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2019 USC Rossier Homecoming Picnic

On October 19, 2019, over 275 alumni, current students and guests gathered for the 2019 USC Rossier Homecoming Picnic prior to the USC-Arizona football game. Picnic guests enjoyed food, drinks, games and a photo booth while reconnecting with old friends and making new connections. The day's festivities ended with a dominating 41-14 win over the Arizona Wildcats. Mark your calendar for Homecoming 2020:

2020 USC ROSSIER HOMECOMING PICNIC

Saturday, November 14, 2020

USC vs. Washington





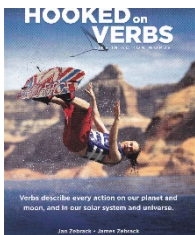
Kimberly White-Smith EdD '04 elected as a Vice President of the California Council on Teacher Education

Kimberly White-Smith EdD '04, professor of education and dean of the University of La Verne's LaFetra College of Education, has been elected as a vice president of the California Council on Teacher Education (CCTE). The CCTE is a nonprofit organization that represents higher education institutions that educate teachers and is dedicated to the continual improvement of the pre- and in-service education of teachers. Kimberly begins her three-year term as vice president in the fall.

1960s

Jack Nelson EdD '61 is currently working on the ninth edition of *Critical Issues in Education* which he co-authored with Stuart Palonsky and Mary Rose McCarthy in 2018.

Daniel Basalone BS '62 and Carmen Basalone will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on July 23. Before retiring in 2009, Dan served for 47 years in various positions in the Los Angeles Unified School District including school principal. In retirement, Dan is currently serving as a founding board member for the Children's Museum of Idaho and completing nine years as a commissioner on the Meridian, Idaho urban renewal board.



Janet Cady Zebrack BS '63 published *Hooked on Verbs*, a book for parents and elementary school teachers interested in expanding their student's knowledge of verbs. This politically-correct, multi-cultural book on verbs celebrates our diverse world and universe. It includes a range of beautifully photographed actions on subjects including sports, emotions, animals, space and occupations. The photographs reflect life in the United States, China, India and Africa. In order to stimulate the discussion of verbs, each page has a question about the action in the photograph. To further expand the discussion there are four possible answers on every page with each verb having some degree of merit.

Don Brann BS '68, EdD '82 is founder of California's Small School Districts' Association (SSDA) and the Da Vinci Schools. He recently stepped away from the El Segundo City Council after eight years, but still serves as board president of the Da Vinci Schools, past president of SSDA and as a search consultant for California district boards seeking new superintendents. Don was the state trustee in Inglewood Unified and served as superintendent of five other California districts spanning five decades. He is not retiring!

1970s



Wilsie Bishop MS '76 went on to earn her doctor of public administration from the USC Price School of Public Policy.

1980s



Deborah Winograd PhD '88 published *Workaches: The Neuroscience Guide to Surviving and Thriving at Work*.

Melanie Crawford BS '89, MS '91 is director, continuous improvement for the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education. She provides direct support to school and district leaders for continuous improvement of systems and supports for academics, behavior and social and emotional learning (SEL). Melanie also facilitates differentiated assistance for eligible districts.

1990s

Paul Gunadi *PhD '90* has been pastor of the First Indonesian Baptist Church in Monrovia, Calif., since 2009. Upon his graduation from USC, he went back to Indonesia and taught counseling in a seminary for 14 years.

Pasquale "Gerry" Catanzarite *EdD '92* retired in 2006, after working 34 years at the Fresno Unified School District as a teacher and principal. For the next three years, Gerry worked at San Joaquin Memorial (Catholic) High School assisting the principal, substituting as a principal at Fresno Unified, and writing a charter, with his friend, Jon Morse, to open a Big Picture School in Fresno. The charter school, Big Picture High School-Fresno, was approved by the Fresno County Office of Education and opened as a middle and high school in July 2009. In 2013-14 an adult diploma program was added. In 2016-17 the school added grades K-6 and became a K-12 plus adults charter school. At that point Gerry became the co-executive director and superintendent and the school was renamed Big Picture Educational Academy. They are now completing their eleventh year of the charter and have dual enrollment contracts with the State Center Community College District. In July 2019 Big Picture Learning presented to Gerry the Seymour Sarason Award "in recognition of his leadership in education reform."



Trudy Arriaga *EdD '93* recently published her second book, *Leading While Female* with co authors, Stacie Stanley and Delores Lindsey. *Leading While Female* draws on the research of feminism, intersectionality, educational leadership and cultural proficiency to break down the barriers and lead the way for future generations of women leaders.

Richard Gilbert *PhD '97* has been included in Marquis Who's Who based on decades of expertise of international development and educational work with

such entities as the Royal Government of Cambodia, the American University of Health Sciences and the National Science Foundation. As in all Marquis Who's Who biographical volumes, individuals profiled are selected on the basis of current reference value. Factors such as position, noteworthy accomplishments, visibility, and prominence in a field are all taken into account during the selection process.

Daniel Mitan *MS '97* was recently promoted to the rank of full-time senior instructor at Florida International University (FIU) in Miami. He teaches acting, stage combat, theatre, and film in the Theatre Department at FIU.

Amy Willerson *MS '97* is a clinical teacher supervisor at the University of North Texas where she supervises and evaluates student teachers in K-12 settings.

Mary Ann Burke *EdD '99* is the co-founder of the [Generational Parenting blog](#). She writes regularly for Corwin Connect, AERA groups, and has written 11 educational books on student achievement and effective parent partnerships with schools. Mary Ann is the co-author with Laura Greenstein on *Student-Engaged Assessment: Strategies to Empower All Learners* that will be published by Rowman and Littlefield in Summer 2020. As a retired public-school administrator and professor, she shares her expertise with educators and school leaders as a trainer, author, curriculum developer, elementary school substitute teacher, and distance learning K-12 tutoring mentor. She has served as a credentialed parent educator and adjunct professor for over thirty years in California's schools. Mary Ann has presented effective parenting and school engagement strategies at numerous state and national parent engagement events.

2000s

Rachel Madsen *ME '02* is an associate professor of business administration/sport management at Ithaca College.

Dyrell Foster EdD '08 named President of Las Positas College



Dyrell Foster EdD '08 was named president of Las Positas College in the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District in Dublin, Calif. The college offers curriculum for students seeking career preparation, transfer to a four-year college or university, or personal enrichment. Las Positas College currently enrolls nearly 8,500 day and evening students.

Dyrell recently served as the vice president of student services at Moreno Valley College. Previously, he served as an administrator at Rio Hondo College, Mt. San Antonio College, Evergreen Valley College, and San Jose State University.

Joyce Perez ME '03, EdD '09 is director, health and biomedical science education at the Keck School of Medicine of USC.



Heather Brunold ME '04, EdD '15 has spent her two-decade career as a thought leader in education specializing in identity development and empowering individuals. Over the last several years, she has curated, directed, and produced more than 50 TED Talks, which have generated millions of views. Building on this skill set, she recently launched the non-profit venture, WORDS2ACTION, which works to bring your unique story to life on the page or on the stage. Heather guides workshops at schools, corporations, non-profits, and works one-on-one with private clients to help participants leverage their personal identities and to craft stories that empower.

Pamela Amaya MA '07 is the magnet coordinator at Helen Bernstein High School in Los Angeles where she oversees administration of the cinematic arts and creative technology magnet program. Pamela also teaches a computer science course.

Adrean Askerneese MFT '05 earned his EdD from the USC Rossier School of Education in 2018.

Therese Bagsit ME '05 is senior associate director, student recruitment and admissions at TESIS The American School in England in London. She is responsible for student and family outreach, recruitment, and enrollment management for day and boarding programs for students ages 3-18.

Teresa Alonzo EdD '06 is associate director of school networks at WestEd. She partners with school and district leaders to build strong instructional leadership teams with a focus on using continuous improvement to support the implementation of California state standards.

Sheila Banuelos ME '08, EdD '11 was recently hired as a full-time, assistant professor of teaching and curriculum coordinator at the USC Rossier School of Education after teaching part-time in the EC and PASA programs for the past six years.

2010s

Charles Flores EdD '10 recently published an article in the *California Association of Professors of Educational Administration (CAPEA) Journal* which he co-authored with Rebecca Cheung and Soraya Sablo Sutton, both former colleagues at the UC Berkeley/Principal Leadership Institute. The article, "Tipping the Balance: Social justice leaders allying with marginalized youth to increase student voice and activism," discusses the manner in which social justice school leaders tip the balance to disrupt the hierarchical relationships between leaders and students, in service of marginalized students.



Martin Jauregui ME '10, EdD '13 and **Yolanda Jauregui MFT '12, EdD '15** welcomed a new member to the Trojan Family, a beautiful little girl named Camila May, born on May 2, 2019 at Kaiser Sunset Hospital.

Christian Teeter EdD '10 is an associate professor, business administration at Mount Saint Mary's University in Los Angeles. He serves as a member of the curriculum and program review committees and teaches courses in business administration and economics.



Amber Hroch ME '11 is director of institutional effectiveness, research and planning at Cerritos College.

Wenli Jen EdD '11 successfully completed the Data Science Program through UC Berkeley Executive Education. She continues to apply data science in her consulting practice.



M. Erez Kats MAT '11 is an assistant coach for the ladies softball team at Evergreen High School in Seattle, Wash. He performs all duties of an assistant coach on a high school sports team (first aid/CPR & concussion/SCA certified).



Ankur Kumar ME '11 is associate director of university access programs at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, Conn.

Jorge Ramirez MA '11 is an instructor of child development in the Department of Child and Family Studies at California State University, Los Angeles and the Department of Child, Family and Education Studies at East Los Angeles College. He is also a California early childhood mentor teacher.



Regina Zurbano EdD '11 became a resident of Menifee last year and was fortunate to be given the opportunity to serve her new community as the proud principal and lead learner of Bell Mountain Middle School, one of four middle schools in the Menifee Union School District.

Bruce Abney MAT '12 was honored as Teacher of the Year for the third time.

Melissa Burns MAT '12 is a teacher, chair of the English department, TEAL coach and east coast tour leader at Magnolia Science Academy 5 in Los Angeles.



Matthew Jellick MAT '12 remains busy in Shenzhen, China, teaching at Southern University of Science and Technology. He recently won the Young Teacher of the Year Award (for the second time), and is currently trying to transfer that award-winning classroom pedagogy into a Zoom platform. In his free time, Matthew seeks out the different Mexican restaurants of Shenzhen (which have reopened), enjoying nothing more than delicious Tacos al Pastor, reminding him of home in Southern California.

Jill Baker EdD '04 Named Superintendent of Long Beach Unified School District



The Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) has chosen its next leader. The Board of Education unanimously chose **Jill Baker EdD '04**, LBUSD's current deputy superintendent of schools, to take over the top job on August 1, 2020. She will be the first woman in the district's 135-year history to be superintendent.

She will oversee a district with more than 71,000 students, nearly tied with Fresno Unified for the third largest in California, according to the most recent state data. LBUSD is also diverse both ethnically and racially, and socioeconomically; a majority of its student population is Hispanic and nearly two-thirds are considered socioeconomically disadvantaged.

Jeff Stevens *MAT '12* is a sixth grade language and literature teacher in the Florence Unified School District in Arizona.

Briana Weiland *ME '12* married Luke Dillard on February 22, 2020 in Palm Springs, Calif.

Natasha Youkhana *MAT-TESOL '12* is a realtor with Compass in Sherman Oaks, Calif.



Owynn Lancaster *MAT '13* is an instructional designer for the Center for Effective Teaching and Learning (CETL) at California State University, Los Angeles. He is responsible for, facilitating workshop-based programming in educational technology, teaching and pedagogy, and best practices for reading and writing. Owynn provides individual consultations and walk-in support for academic technologies, including Canvas, as well as, iClickers, Camtasia, and Zoom. He also supports faculty development and projects as they arise for the senior director of CETL and the director of academic technology.

Elizabeth Arias *MAT-TESOL '14* is an EAL teacher at Jiaxing Nanhu Alliance Bilingual School in Jiaxing, Zhejiang, China. She teaches monolingual Chinese primary school students.

Janna Bernstein *ME '14* received ABD status for her PhD in teaching and learning at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She received Institutional Review Board approval on the first attempt in November 2019 and defended and passed dissertation proposal in February 2020.



Pamela Chaires *MAT '14, EdD '19* welcomed soon to be Trojan, Catalina Ariellah-Gloria Ramirez, to the Chaires family. She was born in Fontana, Calif. on June 3, 2019. Catalina is a high spirited and loving baby. Pamela looks forward to raising her with USC values and a servant leadership foundation.



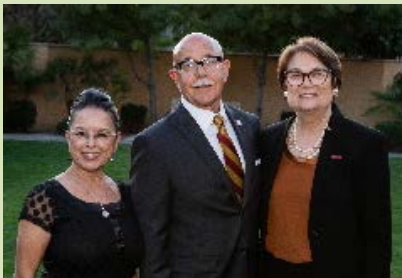
Gerald Corporal *ME '14* is director, alumni career engagement at the UCLA Alumni Association. He is specifically tasked with leading all student-facing career programs. These programs aim to bridge academic theory to professional practice, and connect students with UCLA alumni in a career readiness space. Programs include alumni guest lectures, panels, skills-training programs, and various fellowships.



Dieuwertje "DJ" Kast *MAT '14* was chosen for a 2020 Science Outreach Graduate Fellowship from The National Center for Science Education (NCSE). She is a current EdD student at USC Rossier. The fellowship is a year-long course for six graduate students who work in areas of the country that are underserved when it comes to science. Over the course of the year, the graduate student fellows will focus on informal education pedagogy, science communication, and outreach using hands-on activities they develop based on their own research. By the end of the course, the fellows will be equipped to provide effective community-based science throughout their careers.

Raquel Rall *PhD '14* received the 2020 Stanford Award of Merit given for specific, significant acts of volunteer service. Raquel received the award for serving as the co-chair for the 2019 Stanford Black Alumni Summit. Raquel also co-authored two recently published journal articles: "Toward culturally sustaining governance: Best practices of theory, research, and practice" in the *Journal of Education Human Resources*; and "I, too, am a lead(her): The power and possibilities of women of color on governing boards of higher education in California" in the *Journal of Higher Education Management*.

David Verdugo EdD '05 Inducted into DSAG Hall of Fame



David Verdugo EdD '05 became the 22nd person inducted into the Dean's Superintendent Advisory Group (DSAG) Hall of Fame. He was honored at the DSAG Awards Dinner on January 30, 2020 in Palm Springs, Calif.

David has served a total of 43 years in the field of education, spanning grades K-12. He served as superintendent of schools for the Paramount Unified School District in Los Angeles County for 9 years. He also served as the assistant superintendent of the Placentia-Yorba Unified School District. He has held positions of assistant superintendent, director of secondary education, principal at both elementary and high school levels, as well as teacher and coach.

During his 43 years in the field of education, David's duties have included school facility management; extensive involvement with budget development, implementation of technology programs, employer/employee relations, curriculum and instructional strategies, and organizational development. His experience includes servicing students of diverse populations and socioeconomic levels in urban and suburban settings.

David was named the Association of California Administrators (ACSA) Region XIV Superintendent of the Year. He received the California State University, Long Beach Outstanding Superintendent Leadership Award in 2012 and the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS) National Outstanding Educator Award in 2013.

David is a past governing board member to American Association of School Administrators (AASA) and has addressed and spoken on state and national topics from building a case for reform to the importance of arts in schools. He also served as the executive director of the California Association of Latino Superintendents (CALSA) as well as the former Superintendents Leadership Academy Director for the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents based in Washington, DC.

David has been married to Susanna for the past 47 years. David has six grandchildren.



Tagrina Rayhan (Halim) ME '14 is a program manager at the University of Maryland, College Park.



Joseph Rios EdD '14 published his first book, *Tales of a Displaced Worker*. It chronicles his personal journey from learning that the college where he worked suddenly announced it would close through a year of personal discovery.

Trisha Callella EdD '15 is director, product partnerships at Digital Promise in San Mateo, Calif. She works with global EdTech developers, startups, accelerators, and

thought leaders at the intersection of education, technology, and learning sciences research to help them design and develop features for EdTech products that support learner variability. While at the nonprofit, Trisha has presented on learner variability at conferences across the United States and in Mexico, Israel, and Africa.

Eloy Lopez ME '15 is programs manager at the UCLA Institute for Quantitative and Computational Biosciences (QCBio). He provides academic, administrative and analytic support for the institute and the QCBio Collaboratory, including soliciting financial support and budgeting.



Tim Stowe EdD '03 named Interim Superintendent of Torrance Unified School District

A veteran educator who has served as the district's deputy superintendent since 2016, **Tim Stowe EdD '03** will take on the role of interim superintendent of Torrance Unified School District, effective July 1, 2020. Tim has spent his entire professional career advocating for all students by developing a culture of exceptional learning and teaching. He began with the district in 1992 and has served as the deputy superintendent for the past four years.



Steven Lorick EdD '15 is chief executive officer of Hybrid Zone Performance Institute in Washington, DC. He oversees the growth and development of a global company that leads the golf and fitness education industry in curriculum design, certification training, and the business of sports through fitness and recreation.



Michael Lozano EdD '15 graduated from Harvard University with a second master's degree in management and is an aspiring school administrator.

Brittney McClary ME '15 and Spencer Hathaway welcomed Mylo Hathaway into the world on January 10, 2020 in Tacoma, Wash.



Madeleine Mejia EdD '15 recently received two awards: the Outstanding Leadership Award, Harvard Alumni Association in recognition for going above and beyond the call of duty to make exceptional contributions to the K-12 community and longstanding impact to volunteer leadership; and the Excellence in Education Leadership Award, Harvard Latino Alumni Alliance in recognition for her leadership commitment, education and scholarship to support students, parents and educators at K-12 schools, colleges and universities across Southern California. Madeleine also presented her research, "Creating and maintaining democratic classrooms: The role of students' voice in literacy instruction", at the Harvard Alumni of Color Conference this past February.

Paul Jose Nolan MAT-TESOL '15 is in Panama for Peace Corps Group 86 where he teaches English language and life learning skills.



Taniko (Nickey) Woods EdD '15 was appointed to the assistant dean for diversity, inclusion, and admissions role in UCLA's Graduate Division after serving as a director in student affairs for the past four years. In this capacity, Nickey will oversee outreach, recruitment and admission of prospective students, as well as Graduate Division programming and services to support the academic success of newly enrolled and continuing students. Her team will recruit at national conferences, regional diversity forums and minority-serving institutions; promote the success of faculty and student participants in the UC-HBCU initiative; coordinate summer bridge programs for prospective and entering doctoral students; provide expertise and support for programs seeking to advance graduate student diversity and inclusion; sponsor campus networking events for underrepresented graduate students; sponsor the UCLA Chapter of the Edwin A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society; and provide expertise and leadership on funded projects.

Sarah Yoo MAT '15 is founder and director at Audere, an education consulting agency working in Los Angeles and Seoul, South Korea.

Jessa Forsythe-Crane ME '16 is institutional effectiveness manager at the University of the West in Rosemead, Calif. She provides leadership and coordination of institutional research, learning outcome assessment, and strategic planning.



Julianne Johnston ME '16 got married in June 2017 in Malibu, Calif. and welcomed her first son in September 2018.



John Moran EdD '16 was named chancellor of education for Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa last July. He provides strategic leadership for: Calvary Chapel Schools in Santa Ana; Lake Arrowhead Christian Schools in

Twin Peaks; Calvary Chapel Bible College in Murrietta Hot Springs; and Calvary Chapel School of Worship in Santa Ana. John has held senior leadership posts in Christian schools and colleges since 1990. He has pioneered applied math, science and engineering initiatives to foster the integration of faith and science. He has also fostered robust support for students with learning disabilities and other special needs in Christian education.

Alex Atashi ME '17 is a student services advisor in the PhD in urban education policy program office at the USC Rossier School of Education.



Katie Ciffone MAT '17 is a special education teacher in the Los Gatos Union School District.

Gelli Ann Dayrit ME '17 is the assistant director, alumni relations and events at West Coast University in Irvine, Calif. She is responsible for assisting all activities established for the university alumni program. This includes communications, assisting with public relations, managing events, receptions and community related projects. Gelli Ann is actively engaged in creating and nurturing relationships that will potentiate continued success for alumni and the university as a whole.



Jennifer Burks EdD '18 and Catherine Kawaguchi EdD '14 receive State-wide Honors from the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA)

Each year, 21 Administrators of the Year awards and five special awards are given by ACSA to outstanding California educational leaders and school-community partnership programs. This year, the 2020 awards committee reviewed close to 300 finalist nominations.

USC Rossier alumni were well represented:

Jennifer Burks EdD '18 (top photo), associate superintendent of technology and innovation of Poway Unified School District was named 2020 Technology Administrator of the Year.

Catherine Kawaguchi EdD '14 (bottom photo), superintendent of Sulphur Springs Union School District in Santa Clarita, Calif. received the Marcus Foster Memorial Award for Administrator Excellence. ACSA established the award to honor educators who model the vision of Marcus Foster vision. Foster took risks to improve educational opportunities. His inclusive management style gave community and staff comfort and confidence. He was creative, and willing to try new ideas to reach out to students. Foster was a skilled manager of change.



Tonantzin Oseguera EdD '13 appointed Vice President for Student Affairs at Cal State Fullerton



Tonantzin Oseguera EdD '13 has been appointed to serve as Cal State Fullerton's next vice president for student affairs, effective July 1, 2020. Tonantzin, who has worked in academia for 20 years, was selected for the top post following a national search. She joined the university in 2013 and has helped pave the road to academic success for countless Titans. Tonantzin has held several positions in the Division of Student Affairs and became an associate vice president in 2016, where she first led student engagement overseeing the Diversity Initiatives and Resource Centers, student life and leadership, the WoMen's and Adult Reentry Center and the Dean of Students Office. Her current responsibilities include admissions, outreach and recruitment, educational partnerships and financial aid, among others. She has served the university in various roles, including on the President's Commission for Equity and Inclusion, the Undocumented and Formerly Undocumented Faculty and Staff Association, and as co-chair of the Black Excellence Care Group. A first-generation college graduate, Tonantzin was born and raised in Mexico City.



Catherine Wu MAT-TESOL '17 is a secondary English as an additional language teacher at Taipei European School in Taiwan. She teaches middle school and high school EAL students. Catherine adapts and customizes

curriculum materials based on students' abilities, skills, and progress. She develops and executes the preparation, planning and delivery of EAL classes and activities for students. Catherine also collaborates with subject teachers (geography and history) to plan and teach differentiated lessons for all levels of learn language competences in the mainstream classroom.



Alana Burton EdD '18 is a restorative justice advisor at the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and chief people officer at Rise & Shine Therapy. As a restorative justice advisor, Alana supervises and monitors the quality, frequency, and

level of restorative practices implementation in 30 schools, ranging from early childhood centers to high schools. She helps build systems of support to ensure positive school culture and climate by consulting, conducting needs assessment, collaborating, training, presenting differentiated professional development, building capacity, conducting circles of conversation, and strengthening relationships between and with all school stakeholders with a restorative lens. As the chief

people officer at Rise & Shine Therapy, Alana has created and continues to update human resources and operations systems of support. This includes areas that impact compliance, recruitment for quality talent, hiring procedures, entrance and exit interviewing, on-boarding, the employee handbook, documents, procedures, consulting, client and employee satisfaction, and incentive programs building a positive and efficient work environment that provides quality of service and staff retention.

David Emery EdD '18 finished his AmeriCorps VISTA National Year of Service and started a new position at Booz Allen Hamilton as senior data scientist in Washington, DC. David also received patent (claims accepted) 10,500,316 for an odor neutralizing mask insert on December 10, 2019.

Terri Horton EdD '18 was selected as a keynote speaker to discuss the implications of artificial intelligence on the future of work at the World Literacy Summit organized by Oxford University, United Kingdom in April 2020. She was also featured as an expert in the PEW Research Center Study released in February 2020 on the impact of artificial intelligence on democracy.



Trevor Lane EdD '18 is an associate professor and director of community and economic development at Washington State University in the College of Agriculture, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS) for the WSU Extension.

Andrekka Lanier EdD '18 is an organizational development consultant and training specialist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. She identifies, develops and delivers a variety of interventions for training, interpersonal and professional development, education, organizational development and leadership. Andrekka consults with subject matter experts and provides training activities to diverse laboratory audiences. She develops and delivers organization design studies, strategic planning activities, career management, change management, counseling/conflict resolution and serves as a facilitator for informal mediation. Andrekka is currently piloting a workshop on emotional intelligence and promotes effective diversity and inclusion practices through discussions and interventions at the laboratory.

Nadezda Lederer MAT-TESOL '18 is a part-time ESL instructor in the William S. Hart School District in Santa Clarita, Calif.



Norma Moreno EdD '18 is head of school at Tzu Chi Schools in Walnut, Calif.

Fanisha Muepo EdD '18 is an English teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District teaching ELD and AP literature and composition.

Georgia Steele EdD '18 is chief performance officer for the State of Georgia Department of Revenue. She leads and champions the evolution of the department's performance management strategy by collaborating with respective divisions to evaluate efforts and identify opportunities for improvement as well as driving innovation and performance across all areas of the department.



Demontea Thompson ME '18 married Marilyn Rodriguez on March 27, 2020. They met while both attending USC. Demontea is currently a PhD student in urban schooling at UCLA.

Kira Tomlinson MAT '18 is an adjunct ESL professor at Golden West College. She utilizes teaching tactics to improve English speaking students experience and comprehension of the English language.

Joshua Watson EdD '18 is assistant director of student services at Cummings Graduate Institute for Behavioral Health Studies in Phoenix, Ariz.

Tiffany Badillo Jiménez MAT '19 is a resource teacher for K-2 for the Hawaii Department of Education in Wahiawa, Hawaii.

Jannette Flores EdD '14 received a Fulbright International Education Administrators Award to India



Jannette Flores EdD '14, dean of curriculum and assessment in the Dallas County Community College District, received a Fulbright US Scholar Program award to India. In March 2019, Jannette visited over 20 Indian higher education institutions as part of a project to engage in dialogue about the issues in higher education. The institutions were located in Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad, and Delhi. Jannette is one of over 800 U.S. citizens who taught, conducted research, and/or provided expertise abroad for the 2019-2020 academic year through the Fulbright US Scholar Program.



Morgan Baker ME '19 is a disability specialist in the Disability Services and Programs Office at USC. Everyday, Morgan conducts student meetings and interprets medical documentation to determine

reasonable accommodations. In addition to supporting a dedicated caseload of 400 students, Morgan serves as a liaison to campus partners and partakes in the management of day-to-day operations. This position also assists with the development and implementation of disability-related policy and programming at USC. As a deaf-disabled woman, she is looking forward to pursuing her passion of disability representation in higher education at her alma mater.

Donna Gallup EdD '19 has a co-authored journal article in publication for the *Journal of Social Work Education*, "Addressing a homeless sector workforce deficit through field education: A pilot program," which is based on research from a consulting project she led.

Stephanie German ME '19 is an academic advisor in the USC Thornton School of Music.

Audrey Grauer ME '19 is a second grade teacher at Westside Neighborhood School in Playa Vista, Calif. where she is enjoying the co-teaching model.

MJ Marggraff EdD '19 is co-founder and principal investigator at Kinoo, a Silicon Valley team of entrepreneurs with success in technology, children's play, and learning. Kinoo, a startup, has developed a new way for parents and grandparents to increase their participation and impact their kids' and grandkids' well-being and development. MJ is applying this technology to help astronauts participate in the lives of their young children when they are on long-duration space missions.

Melissa Rozansky MAT-TESOL '19 is an adult English language teacher at English Language Center (ELC), Los Angeles.



Jessica Weinberg ME '19 is a school counselor in the Santa Rita Union School District in Salinas, Calif.

IN MEMORIAM



Dr. Ruben Zepeda II EdD '05, superintendent of schools for the Keppel Union School District and resident of Palmdale, CA, passed away unexpectedly on March 6, 2020, at the age of 59. In Dr. Zepeda's 34 years in public education, his achievements were many; his primary focus was to improve student achievement and to promote student's social and emotional wellness. His life was dedicated to the students and their parents advocating for high-quality public education. His motto was, "Take a stand and have a backbone for kids!"

In the summer of 1978 at the age of 16, Dr. Zepeda found his biggest supporter, best friend, and the love of his life at a leadership camp at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). At the time, Ruben Zepeda II was the ASB President at Cerritos High School, and Sarah Angelina Magaña was the ASB President at North Torrance High School, both located in California. Ruben and Sarah were married in July 1984 after completing their college degrees. The Zepeda's developed an unwavering love for one another. Their relationship was built upon a foundation of trust, family, service to others, and deep faith in God.

Dr. Zepeda is survived by his wife **Dr. Sarah Magaña Zepeda EdD '17**; his mother Martha Zepeda; brother Gilbert Zepeda, wife Julianne and sister Maria Merchant, husband Stephen. He is also survived by the hundreds of students he dedicated himself to over the last 34 years. Not to mention all the children who will not have the opportunity to know the person Dr. Zepeda was, and what he stood for. But fortunately, they will be able to benefit from what he was able to accomplish in the short time he was with us.