.

**Nancy Smith EdD '07** was invited to co-present at the 2015 American Education Research Association Annual Meeting (AERA) in Chicago. She presented with Jane Roesenthal EdD '12. Their session was titled "What Shapes Middle School Teachers' Abilities to Build Productive Relationships with Parents?"

**Dyrell Foster EdD '08** was named vice president of student services at Moreno Valley College, where he serves as the chief student services officer and is charged with comprehensive student services planning, policy development and budget development/management.



**Anne Jones EdD '08** is an assistant professor and director of graduate elementary programs at the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau, Alaska. She co-directs and teaches for the eLearning K-8 teacher certification and MAT program serving graduate students throughout Alaska and around the world. Her research emphasizes equity and social justice issues. More specifically, how schools as an institution, and teachers as leaders of the institution, can change school cultures, instruction and curriculum to the benefit of the children and the communities in which the children live. Anne is also co-editor-in-chief of the soon to be published *Alaska Journal for Innovating Education*.

**Talin Kargodorian EdD '08** is principal of Chamlian Armenian School in Glendale, Calif.



**Sarah Peyre EdD '08** was named assistant dean for interprofessional education at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. She was also awarded the Josiah Macy Foundation Faculty Scholar Award.



**Martha Maimone MS '08** featured in USC Marshall School of Business Monthly Newsletter

Given Martha Maimone's busy schedule, it is no surprise that students call her the Energizer Bunny. After putting in full-time hours managing faculty applicants in the department of management and organization, Maimone drives to Glendale Community College and becomes an adjunct professor herself, teaching English as a Second Language to students one evening and one weekend day each week.

"It isn't hard to keep up when you are doing what you love," she says. "It is a very gratifying career making a difference in my ESL students' lives along with juggling my USC commitments. It has been a total blessing!"

Maimone arrived at USC in 1993, landing at Marshall in 1994. She currently manages more than 150 faculty applicants from around the world via the Faculty Application Manager, among other duties. Although she already had a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of LaVerne, Maimone took the opportunity to earn her master's degree at the USC Rossier School of Education, taking one class a semester for three-and-a-half years to earn her MS in teaching English to speakers of other languages in 2008.

Maimone, one of nine children, was born in Baltimore, but came to California with her family at the age of 13, settling in the neighborhood surrounding USC. She always has insisted on giving back to the community in which she grew up and now works, serving as a neighborhood ambassador and participating in the Good Neighbor's Campaign, which has raised more than \$17.7 million over its 20-year run. Whew. But of her busy life, Maimone would be the first to tell you it's not about keeping up, it's about giving back.

"If you just help out one person, your life is not in vain, as my mother used to say," she smiles.

When she's not working or teaching or volunteering or helping somebody out, she is traveling abroad with her son, Uriah, and her husband, Michael, the two jewels in her crown, she says.

-Reproduced from the November 2014 issue of the Marshall Monthly Newsletter

**ONE**  
One With USC Rossier

One With USC Rossier is a new tutoring marketplace launched in March 2015. All tutors are from USC and combine their passion and subject matter expertise to provide unique learning experiences for each student.

TUTORS CAN TEACH ONLINE USING A PURPOSE-BUILT TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM THAT INCLUDES DIGITAL WHITEBOARDING AND VIDEO-CONFERENCING CAPABILITIES.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING USC ROSSIER ALUMNI WHO HAVE ALREADY SIGNED UP TO BE TUTORS:

ALYSIA AYOUB MAT '10	BRADLEY SIGLER MAT '12
HALEY JOLLEY MAT '11	NICOLE WONG MAT '13
NORFINA JOVES MAT '11	PATRICK ALBANO ME '14
M. EREZ KATS MAT '11	GEORGE DUNWOOD JR MAT '14
MICHAEL MORGAN MAT '11	JESSICA LEW MAT '14
TRACY-TRAM NGUYEN MAT '11	

WANT A SHARED EXPERIENCE WITH YOUR FELLOW CLASSMATES? WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MORE TUTORS TO JOIN THE FOLD! THE TUTOR APPLICATION PROCESS IS FREE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD. TUTORS SET THEIR OWN RATES AND SCHEDULES.

**LEARN MORE**



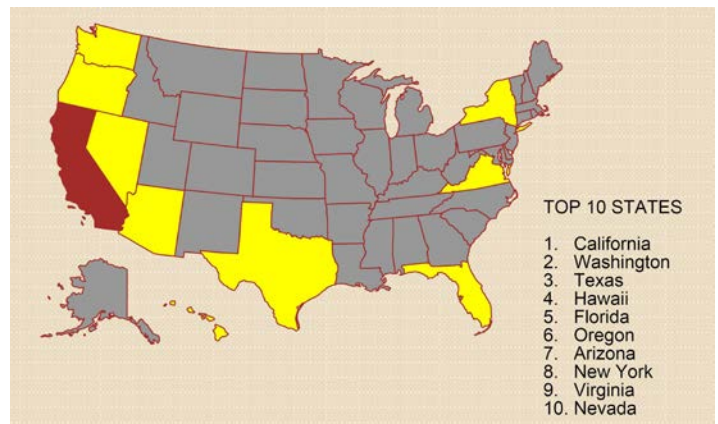
**Denise Khaw ME '09** is an employer outreach specialist at UC Irvine. She identifies prospective and current employers of UC Irvine students and provides guidance and consultation on how to recruit effectively from campus. She meets with employers and local organizations, manages the Career Center's Corporate Alliance Group memberships (a select group of employers who take an active role in furthering the vision and development of the Career Center) and coordinates the job shadow program.



**Brandon Martinez EdD '09** was recently named principal of Los Alamitos High School. Home to over 3,000 students in grades 9-12, Los Alamitos is ranked #87 (top 1 percent) in the country and is the only district from Orange County, and one of six in the US on the College Board's AP Honor Roll five years in a row. The high school also boasts the highest college enrollment rate in Orange County. As principal, Brandon will work with one of the most dynamic teaching staffs in the state, a highly involved parent group, exceptional students, and successful graduates, many of whom are professional athletes, artists, politicians and other professionals.

**Phuong Le EdD '09** was recently elected as the chairperson of the Consortium to Advance School Psychology - International (CASP-I) board of directors. Phuong was a founder and served on the CASP-I board from 2010 to 2014 as the vice-chair of the board of executives. CASP-I is a nonprofit organization with members from 12 institutions of higher education in the US and Vietnam. Inspired by the desire to improve global children's educational and psychological well-being, practitioners and faculty members from the US and Vietnam came together to form CASP-I with the primary goal of advancing the discipline, profession and services of School Psychology (SP). CASP-I's approach to accomplishing this goal represents an innovative model of collaboration that involves multiple stakeholders in SP joint research, education and training program development, scientific conference organization and direct services to children and youth at psychological service centers. Phuong is currently a school psychologist at Long Beach Unified School District and an adjunct faculty member at Chapman University.

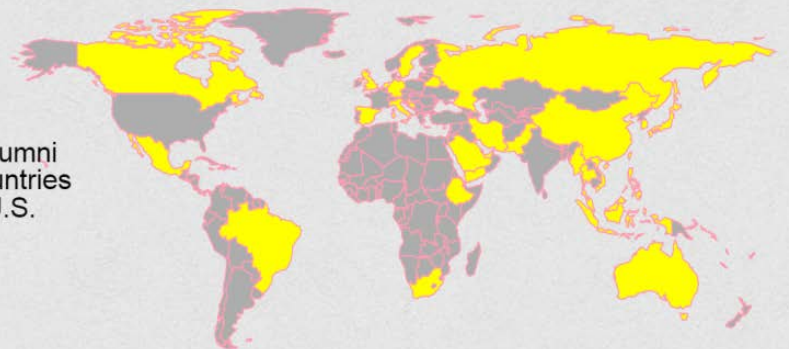
## How large is the USC Rossier alumni base and where do they live?



**77% of Rossier alumni reside in California**

**Total Alumni =  
18,047**

USC Rossier alumni reside in 36 countries outside of the U.S.





## 2014 USC Rossier Homecoming Picnic

Over 250 alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends attended USC Rossier's annual Homecoming Picnic on Saturday, October 18, 2014 before heading over to the Coliseum to watch the Trojans defeat the Colorado Buffaloes 56-28.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR HOMECOMING 2015**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2015**

**USC vs. ARIZONA**



## 2010s



**Kelli Hammond Antonides MAT '10** married Michael Antonides on Oct. 4, 2014, at Litchfield Plantation, on Pawleys Island, S.C.



**Dennis Keane MAT '10** was promoted from middle school science teacher to vice principal at St. Matthew Catholic School in San Mateo, Calif.

**Camille Ramos-Beal ME '10 EdD '13** is principal of Palomares Academy of Health Sciences in Pomona, Calif., a 7-12 National Academy Foundation (NAF) school of health sciences providing a course of study that promotes college and career readiness through requirements of students to complete an internship experience before graduation and additional credits in science beyond the A-G requirements through the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) curriculum.

## Attention Class of 2010

[Submit your reunion year update!](#)



**Farrah Dalal (Bhaji) ME '11** is the student success manager at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Fla. Farrah oversees and administers the student success initiatives within the Targeted Educational Attainment (TEAm) Grant Program which

addresses state level workforce shortages in accounting. In addition to coordinating internships and full-time job support for students in the Lynn Pippenger School, Farrah is responsible for marketing the program and developing strategies to engage employers and maintain relations for on-campus recruitment and other career events. Other initiatives include supporting current students through career counseling and advising for the internship practicum.

**Rocke DeMark EdD '11** is the director of student affairs at Chapman University's School of Pharmacy. He is responsible for administering and contributing to the school's recruitment and retention efforts and provides management and support for student services. Rocke also oversees the administrative and business operation functions of the office.

**Dale Folkens EdD '11** is director of student services in the Apple Valley Unified School District, where he oversees special education and health related services for the district.

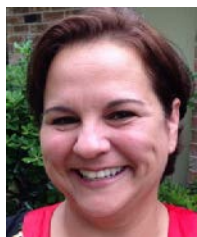


**Hazel Giusto EdD '11** is the California division program manager for the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Center in Los Angeles. She leads, trains and supports districts, staff and school sites via coaching visits, professional development and public relations. Hazel also assists in expanding and deepening the quality and fidelity of AVID College Readiness systems throughout the Los Angeles County area.



**Norfina Joves MAT '11** currently serves as an educational specialist in the K-12 Services, State and District Partnerships with the College Board - Western Regional Office. She supports local and state districts in California, Washington and Alaska. Norfina is committed to developing and helping strengthen partnerships with district superintendents and school communities by connecting students to college success and opportunity. She also serves as a part-time family trainer for CFY, formerly Computers for Youth, by supporting innovative family learning workshops in which families and children learn together about a wide range of digital learning activities and experience a learning partnership model that they can continue in the home.

**Melissa Norman** *ME '17* is a national community facilitator at Comfort Zone Camp in Torrance, Calif. Comfort Zone Camp is a nonprofit 501(c)3 bereavement camp that transforms the lives of children who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling or primary caregiver. The free camps include confidence-building programs and age-based support groups that break the emotional isolation grief often brings. Melissa engages key stakeholders and partners, including schools, bereavement centers and universities and acts as a liaison between new constituents and the Comfort Zone Camp.



**Desaree Rodriguez** *MAT '17* is a national trainer of differentiated instructional strategies for student motivation and engagement at Resources for Educators in Houston, Texas. She provides a one-day training that gives teachers easy-to-implement strategies to keep students engaged in their learning.

**Nadia Hillman** *EdD '12* is the executive director of elementary curriculum and instruction for the Santa Ana Unified School District.

**Derek Ihori** *EdD '12* is director of pupil services for the Las Virgenes Unified School District in Calabasas, Calif., where he oversees the Special Education and Section 504 programs and staff for the district.

**Andrew McEachin** *PhD '12* is a policy researcher at RAND Corporation in Santa Monica, Calif.

**Babette Moreno** *EdD '12* is the curriculum and instruction officer for the Spring Independent School District in Spring, Texas. She leads the team that works directly with the instructional program for the district. This includes PK-12 instruction in all content areas, gifted and talented, multilingual programs and performing and visual arts.



**Anil S. Muhammed** *EdD '12* serves as the personnel director at Bassett Unified School District. He also teaches business and information technology courses at Rio Hondo College. Prior to this, Anil served as a software consultant at NEOGOV, the market and technology leader in on-demand human capital management for the public sector. During his spare time, Anil actively volunteers for numerous nonprofit organizations and serves on various committees, sharing best practices and applying knowledge to benefit the welfare of the people in and around his community. As a result, in 2014, the Torrance City Council appointed him to the Cultural Arts Commission. And, in 2015, the Torrance Unified School District's Personnel Commission appointed him to join their panel.



**Matthew Nesson** *MAT '12* is currently pursuing an EdD in Educational Administration and Policy at the George Washington University Graduate School of Education and Human Development. In November 2014, he accepted a position as assistant director for the Master of Science in Project Management program at the George Washington University School of Business. Matthew is also happy to announce that he will marry fellow Rossier alum Cecilia Pak (EdD '12) in Negril, Jamaica, on July 3, 2015! They look forward to returning to campus in May 2015 for Eddie Pak's graduation from the Marshall School of Business! Fight On!

**Frances Kellar** *EdD '12* began her role as director of new teacher support at Alliance College Ready Public Schools in December 2014, where she provides overall leadership for coordinating, developing and implementing curriculum and professional development experiences for beginning teachers. She collaborates and coordinates with the Alliance induction coaches on support that takes beginning and developing teachers through formative and summative activities that guide teachers through inquiry cycles that promote and facilitate reflective growth in instructional practice.



**Amanda Yoshida** *MAT '12* is a 4/5 lead teacher at APEX Academy in Stockton, Calif. Amanda also received the New Educator of the Year Award for San Joaquin Valley. She currently serves as a mentor teacher.



**Benjamin Cho** *MA '13* is back on board for the second season of Michael Bay's 'The Last Ship' on TNT as Carl Nishioka.

**Samantha Fuszara** *MAT '13* is an English language development teacher at Arroyo Pacific Academy, a small, private, college preparatory high school that serves mostly international students in Arcadia, Calif.

**Rocio Hernandez** *EdD '13* is the executive director of the educational opportunity program at UC Santa Barbara.

**Jennifer Janis** *MA '13* is an English language and literature teacher at the 1st International School of Ostrava in the Czech Republic. In addition to being an English teacher, Jennifer coordinates the international baccalaureate (IB) middle years program at her school. This entails ensuring that all facets of the IB program and philosophy are implemented in all subject areas. She provides guidance and mentoring to teachers as they transition the program through the changing dynamics of the IB program.



**Tiffany Jones** *PhD '13* is program director, higher education research and policy, for the Southern Education Foundation in Atlanta, Ga.



**Dieuwertje Kast** *MAT '13* is the STEM program manager of the Joint Educational Project (JEP), where she manages USC Wonderkids, the USC Young Scientists Program, and assists with the Boeing project.

USC JEP Wonderkids is a first-third grade after-school science program in the USC Family of Schools. It is currently in six schools: Foshay, Weemes, Vermont, Norwood, Mack and 32nd Street. The program focuses on different areas of science through hands-on lesson plans and books. The program also has professional scientists from different science fields as rotating speakers come into the classroom to encourage students to pursue careers in STEM.

The Young Scientists Program (YSP) works in partnership with five USC community schools, from the greater "USC 10 Family of Schools" to engage more than 1,400 elementary school students, 45 LAUSD teachers and five principals through a broad repertoire of science curriculum. YSP teaching assistants are placed at each school presenting hands-on science labs to fourth and fifth grade classrooms. YSP brings scientific laboratory experiences directly to students and their teachers with the goal of supplementing current science instruction, complimenting LAUSD and state grade level science learning standards, strengthening science literacy and promoting interest in scientific careers. One of YSP's primary objectives is to increase science activities for a larger number of neighborhood children as a means to encourage them to consider careers in the STEM field and to apply what they are learning in the classroom to the real world. Additional outcomes are that our USC undergraduate students learn how to become successful mentors, gain valuable teaching experience and learn how to directly respond to the needs of the schools, communities and families.

## Are you a member of the USC Rossier School of Education LinkedIn group?

With over 2,000 members, it is the best way to build your professional network on LinkedIn, stay up-to-date on Rossier news and events and engage in professional development discussions.

[Join the USC Rossier School of Education LinkedIn Group](#)







**Michael Kurland EdD '13** recently published an original fairy tale, *The Magical Peach Twins and Friends: The Legend of How the Peach Twins Saved Breakfast*, which is available on Amazon for physical and digital copies (Audiobook available soon). The majority of the proceeds will be donated to the PBS Foundation to support education and children's programming.

*The Magical Peach Twins and Friends: The Legend of How the Peach Twins Saved Breakfast* is a thrilling new adventure storybook for children, taking readers on a wondrous ride following the Peach Twins, as they set out to discover what exactly happened to the most important meal of the day... breakfast! But the journey isn't going to be easy... the Peach Twins must put their heads together to solve obstacles that cross their path. Luckily they will have the help from new friends along the way.

Children are challenged to engage in this read-aloud storybook; encouraging learning and story telling through imagination versus tradition illustration. This creative version of the storybook is specifically designed to engage young readers on a deeper level, helping to provide the building blocks of imaginative learning to establish the basis of communication, memory, learning and reading skills.



**Lisa Mataczynski EdD '13** is the director, recruitment and academic programs, for the Information Technology Program (ITP) at USC.

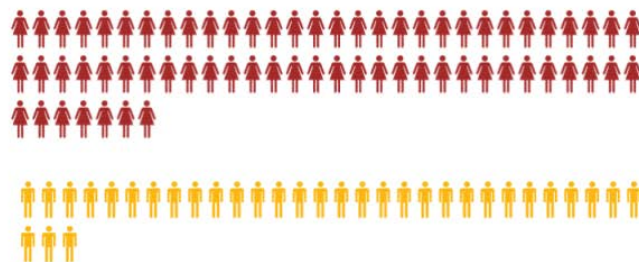
**Carina Naghib MAT '13** teaches English, history and government to a mixed age group of students in a juvenile detention facility in Winchester, Va.

**Katrina Randolph ME '13** is assistant director of employer relations at Georgetown University. She develops relationships with local, national and international employers to establish new employment and internship opportunities for students in the McCourt School of Public Policy. Katrina builds on-campus recruitment programming with employer partners as well as facilitates and organizes on-campus information sessions and panel events. She also provides career advising and counseling services to students through weekly events and programming, reviews and critiques resumes, cover letters and other application documents of students and alumni and prepares and delivers career development workshops.

**Nicholas Ruhe MAT '13** is a training specialist at UCLA Health System. As part of the UCLA Health human resources training team, Nicholas facilitates full and half-day "soft skill" courses and team-building activities for administrative, clinical and managerial staff. Topics range from health insurance and Medicare/Medicaid to customer service principles in a healthcare environment and are designed to meet the needs of adult learners. He also facilitates orientations for new hires within UCLA Health System.

**9.7% of Rossier alumni have earned more than one degree from USC Rossier**

## How does the Rossier alumni population breakdown by gender?



**Megan Workmon** *ME '13* is the student engagement coordinator for the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts at Arizona State University. Megan supervises student academic mentors with the Arcadia Residential Community for Design and the Arts. In her role, she develops and implements academic programming and professional opportunities and advises student clubs and organizations, including the student ambassadors, Herberger Institute student council, Dean's advisory council, USG design and the arts senators, and the academic bowl team. In addition, Megan develops undergraduate retention programming, manages donor-initiated scholarships, fosters faculty and professional involvement/engagement activities and coordinates Herberger Institute initiatives such as fall welcome, family weekend, homecoming, HIDA night of the open door and The Herberger Institute Showcase (THIS). She creates and teaches the HAD 494 Leadership Development Seminar course and created the residential early-start Camp Create.



**Taylor Ainslie** *ME '14* is a graduate program coordinator/advisor at UC Santa Cruz.

**Angela Alcerro** *MAT '14* is a senior lecturer at Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles. She designs and teaches both on-ground and blended courses for students in the toy design department. Angela focuses on quality educational outcomes with an international perspective. She also mentors teachers in emerging methods.

**Jaime Allen** *ME '14* is a student activities coordinator in the Center for Student Involvement at UC Davis.



**Benjamin Balderrama** *ME '14* is coordinator of student life at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va. He advises the Brock Commons Programming Board, Student Government Association Events Commission (Major Concerts Board), National Pan-Hellenic Council and Diversity Council. In addition, Benjamin develops programming and development opportunities for Lambert Hall – First Year Leadership Living & Learning Community. He creates an array of services and programs in conjunction with student life staff that will foster social justice and an inclusive campus community that engenders a respect for diversity and acceptance. Benjamin supports multicultural students and their respective groups and serves as an effective and engaged advocate in their curricular and co-curricular lives at the college.



**Argelia Bell** *MAT '14* is a first grade teacher in the Clark County School District in Las Vegas, Nev. She has taken a leadership position as an English language learner success advocate. Argelia is also running an after-school tutoring program with 11 teachers and 116 students.

**Jamie Beltran** *MAT '14* is a math teacher at Alliance College Ready Academy in Los Angeles.



**Janna Bernstein** *ME '14* is a residential life coordinator at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). She oversees the Upper Class Complex (UCC) for a variety of student populations, including nontraditional, international, veteran, major specific and graduate students. As a collaborative student affairs cluster, they work closely with other offices on campus to make sure to meet the needs of their ever-changing student population.



**Robin Bishop** *PhD '14* is an assistant professor of psychology at Mount Saint Mary's University in Los Angeles.

**Candice Bledsoe** *EdD '14* has been accepted to the 2015-16 New Leadership Academy Fellows program of the National Center for Institutional Diversity at the University of Michigan and their partners at the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education.



**Linsly G. Michael Brown** *MAT '14* was asked to join the staff at the University of Hawaii's English Language Program (intensive English language school) after completing his final term of teaching practicums at the school. He loves working with

adult English language learners from different countries as they are eager to learn and willing to work hard. Mike enjoyed the MAT-TESOL curriculum and instruction so much that he was motivated to continue his education and is currently a member of the USC Rossier EdD Hawaii cohort (class of 2017). He just returned from the USC International Study Tour to Beijing, where he met with students and faculty from Peking University, Tsinghua University and Beijing Normal University - China's premiere Teachers' College. It was a great opportunity to expand his knowledge as a teacher and discuss pedagogical issues with Chinese educators. It was not a surprise to hear how teachers in China share the same heart as teachers in the US who care about students, their learning and ways to help them be successful.



**Melinda Burks** *MAT '14* is a senior program officer with the US Department of State, where she manages a US government-sponsored English language program that operates globally and serves economically disadvantaged youth

ranging in ages from 13 to 20.

**Yadira Carrillo** *MAT '14* is an eighth grade history teacher at Watts Learning Center Charter Middle School in Los Angeles.

**George Cheung** *EdD '14* is an education development executive with Apple, Inc. in Cupertino, Calif. George engages with school and district leadership to develop an educational technology vision formulating strategies and tactics that will enable effective planning and execution to transform teaching and learning.

**Allison Coveney Dunton** *MAT '14* is a sixth grade math and science teacher in Prince George's County Public Schools in Landover, Md.

**Lauren Galapate** *MAT '14* is an English teacher at Jesse Bethel High School in Vallejo, Calif.



**Arielle Garcia** *MAT '14* is a general education fourth grade teacher at Daniel Webster Elementary School in the Potrero Hill community in San Francisco.

**Mara Gellman** *MAT '14* is an English teacher at Canoga Park High School in Canoga Park, Calif.

**Macy Halladay** *MMFT '14* is a PhD student in child development and family studies at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tenn.

**Natalie Hanenkrat** *MAT '14* is a sixth grade teacher in the Irvine Unified School District.

**Jane Hutchinson** *MAT '14* is a history/reading teacher at Hansberry College Prep in Chicago, Ill. Jane also teaches tenth grade AP human geography.

**Liliana Iglesias** *ME '14* is an academic counselor/coordinator for the undocumented student program at UC Berkeley.

**Gretchen Janson** *EdD '14* is director of teaching and learning for the Lawndale School District.



**Taraneh Karim** *MAT '14* is a teacher at Torrance High School, where she is teaching US history in Model English Language Development (MELD) and standard classes, as well as MELD government economics.

**Margaret "Peggy" Khoury** *MAT '14* is an ESL (English as a second language) instructor at the College of the Canyons in Santa Clarita, Calif., where she provides students with the necessary skills to become proficient in English through grammar, reading, writing, speaking and listening. She focuses on a communicative approach, encouraging students to learn using real-life situations.

**Robin Lee** *MAT '14* is an eighth grade physical science teacher at PUC Triumph Charter Academy in Sylmar, Calif.

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



**Joaquin Lopez** *MAT '14* is a seventh grade language arts teacher at Hunter B. Andrews PK-8 School in Hampton, Va.



**Rogelio Loredo** *MAT '14* teaches tenth grade world history at ACE Charter High School in San Jose, Calif. He also provides academic mentorship to 13 juniors who are in danger of dropping out. Rogelio helps these students with academic writing and reading. He is also head coach of the mens's varsity soccer team.

## How many Rossier degrees have been conferred by type?\*

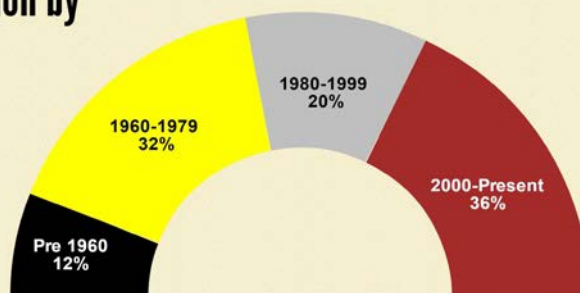


Master's Degrees 56%  
Bachelor's Degrees 23%  
Doctorate Degrees 21%

20,038 degrees conferred

## How are Rossier degrees distributed by year conferred?\*

### Degree distribution by Year Conferred



\*Based on total living alumni



**Oscar Macias EdD '14** had his dissertation summary published in *EdCal*, the state's only weekly education-oriented newspaper in the Jan. 19, 2015, issue. *EdCal* is mailed directly to members and keeps administrators up to date on the latest news and innovations in education, legislation, politics, professional development opportunities and administrative job openings. His dissertation summary was posted in the section "Research You Can Use." Oscar's dissertation was titled "21st Century Superintendents: The Dynamics Related to the Decision-making Process for the Selection of High School Principals."



**Jennifer Mack MAT '14** is an eighth grade social sciences teacher at ALTA Public Schools in Huntington Park, Calif.

**Eileen Mansoorian ME '14** is an academic support coordinator at Whittier College. She works in the Center for Advising and Academic Success and coordinates the academic coaching program and provisional student program, and teaches two classes.



**Aaron Martini EdD '14** has been a national board certified teacher (generalist/middle childhood) since 2004 and successfully renewed his certification in November 2014.



**Glenn Medeiros EdD '14** has been named president of Saint Louis School, a private all-boys Catholic Marianist school in Honolulu, Hawaii.

**Alejandra Mendoza EdD '14** is an instructional coach at Crown Preparatory Academy in Los Angeles, where she promotes thought and reflection among teachers, and maintains a non-evaluative role. She supports teachers' achievement of goals by using coaching strategies that gradually release responsibility for implementing instructional practices to the teacher (i.e., co-planning, modeling, co-teaching and observing). Alejandra analyzes teacher practice through ongoing classroom observations, data analysis, and examination of student work. She is also responsible for facilitating teachers' understanding and implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

**Brianna Moffitt ME '14** is the assistant student leadership coordinator at UC Santa Barbara.

**Sana Mohammed ME '14** is an academic advisor at UC Riverside.



**Sherry Mohazab EdD '14** is a part-time faculty member in the College of Education at Loyola Marymount University.

**Isabel Morales EdD '14** has had a busy year since graduating last May. She was selected as a state finalist for California Teacher of the Year; elected to the American Psychological Association Committee on Teaching of Psychology in Secondary Schools; awarded an America Achieves teaching fellowship; and selected for the AERA President's Initiative (Youth Research to Performance Program), leading high school students in participatory action research that will be presented at the AERA 2015 meeting in Chicago.

**Jeni Nishimura EdD '14** is a lecturer at Leeward Community College in Pearl City, Hawaii, where she teaches early college credit classes to high school seniors who will obtain both high school and college credit.

**Hattie Osborne** *MAT '14* is a kindergarten teacher at Rosalind Franklin STEM Elementary School in Pasco, Wash., which is the first STEM elementary school in the Pasco school district.



**Mariquit Palabyab** *MAT '14* is a teacher/trainer with Global Knowledge, where she teaches ESL and professional English classes to professionals online.

**Jennifer Panagos** *Edd '14* is an assistant principal in the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District.



**Scott Parker** *Edd '14* is the vice principal at Kamehameha Schools Kapalama in Honolulu, Hawaii, serving 450 students in the class of 2015.



**Tian (Victoria) Qin** *ME '14* is an international student recruiter at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas.



**Douglas Querl** *MAT '14* is a teacher at Star Education in Shanghai, where he teaches English and college preparatory classes.

**Leslie Quinto** *ME '14* is an admissions counselor/evaluator at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

**Raquel Rall** *PhD '14* is an adjunct professor at the USC Rossier School of Education.

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

**DeJah Smoot** *ME '14* is a college access program advisor at the Fulfillment Fund in Los Angeles.



**Anacany Torres** *ME '14* is the Orange County regional coordinator for the California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI). The purpose of this initiative is to implement new college and career-readiness methods in K-12 school

districts that will improve college preparation and access to students via instruction, technology and counseling support. The initiative currently has partnerships in several school districts across California, El Monte and Santa Ana Unified being their most current. Anacany is the regional coordinator for the Santa Ana Unified region and works with all middle and high schools in the district on creating and implementing a plan of execution on this initiative.

**Tracey Weinstein** *PhD '14* is director of policy and innovation at StudentsFirst in Sacramento.



**Maritza Williams** *MAT '14* and Rondale Williams became proud parents on March 11, 2015, welcoming Naomi Rose Williams into the world in Atlanta, Ga.

**Suzana Yu** *ME '14* is the career technical education (CTE) advisor in the Alhambra Unified School District, where she provides college and career counseling to 9-12th grade students and organizes presentations and events sponsored by the career center.

**Dora (Yeman) Zhang** *ME '14* is an international student advisor at Cal State Long Beach.

**Catalina Lara** *Edd '15* is an academic counselor at Westmark School in Encino, Calif. She provides specialized academic counseling to students with language-based disabilities.

**Merari Weber** *Edd '15* is an English language development (ELD) manager at Education Management Systems III (EMS III) in Pasadena, Calif.



## Black Belt Doctor Mark Dearing on Bringing a Scientific Angle to Saving Jiu-Jitsu

Mark Dearing EdD '15 was recently featured on the [OC Weekly blog](#)



For as long as Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (BJJ) has been around, students have continuously sought to find new ways to improve their skills and rise through the ranks under the tutelage of their professors. Unfortunately for many BJJ students, exactly what it takes to transform from a white belt to a black belt (with stops at blue, purple and brown in between) isn't clear. There's no set curriculum at most BJJ schools and MMA gyms, it's entirely up to the instructor to determine when the students are "ready" for a promotion.

Dr. Mark Dearing, a Huntington Beach-based black belt in BJJ who recently finished his doctorate in Educational Leadership at USC, hopes to change that about the sport, and much more. Dearing has spent decades as a teacher and now works as a consultant for BJJ schools all over OC. He believes his methods from the classroom can transfer on to the mats just as well. "The way people move up in jiu-jitsu, there's no unifying system," Dearing says. "It's all experiential, whereas everything else is research-based."

Dearing knows that every situation is different, and that every BJJ student has different desires and goals, just as every instructor has their own reasons for promoting and withholding belts from students. He's not looking to make every dojo, school and gym conform to a unified rubric, he just wants to see them apply more practical business and teaching techniques.

"I want to bring a different perspective and help diagnose the areas of weakness in dojos, both for business and for education," Dearing says. "Owners are trying to cater to the MMA world, competitive BJJ, and casual students instead of focusing on one aspect."

As Dearing is quick to point out, every school has a different feel to it, a different personality that comes down from the top. Some gyms are better-suited for those looking to be a world champion, while others focus on BJJ as a tool to use in an MMA fight. Others yet are best for those who just enjoy the fitness and social aspects of BJJ, and aren't looking to compete in any way, which is something else Dearing believes should be taken more seriously.

"Cognition is affected in part by social processes and cultural contexts. Students develop through their involvement in cultural practices," Dearing says. To those who aren't familiar with doctorate-level education lingo, what Dearing means is that part of the learning process for jiu-jitsu practitioners often comes with the bonding that takes place in classes. Dearing believes that the bonding is an important piece of the BJJ puzzle for many students and gyms alike, but that the variation in belt levels can make it difficult for students to teach each other.

"A lot of schools put high belts with white belts, so they can show them what to do, but they struggle to explain it, because they've already mastered the move," Dearing says. "Sometimes you need to change the learning environment, like they do for kids in school. Break it down to the curriculum and have fun and interesting ways to assess everyone's progress."

With Dearing's background in education, he believes that his system is what the BJJ world needs to continue growing and improving. If not, the sport could eventually grow stagnant due to some coaches' resistance to share their teaching methods and knowledge with the rest of the community.

"Professional teachers go to professional development, but jiu-jitsu is all within itself. It's all taken from personal knowledge, all from what the professor thinks," Dearing says. "A lot of coaches, particularly Brazilians, they get their black belt and become like a tight mafia. All of the information that those coaches know stays within them, they're not proliferating the information. Really, there's no mysticism in jiu-jitsu, they're just not showing everything."

Ultimately, Dearing believes that the future of the sport may hang on BJJ coaches changing their ways. Dearing thinks that using a peer-review system among coaches would work significantly better than the current "you're a world champion, so you're a great coach" model.

"Jiu-jitsu has a lot of profitability, but it needs to have new knowledge coming in. There needs to be peer-reviewed articles and videos," Dearing says. "Learning in jiu-jitsu should be approached the same way as it is in the classroom. It's the same for adults as it is for children. Approach it with a scientific method, not just the personal experience of a single world champion with an inflated self-concept."

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