USC Rossier School of Education

Class Notes Newsletter

Spring 2016

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Welcome!

Over the past few months we collected ***over 80 professional and personal updates from Rossier alumni*** for *Class Notes*. If you would like to submit an update for the next issue, click here.

Fight On!
Matt DeGrushe *ME '04*
Director of Alumni Engagement

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Leadership Conference

Thursday, July 21, 2016
3:00 – 7:30 pm
USC Radisson Hotel

Rossier on the Road Receptions

Hawaii	July 23, 2016
Dallas	Sept. 1, 2016
San Francisco	Sept. 15, 2016
Seattle	Nov. 10, 2016

Homecoming Picnic

USC vs. Oregon
Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016
USC Campus

Check rossier.usc.edu/alumni/events and USC Rossier social media for updates in the coming months.

2015 USC Rossier Homecoming Picnic

Over 250 alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends attended USC Rossier's annual Homecoming Picnic on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015 before heading over to the Coliseum to watch the Trojans defeat the Arizona Wildcats 56-28.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR HOMECOMING 2016

SATURDAY, NOV. 5, 2016

USC vs. OREGON

1960s

Sharon Lee Williamson Wilson *BS '61* still holds a current California credential and is happily substitute teaching in grades K-12 in several North County school districts. She stated that she could not be more satisfied with her USC education degree!

Elaine Gourley *ME '64 EdD '80* is enjoying retirement.

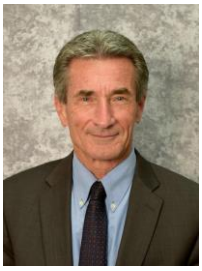
Sonnee Weedn *BS '68 MS '73* was an invited presenter at the 3rd Annual Tibetan Medical and Astro Society (Men-Tsee-Khang), "Body-Mind-Life" Conference, organized by the 14th Dalai Lama in Dharmsala, India. Her assigned topic was "Remedies for Disturbing Factors in Body-Mind-Life."

1970s

Todd DeMitchell *EdD '79* is the John & H. Irene Professor of Education and Professor of Justice Studies at the University of New Hampshire. He recently co-authored (with Richard Fossey) his seventh book titled *The Challenges of Mandating School Uniforms in Public Schools: Free Speech, Research, and Policy* (Rowman & Littlefield). In addition, he is publishing the following law review articles in 2016: "Zero Tolerance, Threats of Harm, and the Imaginary Gun: Good Intentions Run Amuck," *Brigham Young University Education and Law Journal* (with Elyse Hambacher) and "Vergara v. State of California: the End of Teacher Tenure or a Flawed Ruling?" *Southern California Interdisciplinary Law Journal* (with Joseph J. Onosko).

Looking for real-time updates on Rossier alumni? Follow us on Twitter @RossierAlumni

Ken Gibbs EdD '99 Appointed as New Porterville Unified School District Superintendent



The Porterville Unified School District Governing Board has appointed current PUSD administrator Ken Gibbs as the new district superintendent. Gibbs replaces John Snavely, who announced his retirement on January 28 after serving as PUSD's superintendent for 15 years.

"We are very happy to appoint Dr. Gibbs as our new Superintendent," PUSD Governing Board President Lillian Durbin said. "He has been successful in every position he has held within our district. Dr. Gibbs is an accomplished educational leader and has exemplary skills in school finance. We feel his leadership abilities will help continue our goals of providing the necessary skills and equitable opportunities for our students. We feel he shares the common goals of the board and the community and will enhance our programs in the future."

Gibbs has been with the district for 20 years and has spent the last 15 years in his current position as assistant superintendent for business services. Previously, he was PUSD's director of technology. He also worked at the Burton School District, teaching science and math.

The Hayward native earned his bachelor's degree in biology at Cal State Hayward, now known as East Bay, with a master's degree in education at Humboldt State University.

Published by Visalia Times-Delta

Calling all graduates from the following classes:

1986 | 1991 | 1996
2001 | 2006 | 2011

Submit your update for the Fall Reunion Year Newsletter

1980s

Dvora Sheremeta *MS '84* is an instructional systems specialist for Headquarters Marine Corps in Arlington, Va. in the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) Safety Division. She is responsible for managing several Safety online and resident training programs, coordinating and tracking professional development for the Safety Community of Interest (COI), as well as managing Lynda.com accounts for the Safety COI.

1990s

Don Weir *EdD '91* won the Kane Fernandez Community Service Award from the Letterwinners Club at the University of Hawaii. Don and his wife, Colleen, hosted an event at their home in Kailua, Hawai'i, in August 2015 that featured Dean Karen Symms Gallagher. The photo above shows Don introducing the dean to the assembled USC community.

Amber Eckert *ME '96* is the vice president of student services at Alliant International University in San Diego.

Erika Seemann Daniels *BS '94 MS '96* is the director of the Alliance to Accelerate Excellence in Education at California State University, San Marcos. This program is a regional collaborative between 10 K-12 districts and the university. The Alliance supports students and families beginning in elementary school through and beyond college.

Cheryl Marshall EdD '01 Appointed Chancellor of North Orange County Community College District

Cheryl Marshall EdD '01 has been appointed the new chancellor of the North Orange County Community College District (NOCCCD). She will assume her new position on July 1.

Marshall's appointment was announced this afternoon by the NOCCCD Board of Trustees. The board will formally approve Marshall's appointment at its regular meeting on February 23. "The board is excited to work with our new chancellor," said Barbara Dunsheath, board president. "Though we had several well-qualified candidates to choose from, Marshall received unanimous board approval. She has demonstrated strong educational knowledge, as well as a history of supporting student success and building community ties. We are confident that Marshall will serve the district well."

As chancellor, Marshall will serve as the chief executive officer for a district that includes Cypress College, Fullerton College and the School of Continuing Education.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to serve the North Orange County Community College District," said Marshall. "I look forward to leading the district into this exciting next phase."

Marshall has served as president of Crafton Hills College for the past four years, and prior to that, served as the college's vice president of instruction. She spent eight years at Mt. San Antonio College in various positions, including: associate dean of Business & Economic Development; director of Professional & Organizational Development; director of the Center of Excellence; and interim statewide director for Centers of Excellence. In addition to her independent trainer, facilitator and project management experience, she has taught courses at Claremont Graduate University, Azusa Pacific University, Cal Poly Pomona and California State University, San Bernardino.

2000s

David Grant *PhD '00* published "Community-Based Assistive Technology," an Amazon Kindle book. He is a member of the Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America (RESNA) assistive technology professional certification exam writing team and is in his 10th year of owning and operating Arizona Assistive Technology.

Mary Brancaccio *MS '01* is an English teacher at Livingston High School in Livingston, N.J. She teaches English to sophomores and juniors at the honors and college preparatory level.

Elizabeth Chaponot *ME '01 PhD '08* is the director of technology, innovation and information services for Carondelet High School in Concord, Calif.

James Rivet *EdD '04* is the director of growth and development for Education Elements, a leader in blended and personalized learning, in La Jolla, Calif.

Jesse S. Watson *ME '04* is the associate dean for graduate academic affairs at USC. In this role, Jesse will assist the university community with the implementation and interpretation of academic policies related to graduate education; advise faculty, staff and students on matters ranging from program development to conflict resolution; work with general counsel on academic cases and appeals; coordinate graduate student orientation and Friends of the Graduate School meetings for faculty and staff and oversee programs related to the Diversity, Inclusion and Access Initiative with Dr. Drake Reitan, associate dean.

Be a Part of the Fall 2016
***Class Notes* Newsletter!**

Share your story with us.

Submit your update today!

Steve Olmos EdD '04 Named New Chief Schools Officer for the Santa Clara County Office of Education

Steve Olmos has been tapped by County Superintendent of Schools Jon Gundry to serve on his cabinet as Chief Schools Officer for the Santa Clara County Office of Education. Olmos officially joined the office on Tuesday, Dec. 1.

Olmos comes to the SCCOE from the Butte County Office of Education where he served as Associate Superintendent – English Learner and Migrant Education. In this capacity, Olmos served 10,000 migrant students across 22 counties, overseeing supplemental programs to ensure all students succeed and graduate from high school.

"Olmos brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record of success to the SCCOE," said Superintendent Gundry. "I am looking forward to collaborating with him as we continue to serve, inspire, and promote student and public school success."

As the head of the SCCOE's Student Services Branch, Olmos will oversee the office's educational and student programs including Alternative Education, Environmental Education, Early Learning Services, Foster Youth Services, Migrant Education and Special Education.

Prior to his work at BCOE, Olmos served as Superintendent of Willows Unified School District in Northern California. He has also taught at the elementary, middle school and high school levels and held the roles of vice-principal and principal.

Olmos earned his doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Southern California. He received a master's degree in educational administration from Pepperdine University, and a bachelor's degree in liberal studies with an emphasis in bilingual education and a minor in Spanish from California State University, Chico.

Mziwandile "Themba" Masimini *MFT '05* has spent 10 years in the field of education. Themba served as a guidance counselor and a dean of students at two different high schools in Washington, D.C. before moving to the central office of the District of Columbia Public Schools to become the citywide director of student discipline and school climate. He just recently moved over to the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation to become deputy director for recreation services. Themba also continued his education earning an executive master's in leadership from the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University in 2014. He is married with three kids (15, 6 and 4), one girl and two boys.

Soomin Chao *MAT '06 EdD '15* is a commissioner for the Instructional Quality Commission. This is an advisory board for the California State Board of Education that develops and recommends curriculum, evaluation, criteria, policy and instructional materials.

Emily Caviglia *ME '07 EdD '10* is the director of advising and retention for Minneapolis Community and Technical College in Minneapolis.

Jackie Conner *EdD '07* is the director of digital education and instructional design at the Goizueta Business School at Emory University.

Jenny Granero (Rodriguez) *ME '07* is a human resources supervisor for In-N-Out Burger.

Denise Khaw *ME '09* is the director of the Student Achievement Guided by Experience (SAGE) Scholars Program at UC Irvine. The SAGE Scholars Program provides training, internships, mentoring and financial support to motivated undergraduates from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Norman Sauce *EdD '09* was named the principal of Chamblee Charter High School in Chamblee, Ga., in July 2015. Chamblee High is one of the highest performing comprehensive high schools in the state and is a part of the DeKalb County School District, the third largest school system in Georgia.

2010s

Craig Bartholio *EdD '10* is the interim director of special education programs at Azusa Pacific University. His work focuses on mild/moderate and moderate/severe disabilities.

Treisa Cassens *EdD '10* is the dean of library and learning resources at Cypress College.

Christina Charfauros *MAT '11* is the dean of instruction at PUC Community Charter Elementary School in Sylmar, Calif.

Camille Ramos-Beal *ME '10 EdD '13* is the principal at Palomares Academy of Health Sciences.

Amber Hroch *ME '11* is a research analyst at Long Beach City College. She conducts assigned institutional research projects and studies and defines research issues on academic programs, curriculum. Her work is on enrollment management, student demographics and outcomes, matriculation, assessment, student and employer surveys and other relevant data.

Ryan McCormack *MAT '11* is the athletic director at KIPP San Jose Collegiate.

Are you interested in volunteering?

We are looking for alumni volunteers to help us with admissions activities, serve as guest speakers, review student resumes, conduct mock interviews and assist with student and alumni programming. Sign up online today!

Tensie Taylor ME '14 Talks about Her Book "Builled, from Terror to Triumph"

How do you snap back from a childhood full of bullying, suicidal thoughts and sexual assault? "You overcome these things by finding your self worth and realizing your purpose," said Tensie Taylor. She is the author of the new book "Bullied, from Terror to Triumph," which chronicles the difficulties and depression she dealt with over her young years of being bullied.

"It is really the grace of God that saved me because I wouldn't be here to tell my story if I didn't allow God to take control of my situation," she said. The Louisburg, North Carolina, native created her book to bring up an active discussion about the effects of bullying. Teased most of her life for her big eyes and book smarts, Taylor found herself—like most bullied children, moving back and forth between emotional stability and insecurity. According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, close to half of all children experience bullying in primary or secondary school.

"My mission is to let people know they are not alone. We have to learn how to be more loving, caring, and kind to one another if we want to save each others lives," she said. The pressures of being perfect in today's society add extra stress to children growing up into their true personalities. From her own experience, Taylor had food thrown at her, names called at her for her skin tone and even an extreme point of bullying when someone tried to break her arm.

"I remember one of my classmates knocking all my trophies to the ground after an honor roll ceremony, and he told me just because I had good grades it didn't mean I was going to be successful in life," she said. Taylor recounted childhood moments of being an honor student from elementary school to high school and having trouble with some students because of her grades.

It took some time for Taylor to realize that all of the bullying came from individuals who suffered with self-insecurities and jealousy. Bullying was a form of intimidation and/or domination towards Taylor who may have been perceived as being weaker to her bullies.

"Everything that happened to me is still fresh in my mind. I never lose sense of it," she said.

A huge factor of colorism also played a part in her being bullied from other African-American kids. "There is this complex that a lot of Black folks have against each other when it comes to skin tones. I had girls come up to me when I was younger saying, 'Oh, you think you're all that because you're light skin,'" she said. "And they would treat me differently because of that." But, Taylor found hope through her parents shared stories of trials of tribulations when growing up during segregation. Taking what her parents went through and seeing their successes as adults inspired her to work through her adversity.

"I found myself becoming shy because of bullying," she said. "But when my parents noticed that I was dimming my light they told me that I had to keep going and push forward to fight for what I wanted in life. If they could survive being spat upon and forced to walk miles to school because of discrimination, I knew I could overcome my struggles."

It was through her parents' advice that she got the motivation to start writing her book. "My parents told me that I had a compelling story and I should write a book," she explained. "I thought that writing a book was a lot of work, but in 2015 when I was listening to the news about bullying suicide rates I knew I couldn't keep quiet." So in April of last year, she started writing her book about her survival story, and nine months later she released it to the public. Taylor spent countless hours writing, and one day she found herself writing more than 70 pages at once.

"In the book I put a lot of research in to show readers what the numbers of bullying really look like and I provided ways to get help," she said. The book includes stories from her personal experiences and the incidents of her parents encountered growing up in the segregated south. She makes it evident in her book to give advice to others about how she got through the pain of being under so much ridicule.

"I empathize with the students who are getting bullied now because I can't imagine how it is now with social media," Taylor said. " I got through a lot of my bullying issues with the support system I had at home." As an educator, public speaker and assistant director of USC's Black Alumni Association, Taylor runs a program to help students with their public speaking and raising funds for student scholarships. Through her public speaking and mentoring she empowers the youth to move past adversity.

"When people read my story I want them to realize what I went through and how I came out triumphant. I pray that my story really helps a lot of people dealing with this issue now," she said.

By Amen Oyiboke, Los Angeles Sentinel, March 9, 2016

Cris Powell *ME '11* is the director of development, student affairs at Cal State Fullerton.

Lindsey Adleman Mussack *MAT '12* is a client success coordinator for Lynda at LinkedIn.

Linwood Bishop *MAT '12* is headmaster at Shion Christian International School in Tokyo, Japan, which just began its third official year in April 2016. They currently have 26 students in grades K-10. The school is fully bilingual, expecting students to achieve high levels of both English and Japanese, regardless of their backgrounds. The school was born out of the ashes of a collapsed private school where his children attended when he was completing his MAT. The very month of graduation, Linwood was asked to take over and rebuild the school. After four years they are seeing their first real growth as a new school.

Rick Garcia *ME '12 EdD '15* is the director of enrollment management and marketing for UC Riverside, Graduate School of Education.

Nancy Guirguis *EdD '12* is director, student affairs at UC Irvine School of Medicine.

Babette Moreno *EdD '12* is the regional vice president for Utah and Hawaii at Catapult Learning.

Nancy Smith *EdD '12* is an instructional coach at San Jose Unified School District. She provides coaching and professional development to elementary teachers in classroom management and all subject areas, with a specialty in writing.

Jonathan Wang *ME '12* is the director of Asian Pacific American Student Services at USC.

Melanie Brady EdD '12 Presents at Innovations in Medical Education Conference

Melanie Brady *EdD '12*, adjunct associate professor at Rossier, presented findings from a two-year research project at the Keck School of Medicine of USC Innovations in Medical Education Conference in February 2016.

Brady presented two papers at the conference. The first—titled "Graduate Health Science Learner Metacognition: New Directions and New Questions"—presents results from a study on measuring educational technology and learner metacognition. Working with co-researcher Jane Rosenthal EdD '12, the assistant dean of the School of Applied Life Sciences at Keck Graduate Institute, Claremont, Calif., Brady found in a preliminary analysis increased clarity in our ability to measure subcomponents of metacognition.

The second paper—titled "Metacognition and Learning: Instructor Perception-Based Adaptations and Lessons Learned"—provides results from a two-year investigation of metacognition and use of student responses systems (SRS) with graduate health science candidates. She presented with Chris Forest, MSHS, DFAAPA, PA-C, a board-certified physician assistant and assistant professor of Clinical Family Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, Division of Physician Assistant Studies.

The Innovations in Medical Education conference, held in Los Angeles, brings together educators, leaders and scholars working to improve the education of health professionals.

Join our group in™ LinkedIn offers several groups for alumni to stay connected with the Rossier Family.

USC Rossier School of Education Group
USC Rossier Network: Higher Education Administration
USC Rossier Network: Higher Education Teaching & Research
USC Rossier Network: K-12 Administration
USC Rossier Network: K-12 Teaching
USC Rossier Network: MFT
USC Rossier Network: TESOL

William Yadron *MAT '12* is the 12th grade coordinator and science learning specialist at Perspectives IIT, Math & Science Academy in Chicago, where he develops policies and programs for 12th grade students. He holds 12th grade teachers accountable for meeting expectations for school policies by holding mentoring sessions to improve instruction and classroom management. He facilitates meetings to strengthen cross-curricular ties among senior teachers and coordinates disciplinary follow-up of 12th grade scholars.

Michael Greene *EdD '13* is general manager and director of nutrition & food service for Sodexo Contracted Food Service.

Narae Lee *MFT '13* is a quality improvement clinical supervisor at Penny Lane Centers.

Rosemary Rangel *ME '13* is an academic advisor at Cal State Long Beach.

Stacy Rodarte *MAT '13* married Paul Rodarte in San Diego on Feb. 21, 2015. They have a son, Landon, born in August 2015.

Kristine Bacani *ME '14* is an assistant residential hall director at New York University.

Brad Baker *EdD '14* is the principal of Shorecliffs Middle School in San Clemente, Calif.

Candice Bledsoe *EdD '14* organized the "Looking Beyond the Horizon: Black Excellence in Higher Education" conference at Southern Methodist University on April 1, 2016. Topics at the one day conference included mentoring, poverty and youth and transforming the higher education experience for African-American students. She was also the closing speaker for the conference.

Jessica Cowan *ME '14* left her position as an academic advisor for student athletes at Austin Peay State University, to become the assistant program coordinator for the First Scholars Program at University of Memphis. The First Scholars Program was created to specifically address the holistic development of first-generation students throughout their college experience.

Shane Craven *ME '14* is the assistant principal at Los Angeles County Office of Education.

Ryan Eisenberg *EdD '14* was named the executive director of AchieveKids, a non-profit organization that operates non-public schools and transitional services for students in special education. He will officially start on June 30.

Tagrina Halim *ME '14* is a program coordinator for the Robert H. Smith School of Business at University of Maryland, College Park. She specifically works at the Shady Grove campus overseeing evening MBA and MS students.

Jennifer Hanson *MAT '14* is the vice president of innovation and product development for TNS West region, a leading global custom market research agency.

Catherine Kawaguchi *EdD '14* is the superintendent of the Sulphur Springs Union School District in Santa Clarita, Calif. The district has approximately 5,400 students and nine award-winning schools. She is proud of the district's efforts as the main provider for the Santa Clarita Valley for special education services for the severely handicapped and deaf and hard-of-hearing programs.

Christian Lise *MFT '14* is a clinician at the Victor Treatment Center in Redding, Calif. He works with children ages 8 to 18 recovering from severe trauma in a level 14 restriction group home and school setting.

Denise Macedo teaches 5th and 6th grades in the Anaheim Elementary School District. She provides opportunity, equity and access to some of the district's most marginalized minority youngsters in public school education. As a teacher of change, Denise fosters respectful and caring relationships with students and their families in order to share the culture of power. By sharing the culture of power with all stakeholders, Denise and her fellow teachers create a dynamic team of invested individuals, seeking to empower academically, culturally, linguistically and ethnically diverse scholars.

James McKenna *EdD '15* is a consultant of special education with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE). He was hired to be LACOE's first ever consultant of special education in the Division of Curriculum and Instructional Services. His role is to develop and deliver professional development, job aids and training materials related to special education as well as consult with Los Angeles County's 80 school districts to better their efforts to serve students with disabilities.

Nadia Naim is a clinical therapist at the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic. She provides therapy for children (ages 0-5) as part of the Early Intervention and Community Wellness Division.

Amy Powell *EdD '15* is a resource specialist teacher in the Long Beach Unified School District. She also serves as the executive director for First Step Advocates, Inc.

Olga Rios *EdD '15* is the assistant principal at an elementary school in the Bellflower Unified School District. After many years in the classroom as a middle school English and world history teacher, Olga is now part of the school administration team of an elementary school. She greatly enjoys her job as an assistant principal. Aside from the myriad of administrative responsibilities, Olga mostly enjoys helping and supporting kids through positive behavioral interventions.

Rona Smith *ME '15* is the assistant dean of academic affairs at USC School of Social Work.

Brianne Wada *ME '15* is a career developer for Dev Bootcamp in San Diego, Calif.

Saya Wai *MAT '15* is a biology teacher and medical interventions teacher at Da Vinci Charter Schools in Hawthorne, Calif.

Nickey Woods *EdD '15* is the deputy director in the Office for Students with Disabilities at UCLA.

Looking to save time and still manage to keep up with news impacting your work?

The Rossier Roundup is a bi-monthly email digest with links to interesting articles impacting various segments within the field of education, designed to help busy alumni keep up with news and trends. Alumni can subscribe to targeted editions based on the following news they want to receive:

- Higher Education Administration
- Higher Education Teaching & Research
- K-12 Teaching
- K-12 Administration
- MFT
- TESOL

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