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SAVE THE DATE

USC Rossier Centennial Celebration
Saturday, August 24, 2019
4:00 – 7:30pm
Skirball Cultural Center

Invitations coming in June

2018 USC Rossier Homecoming Picnic – November 10, 2018



1960s

Stan Charnofsky MS '62, EdD '66 has been a professor and psychologist at Cal State Northridge for 57 years. He recently published his sixth novel, *Charlotte*, where an elderly woman solves a murder in a retirement village in Pennsylvania. Stan also published a non-fiction book, *When Women Leave Men: How Men Feel, How Men Heal, and a textbook, Therapy with Couples: A Humanistic Approach*.



Janet Zebrack BS '63 taught primary school for 25 years, including on the Navajo and Zuni reservations in New Mexico. Her experience teaching and passion for cycling inspired her to write about traveling the world by bicycle, a pastime she has pursued for 39 years, taking treks two or three times a year of 500 to 1,000 miles, accompanied by her husband, Jerry Zebrack, and sometimes their sons, Jim and John. Janet and Jerry published their book, *The Power of Positive Pedaling: A Couple's Stories and Lessons Learned from Three Decades of Cycling the World*, sharing their adventures in 28 countries across five continents.

A funny Centennial Homecoming story from Jack Davis MS '68 and Marsha Davis MS '69



Just after this picture was taken, we were both given large buttons with 100 on them, and large gold sunglasses with the 100 on them. Jack put on his glasses and his button, and we began our trek across campus toward the coliseum for the USC/Cal football game. We stopped at an ongoing tailgate party, where we encountered a friendly college-age group. One young man looked at Jack, and said: "Wow dude, you look really good for 100; I'd like to buy you a margarita", and he called out to a friend: "Look how good this man looks, and he's 100 years old!" The friend responded to Jack: "The food's on me, and I'd like to buy you a couple of beers". So, for the next thirty minutes, Jack became a 100-year-old celebrity!

1970s

Marion Hennebury EdD '78 is a retired elementary school principal from the Palm Beach County School System.

Peter Chang BA '68, MS '70, PhD '77 retired in 2018.



Wilsie Bishop MS '76, DPA '89 is the senior vice president for academics at East Tennessee State University. In this role, she is charged with preparing the provost's office for the next decade in alignment with the university's strategic goals and initiatives. Wilsie is also a tenured professor in the College of Public Health at East Tennessee State University and was recently recognized for 40 years of service at the university.

1980s

Donald Barnes EdD '80 is an adjunct professor teaching American government at Rowan Cabarrus Community College in Concord, N.C.

Veronica Cox MS '81 retired from teaching in 2015. She previously worked as an English teacher in the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District in New York.

Kathryn Wurtman-Miller BS '81, MS '88 has been teaching for 32 years and is currently a kindergarten teacher in the Long Beach Unified School District.

Rad Domingo MS '82 retired in June 2018 after serving 25 years as a teacher, associated student body (ASB) advisor and freshman basketball coach in the Desert Sands Unified School District in Indio, Calif.

Yvonne Raphael BS '84, MS '94 is retired after serving 35 years as an elementary and ESL adult teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Barbara Fitzsimmons EdD '85 is an educational consultant at CRH Consulting. She was recently appointed to the board of directors for the Advocacy

Project in Nepal to work with a community-based organization.

Linda Bloombecker *PhD '86* is a psychotherapist specializing in working with PTSD clients and their families. She has been working as a psychotherapist for nearly 40 years. Linda has served on the advisory board for Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women for 9 years, helping with several alternative educational programs. She also served as a specialist on long term effects of rape on couples, on the Oprah Winfrey show.

1990s



Raj Singh *PhD '92* is a professor of practice in management discipline at UC Riverside.



Leonor Vazquez *BA '91, EdD '08* married fellow USC Rossier alum, Frank Mora *EdD '07* on October 20, 2018.

Laura Rebecca *MS '95* is the studio manager at CorePower Yoga in Los Angeles. She is responsible for delivering a superior yoga experience to CorePower Yoga clients. Laura oversees the entire customer experience which includes control and management of the physical environment, the quality of delivery of classroom instruction, communication with clients, instructor development, and excellence in teacher training programs.



Patricia Beckmann *MFA '96, EdD '13* is the director and producer of Propolis, a comic book series. Patricia's latest work, 'Propolis Part 7' will have its world premier at Slamdance Film Festival this year debuting in the episode category.

This project is the first in a multi-episode series pitting a dysfunctional family against the upcoming environmental apocalypse. Previously, Patricia was invited to lecture at Pixar based on the research completed in the book she authored, *Face it!*, which served as a visual reference for multi-ethnic modeling. Her work with major production studios explores believable solution for diverse character designs in animation and games.



Joseph Rios *BA '97, EdD '14* is the founder and principal at Leadership and Values in Action, LLC. His company trains student affairs professionals and student leaders on how to put their values into action.

Joseph is leading student life divisional training at Queen's College and working with fraternity/sorority staff at Rochester Institute of Technology to complement their on campus training.

Kristan Venegas BA '94, MS '00 named Endowed Chair for Teaching, Education, and Excellence at the University of La Verne LaFetra College of Education



Kristan is the first recipient of the Endowed Chair for Teaching, Education, and Excellence at the University of LaVerne LaFetra College of Education, which will support her as she continues to research financial aid

availability in California for underrepresented, low-income, and first-generation students. She will also serve as the associate dean for education transformation and faculty affairs at LaFetra College of Education and teach courses in the Social Justice Higher Education Administration master's degree program beginning Fall 2019.

Kristan, a first-generation college graduate, aims to inspire students who have followed a similar path to higher education. She is committed to supporting faculty colleagues as they, too, motivate students to reach their full potential.

USC Rossier Centennial Celebration in Hawaii

On Saturday, February 23, USC Rossier hosted a dinner at the Oahu Country Club attended by over 135 alumni, current students, faculty, staff and guests. At the event, Dean Gallagher presented the Distinguished Alumni Award to Her Excellency President Hilda Heine of the Marshall Islands. Heine earned her EdD from the USC Rossier Hawaii program in 2004. In 2012, Heine was appointed minister of education for the Republic of the Marshall Islands, under President Christopher Loek. In 2015, Heine was elected president, the first woman to serve in the position.

Article on the event: <https://rossier.usc.edu/in-hawaii-a-celebration-of-leadership-and-legacy/>
More photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/uscrossier/albums/72157705596005561>



Rebecca Wilke EdD '97 recently released the second edition of *Tough Choices for Teachers: Ethical Case Studies from Today's Schools and Classrooms* with her co-author, Dr. Robert Infantino.



Pete Menjares PhD '98 was recently appointed to serve as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Vanguard University of Southern California in Costa Mesa, Calif. He is also a contributing author and section editor of a book, *Diversity Matters: Race, Ethnicity, and the Future of Christian Higher Education* (2017).

David Feldon MS '99, PhD '04 is a professor of instructional technology and learning sciences at Utah State University. He was named the 2019 recipient of the American Educational Research Association's Division D Award for significant contributions to educational measurement and research with Dr. Colby Tofel-Grehl for their 2018 article, "Phenomenography as a foundation for mixed models research," in the journal *American Behavioral Scientist*.

Ernest Zarra PhD '99 is an associate professor of teacher education at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho and is a member of the Idaho Speakers Bureau. His ninth book, *The Age of Teacher Shortages*, will be released this summer. Ernest released two books last summer: *Assaulted: Violence in Schools and*

What Needs to be Done, and The Teacher Exodus: Reversing the Trend and Keeping Teachers in the Classrooms. He is currently working on books ten and eleven.

2000s



Janette Brown ME '01, EdD '04 is the assistant vice provost for the USC Emeriti Center, adjunct faculty at the USC Davis School of Gerontology and serves as volunteer executive director for the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE). At the USC Staff

Recognition Luncheon in April 2019, Janette was awarded the USC President's Award for Staff Achievement, one of the most coveted honors at the university. Each year, the President presents the award to a current, full-time staff member who has made exemplary contributions to university life, enhanced morale, and demonstrated enthusiasm for and dedication to the Trojan Family.



Jim Adams EdD '02 is retiring on January 1, 2020 after serving seven years as president of Life Pacific University in San Dimas, Calif.



Katherine Guevara (formerly FitzSimons) BA '02, MS '04, DPPD '15 is an instructional designer at the USC Center for Excellence in Teaching and founder of Mobile Teacher. She has been selected as a winner of the

US Department of State English Language Fellow Program 50th Anniversary Go Back, Give Back competition for her work as founder of Mobile Teacher, an android app that helps democratize access to teacher professional development for educators in emerging markets via their phones and without the need for internet. Mobile Teacher seeks to create a global community of practice in which teachers in developing countries connect, share, and recognize their expertise by uploading short videos of their

effective teaching practices for any topic in any language. Katherine will be leading a US embassy-supported project in Ecuador this summer where teachers of English in traditionally marginalized and isolated areas will share their practices via Mobile Teacher.

Karri Holley ME '02, PhD '06 is a professor at the University of Alabama. She was named the recipient of the 2019 McCrory Faculty Excellence Award in Research from The University of Alabama College of Education.



Jeffrey Kealing PhD '03 is the consular specialist for the US Department of State. He published a memoir entitled *Reaching Across Borders: How We Became American Cultural Ambassadors and How You Can, Too*, William Charles Press. This

is the story of an American couple, Jeffrey and Shelly, both graduates of USC Rossier, who have participated in and led international exchange programs in the Far East, Europe and North America. The book describes in rich detail the many lessons learned from their immersion in challenging cross-cultural situations at every turn. The account includes a retrospective of USC Rossier in the late 1990s and early 2000s, and the critical role the school's faculty had in shaping the pair's educational approaches and cultural adaptation strategies.



Te-ya Lo ME '05 is a Mandarin teacher and head of the world languages department at Korea International School Jeju in South Korea.



Merrill Irving, Jr. EdD '07 is completing his fourth year as president of Hennepin Technical College, a member of the Minnesota State college and universities system, with campuses in Brooklyn Park and Eden Prairie. Current national roles include the American Association of Community Colleges (AACCC) board of directors and chair of the Commission on

Public Relations Advocacy and Advancement. He was recently appointed to the Task Force on Community College Apprenticeships by the President of AACC. Additional national roles include serving as an accreditation peer reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), and a member of the President's Round Table (PRT), an affiliate of the National Council of Black American Affairs (NCBAA) and LGBTQ Presidents and Chancellors in Higher Education. In 2017, the Minnesota State College Student Association (LeadMN) named Merrill President of the Year.

Bruce Mims EdD '07 is a university mentor and adjunct professor of education at the University of Arizona. Bruce mentors aspiring master students in fast-track and alternative pathway teacher education programs in Southern Arizona.

YuHuang Chuang MS '09 is a high school language arts and homeroom teacher at Washington High School in Taichung, Taiwan. YuHuang specializes in English literature, writing, TOEFL and TOEIC. She also supports students taking standardized tests and completing college applications.



Hasmik Danielian EdD '09 was one of ten women from California Assembly District 57 honored by Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon during Women's History Month. She currently serves as superintendent of the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District (NLMUSD), a K-12 system of

30 campuses and more than 18,000 students. At NLMUSD, Hasmik's remarkable leadership has resulted in the creation of a shared vision of success not only through collaboration with the Board of Education, but also with stakeholders in the local community. In an effort to create more equity and access regarding educational facilities and instructional technology, she created the Future Ready Technology Blueprint for NLMUSD and formed a partnership with Sprint Corporation to provide high school students with free internet hotspot devices that feature high-speed wireless service. During her tenure, several NLMUSD campuses, have earned the distinction of California Distinguished Schools, Gold Ribbon

Schools, Golden Bell Awards, National PTA School of Excellence, Project Lead the Way (PLTW) National Distinguished School, and many more.



Patricia Dickenson EdD '09 is an associate professor of teacher education at National University. Patricia recently published a book, *Teaching Outside the Box: Technology Infused Math Instruction*.

This book supports K-12 preservice and inservice teachers with best practices for teaching mathematics through technology integration. The book includes video vignettes of Patricia in K-12 classrooms, lesson plan ideas for math instruction with technology, and research-based approaches for teaching common core mathematics.

Keith Fulthorp EdD '09 is a tenured associate professor and internship coordinator at Cal State Long Beach in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies. He recently published an article, "Examining the relationship between place attachment and behavioral loyalty in an urban park setting," in the *Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism*.



Victor Gonzalez EdD '09 is an academic coordinator for the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). He is launching a new program for refugee students in LAUSD that will provide counseling and academic support services.

Shawna Petit-Dinkins EdD '09 is the assistant superintendent of education services in Lynwood Unified School District. Shawna oversees curriculum and instruction, technology, data and assessment, student services, equity, early childhood education, and special education. She ensures that the district's strategic plan and goals are aligned and integrated for the scope and sequence of their work on behalf of students, parents, teachers, and community.

Dustine Rey EdD '09 is the founder and executive director at The Gratitude Garden Preschool and TESLA Country Day. She opened the first year of kindergarten at her newly founded school, TESLA Country Day in 2017

and continues to offer enrollment each year at the San Clemente location. The second location of The Gratitude Garden Preschool is being developed in Carlsbad, with an expected opening in 2020. Recently, *Orange County Family Magazine* named Dustine as one of the top three inspiring entrepreneurs of Orange County for her work in developing schools that focus on early childhood STEM education, innovation, and creativity.

Denise Khaw ME '09 is the associate dean of students at Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, Calif.

Five USC Rossier Alumni Named School District Superintendents



Kimberly Fricker EdD '14 was named superintendent of the Temple City Unified School District.

Steven Martinez EdD '17 was named superintendent for Kernville Union School District in Lake Isabella, Calif.



Cyndi Paik EdD '06 was named superintendent of the Westminster School District.



Andrew Pulver EdD '11 was named superintendent of the Los Alamitos Unified School District.



Roger Rice EdD '07 was named superintendent of the Ventura Unified School District.



Diane Shammas PhD '09 presented a paper, "Social Epistemic Injustice: From Baton Rouge to Palestine and Beyond the Children of the Stone," in November 2018 at the International Peace Research Association in India. This qualitative

analysis highlights the shoot to kill narratives of Israeli military and US law enforcement that delegitimize the counter-narratives of shoot to kill victims' witnesses'. In March 2019, Diane was on a panel with Phyllis Bennis, fellow of the Institute for Policy Studies, and John Kuttub, leading human rights lawyer in Israel and Palestine at the American Arab Anti-Discrimination (ADC) 39th Annual National Convention. As a nationally elected board member of ADC, Diane focuses on Gaza Community Mental Health Programme's Response to the Great March of Return, reporting the scope of the mental disorders experienced by the injured and their family members, and the type of social-psychological interventions delivered.



Cassandra Villa MAT '09 is in her tenth year as an educational leader at the secondary level teaching all levels of English. She serves as part of the Downey Education Association executive board, supports new

teachers as an induction mentor, and teaches CSET English credentialing preparation classes to aspiring English teachers. Cassandra is dedicated to a life of public service and advocating for students and first generation scholars.

2010s



Charles Flores EdD '10 is an assistant professor of educational administration at Cal State LA. Charles supports administrative services credential candidates in both preliminary and clear programs.

Additionally, he participates in collaborative structures at the university that involve faculty and staff from the various divisions in the Charter College of Education.

USC Rossier Reception at 2019 NASPA Conference

On Monday, March 11, USC Rossier hosted their annual reception at the NASPA Conference in Los Angeles. Over 150 current students, alumni, faculty, staff and guests attended.

More Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/uscrossier/albums/72157690454723873>



Steve Martinez EdD '10 is the principal at John Burroughs Middle School which has been designated by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond as a 2018-19 School to Watch in the Taking Center Stage program.



Jennifer Estell MAT '11 is a teacher at Options for Youth Charter Schools in Upland, Calif. She works with at-risk youth who have a history of struggling in the public/district school for various reasons. Jennifer works as an academic recovery

teacher in a dual learning environment that provides small group English instructional classes and individual aid for student who need to complete academic work in order to graduate. Since graduating from USC, Jennifer has remained with her charter school for over 7 years despite various challenges. Now, her charter is thriving and continuing to grow.



Elizabeth Farina MAT '11 and her husband, Tony welcomed Helen Frances Cecilia on Valentine's Day in Cleveland, Ohio.

Kimberlyann Granger EdD '11 was invited to attend the League for Innovation International Conference in New York City to receive the League for Innovation John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Award. She was also recently recognized by the state of Missouri for her state-wide work in Math Pathways, as a member of the Missouri Math Pathways Taskforce from August 2014 - December 2018.

Mimi Fayer MFT '11 is a licensed marriage and family therapist with a private practice in Beverly Hills. She provides therapeutic services for clients from various backgrounds and needs specializing in depression, sexual trauma, and infertility.



Melissa Gillespie ME '11 is a school counselor at Calabasas High School. In January 2019, Melissa was certified employee of the month for Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD). The award was presented by the school

board and the LVUSD cabinet at the February board meeting.



Darin Gray MAT '11 is the director of STEM Education Outreach Programs at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering. Darin earned his EdD from Boise State University in December 2018.

Eva Hinojoza ME '11, EdD '17 married Manuel Valencia on December 8, 2018 in Pasadena, Calif.



Kristina Rigden MAT '11, EdD '17 is the director of outreach programs and women in engineering at Cal Poly Pomona. She published a chapter, "Using Screencasting to Provide Effective Feedback on Academic

Writing Assignments," in the book, *Innovative Teaching and Learning Practices in Higher Education*.

Shaheed Sabrin BA '11, MAT '14 is an online teacher at VIPKid in China. Shaheed teaches reading and speaking to Chinese preschool-elementary school students online with VIPKid and has taught more than 800 students over the past year.

Regina Zurbano EdD '11 is the principal at John F. Kennedy High School in the Anaheim Union High School District.

Melody Cardenas MAT '12 is entering her fourth year as a special education teacher for student with severe disabilities at Pasadena High School.

Leonel Diaz, Jr ME '12 is a project coordinator for the Campus Office for Substance Abuse Prevention at the

University of New Mexico. Leonel conducts research focused on substance abuse and executes prevention efforts based on data results collected from students at the university and community members.



Matthew Jellick MAT '12 teaches at Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech), in Shenzhen, China, where he is a senior lecturer. He is the course coordinator for the undergraduate education abroad program, as well as the sole

curriculum developer and teacher for the Staff Language Program. In addition to his work in China, Matthew is also involved with international student recruitment, attending conferences in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, which focus on global education. Sometimes lost in a city of 20 million people, Matthew still enjoys spending his free time bicycling, writing, and of course, exploring the limitless cultural opportunities which surround him.

Bradford Ladera MAT '12 was recently greeted early (once again) by his second baby boy, Theodore.

Briana Weiland ME '12 is the manager of academic and student affairs at The University of Texas at Austin. She manages the academic and student affairs team in the Master of Science Programs Office. In the life cycle of their 10-month specialized masters degrees, Briana's team is responsible for onboarding admitted students, academic advising, co-curricular student engagement, faculty support, and guiding students to graduation.



Amina Zeghar MAT '12 earned her Masters in Public Health (MPH) from The George Washington University, Milken Institute School of Public Health in May 2018. As part her program she completed a practicum

at APLA Health – The David Geffen Center. Her capstone project, "A Look at Disaster Displacement and its Effects on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) through the Lens of a Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Framework," focused on Puerto Rico post Hurricane Maria, using lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina.

Marc Alongi EdD '13 is the high school director at Sequoyah School in Los Angeles. He helped launch Sequoyah School's high school in 2013 shortly after earning his EdD from USC Rossier. Building on the nearly 60 year old progressive K-8 school in Pasadena, the high school features a four year program for social innovation that asks students to confront the most pressing social and environmental issues of our time. Students travel around Los Angeles to meet and learn from individual stakeholders, organizations, government agencies and policy makers. This year Sequoyah will graduate its first senior class.

Angie De La Rosa MAT '13 is an intervention specialist in the Chino Valley Unified School District where she provides instruction to at-risk students in reading and writing.



Michael Todd Greene EdD '13 is a small business owner. In 2015 he launched DocRD LLC Consulting Services in the field of nutrition. He is an experienced healthcare professional registered with the Commission on Dietetic Registration practicing medical nutrition therapy.

Javy Martinez MAT '13 is the Ed tech director and computer science chair at Sierra Canyon School in Chatsworth, Calif. Javy is tasked with incorporating robotics and e-sports into the school to help it stand out as one of the top computer science schools in Southern California.



Taylor Ainslie ME '14 is the department manager and graduate program coordinator for both the Feminist Studies and the Critical Race & Ethnic Studies (CRES) program at the UC Santa Cruz. Launched in 2014, the CRES program is one of the most rapidly growing majors on campus. Additionally, a minor in Black Studies will debut in 2019. As department manager, Taylor supervises two undergraduate advisors and an administrative assistant; provides graduate student advising; manages the curriculum plans for a PhD program and two majors; coordinates faculty

recruitment, appointment, and promotions; and oversees financial planning and programming.



Leena Bakshi EdD '14 founded the professional development company, STEM 4 Real, committed to providing socially just and culturally relevant STEM teaching and standards-based learning strategies through collaboration, professional learning, instructional materials and children's literature. STEM 4 Real is committed to each and every single child, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, religion or creed the ability to see themselves in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. Lena's company also designs professional learning and curriculum development for schools and districts to develop a common vision and program as needed.



Amber Bradley ME '14, EdD '19 is the senior academic advisor and assistant director of inclusion, diversity, equity and access (IDEA) initiatives at the USC Iovine and Young Academy. Amber provides leadership and guidance to undergraduate and graduate students with a range of services covering admissions, financial aid, academic counseling and advisement, graduation counseling and clearance, records and registration, placement and career services, and student programs. She is active across campus participating in and advising on the school's recruitment and retention of under-represented groups at the student, faculty and staff levels. She provides oversight of existing K-12 pipeline initiatives and works to develop and implement new programs and initiatives that increase access for unrepresented populations to USC and other 4-year institutions that offer degrees focused on arts and technology entrepreneurship. Amber designs the protocol for training on cultural competency, gender differences, disability, sexual harassment, building a climate of equity and inclusion, and other topics designed to increase awareness and support of equity and inclusion values.



Dieuwertje "DJ" Kast MAT '14 is the STEM program manager at USC Joint Educational Project. She received the eSchool News' Distinguished Innovator Award in Education for 2019. This award acknowledges educators, leaders, schools, and

districts using creative and/or groundbreaking strategies to improve education in every classroom and for every student.

Stephanie Osowski EdD '14 is the principal at Yosemite High School in Oakhurst, Calif. She leads all high schools and improves student achievement by nurturing excellent teaching and learning and building a safe and supportive student culture. Stephanie supervises students and staff; uses data to inform decisions about instruction; and engages community members to create the best environment possible for students.

Bryan Pang EdD '14 is an education specialist at the School Transformation Branch, Hawaii Department of Education. Bryan assists transformation branch school improvement administrator in providing on-going support to Complex Areas and the Hawaii Public Charter Schools Commission in order to cultivate their capacity to facilitate and sustain continuous improvement particularly for identified Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) schools. He aims to fully implement a functional tri-level system that is responsive to the needs of schools and students and matches school needs with evidence-based interventions that enable schools to accelerate student outcomes.

Jessica Simpson MAT '14 is an assistant principal in the Eastside Union School District in Lancaster, Calif. She coaches and mentors new and veteran teachers; manages and creates testing schedules; delivers professional development; and applies restorative practices to support students ESL needs. Jessica earned her EdS in educational leadership and administration from George Washington University in August 2017.

USC Rossier Dinner in Washington, D.C.



On Wednesday, March 13, Dean Gallagher hosted 25 current students, alumni and guests for dinner at the historic Morrison-Clark Inn prior to the USC Alumni Association's Women's Conference that was held in Washington, D.C. later in the week.



Yvonne Thevenot MAT '14 is the founder and executive director of STEMKids NYC. She will begin Columbia University Teachers College's PhD in science education program this Fall. In March, Yvonne delivered a keynote address at the United Nations for International Women's Day.

Michele Turner EdD '14 is the executive director of the USC Black Alumni Association. She recently published a book, *Affirmed, Life Lessons in Racial Healing and Transformation*. As an author, Michelle writes about people, race and place and how causalities among these importantly define an individual's culture and value systems. Written as a compilation of thirteen "life lessons", *Affirmed* breaks a silence about being biracial in America: the love, the heartache and the resiliency of an exceptional life transformed through racial healing. Beginning prior to Loving vs. Virginia, *Affirmed* traverses San Francisco and the South, exploring three generations of family evolution. *Affirmed* is not a politically correct memoir. It is not the expression of a tragedy. It is a courageous outpouring of a heart that

beats to the tune of the current racial climate, yet honors a legacy of ancestry. Brutally honest, each lesson confronts the intersections of identity, conformity, tradition and heritage in a manner that exposes the strengths of choice in a changing world.



Acacia Warren EDD '14 is the single subject coordinator for UC Irvine's MAT + Credential Program. She recently published her second book, *Cognitive Upgrade: An Educator's Guide for Shaping Success*. The book

highlights ten principles for maximizing potential and performance in students. If we can upgrade cell phones, clothes, cars, and homes, we most certainly can upgrade our thoughts and beliefs about personal and academic success.

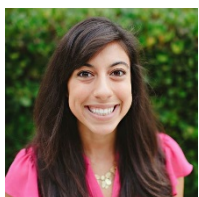


Christopher Bankston MAT '15, EDD '17 is the founder of Ascend Global Language Research Center and is an adjunct faculty member at De Anza College. His company has also entered into the NVIDIA inception program to assist in their research in computational linguistics. Christopher also joined the Linguistics and

Language Development department at San Jose State University as an adjunct faculty member.

Emma Borrmann MAT '15 was elected to a three-year term as a special education adviser to the Utah State Board of Education.

Steven Chai ME '15 is an NBCT teacher at Bakersfield Christian High School in Bakersfield, Calif.



Laura Chase MAT '15 was selected for the Grosvenor Teacher Fellowship through National Geographic and Lindblad Expeditions. In July, she will travel on an Arctic expedition to Greenland, Iceland, and Svalbard

aboard the National Geographic Explorer ship with world class naturalists. The goal of the fellowship is to provide teachers with hands-on field work experiences to bring back to their classrooms and communities. As

part of the fellowship, Laura will design an authentic curriculum around the expedition, and partake in a leadership role at National Geographic. Laura teaches high school biology, chemistry and ESL science in Washington, D.C.



Janet Schmidt ME '15 and her husband, Russell, welcomed Saul Malcom on January 18, 2019.



Jesse Spriggs MAT '15 is a social science teacher in the San Jacinto Unified School District. Jesse currently teaches US and world history, coaches mock trial and is the advisor for the Native American Heritage Club.

Patricia Brent-Sanco EDD '16 is the director of equity, access and instructional services for the Lynwood Unified School District. Patricia oversees all equity programs as well as the state and federal compliance programs in instructional services.

Rosalind Conerly EDD '16 Named the Associate Dean and Director of the Black Community Services Center at Stanford University



Rosalind Conerly EDD '16 is the associate dean and director of the Black Community Services Center at Stanford University. In her role she provides strategy, vision and direction for the center. As a campus partner, Rosalind advocates

within all functional areas of the university including faculty, senior administrators, academic departments, administrative offices, staff, and alumni. She also serves as the primary conduit between and among university offices and departments with particular attention to advocating for the Black undergraduate and graduate students and other marginalized communities on campus.

Lawrence Daves ME '16 was awarded the Change Maker - Outstanding Fraternity/Sorority Advisor Award by the Association of Fraternal Leadership & Values (AFLV) at the AFLV West conference.

Troya Ellis EdD '16 is a part time lecturer in the Stanford Teacher Education Program (STEP) at Stanford University.



Michael Gorse ME '16 is the assistant director of USC LGBT Resource Center. This fall, Michael will begin the PhD in education program with an emphasis in leadership studies at Chapman University. Michael will

continue to serve in their current role at USC while completing his degree at Chapman. He plans to complete research looking at the models and effectiveness of mental health services and support for LGBTQ+ students in higher education. Similar to their time at USC, Michael also will actively advocate and create a more inclusive environment at Chapman for all marginalized students, queering the campus for an equitable and just world.



Cristina Olmo MAT '16 is a teacher in the Ontario Monclair School District.

Hui Qing ME '16 is the assistant director of recruitment at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Hui manages recruitment activities for a portfolio of business masters programs in international markets, currently focusing on Asia.

Kevin Sitz EdD '16 is the director of the writing support center at UC Davis. He was recently awarded the Chancellor's Staff Excellence Award for his leadership regarding the new and innovative Writing Studio at UC Davis.

Samantha Bernstein-Sierra PhD '17 is the assistant director of research and academic affairs for the Joint Educational Project (JEP) located in the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Art and Sciences.

Andrew Gonzales EdD '17 is the assistant director in the Center for Internship and Community Engagement at Cal State Fullerton. He also teaches organizational behavior and business strategy and policy courses at Cal State Fullerton and Cal State Long Beach.



Kristine Poblete EdD '17 is an active duty major in the US Air Force. She was named the Air Force Nuclear and Missile Operations Field Grade Officer of the Year for 2018. Kristine recently led the USAF Global Strike Command's Women's Leadership

Symposium, a professional development event attended by over 200 airmen from across the country, including fellow alumna Lt Gen Stayce Harris, and recognized by the Secretary of the Air Force as a Top 3 Air Force event. The event's success has since sparked the development of women's leadership conferences at three other military bases. Most recently, Kristine was chosen as the guest speaker for the 8th Annual International Women's Circle in honor of National Women's History Month at the Multicultural Center of the South, the only dedicated multicultural center in Louisiana.

Rosalinda Rocha MAT '17 is a fourth grade teacher at Voices College Bound Language Academy, a dual-language public charter school in San Jose, Calif.



Tyriq Simmons MAT '17 is a special education coordinator at AppleTree Early Learning Institute in Washington, D.C.



Michele Wilkens EdD '17 recently presented her dissertation topic, “Manager influences with childcare employee retention and turnover,” at the National After School Association annual conference in NYC, as well as for a national web series of childcare industry leaders. She was published in *After School Today* magazine in Fall 2018 on the topic and recently selected to serve as co-editor for the *Journal of Youth Development's* special issue on the after school workforce (pending spring 2020). Michele is chief academic officer for Right At School, LLC, an international student enrichment provider, and sits on the Board of Directors of the National AfterSchool Association (NAA) and the National Advisory for Digital Learning with NAA and Google.

Valerie Cabanban ME '18 is a student programs advisor at USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

Amelia Carballo MAT '18 is a special education teacher serving students with moderate to severe learning disabilities in the Los Angeles Unified School District.



Jialu Fan MAT '18 is a middle school math teacher at William Jefferson Clinton Middle School in Los Angeles.

Sergio Gil-Billoups MAT '18 is a kindergarten teacher at John Muir Elementary School in San Francisco.



Sorangel Hernandez EdD '18 is the dean of student success and support services at Los Angeles Valley College.

Haley Holton ME '18 is a student success specialist at Arizona State University.



Ashley Naranjo ME '18 is the manager of educator engagement at Smithsonian Institution. Ashley has been accepted by The Getty Leadership Institute at Claremont Graduate University in the NextGen 2019 Executive Education Program for the Next Generation of Museum Leaders.

Katherine Pilkinton EdD '18 is the elementary school principal at Los Feliz STEMM Magnet in Los Angeles.

Shindale Seale MAT '15, EdD '18 is an adjunct professor at University of Redlands teaching organizational change and business communication.



Cami Thomas EdD '18 is a French teacher at Azusa High School. Cami and four of her colleagues from Azusa High School have been accepted into Harvard Graduate

School of Education’s Project Zero for Summer 2019.



Nicole Whitner EdD '18 is the dean of students at Holy Names University in Oakland, Calif. where she provides vision and overall leadership for student development and engagement programs including

student activities, housing and residence life, new student programs, Title IX, student conduct and crisis management.



Sudhakar Ravada EdD '19 received the 2019 International Society for Performance Improvement (ISPI) Distinguished Dissertation Award for his dissertation, “Human performance gap analysis to improve

self-service technology (SST) adoption in an organization,” pursued under guidance of Dr. Ken Yates. He presented his research findings at ISPI’s annual conference in April in New Orleans.



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