Welcome!
Over the past few months we collected more than 125 updates from Rossier alumni for Class Notes. If you would like to submit an update for the Spring 2018 issue, click here.

Fight On!
Matt DeGrushe ME ’04
Director of Alumni Engagement

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The USC Rossier Career Network is an online networking and mentorship platform designed to connect members of the Rossier Family (students, alumni, faculty and staff).

Some of the platform features that facilitate and support meaningful connections include: Searchable Member Directory, Built-in Messaging Platform, Ask a Question to Entire Community, Join Groups, Share Job Leads, Learn about Events, Explore Resources.

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2017 USC Rossier/DSAG Leadership Conference

On July 20, over 250 alumni, current students and guests attended the 2017 USC Rossier/DSAG Leadership Conference at the USC Radisson Hotel. The event kicked off with a keynote address by Shaun Harper titled “Racially Responsive Leadership in Schools and Colleges.” Harper is executive director of the USC Race and Equity Center. The keynote was followed by nine breakout sessions focused on career pathways in educational leadership for aspiring leaders, a session on networking strategies for women, timely sessions dealing with issues around free speech and hate crimes for both K-12 and higher education administrators, and a discussion on the implementation of state accountability plans on college readiness and educational outcomes. In total, the conference featured 32 speakers. The event concluded with a networking reception. You can view pictures from the conference on our Flickr page and see tweets from the event by searching #USCEdConf on Twitter.
Before 2000s

Les Wilbur  PhD '62 published a book “Destination USC: Via Pluck, Luck and the GI Bill” that tells his personal story from being a working class kid who helped his father work a clapped out gold mine to becoming a renowned educator and a tenured professor at USC.

Marvin Marshall  EdD '68 published a new “Without Stress” book, which is available online.

Dale Manolakas  MS '71 AMED '82 PhD '83 JD '85 is a top 100 legal thriller author. After a lifetime of writing poetry, books, nonfiction and legal documents, it was author Ray Bradbury’s friendship and encouragement that finally inspired Dale to pursue writing as a career.

James Rivet  EdD ’99 is the partnership director of the western region of Follett Inc.

2000s

Tomas Aguirre  MS ’01 EdD ’12 is the vice president for student life at SUNY (State University of New York), Delhi.

Gina Moses  ME ’02 is the director of admissions at NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine in Old Westbury, N.Y. Gina oversees two medical school campus sites in admissions, recruitment and the processing of over 7,000 applications from across the nation.

Jennifer Harris  PhD ’03 and her colleagues created a brand new master of science program in applied behavior analysis at USC, housed in the Psychology Department. Classes began in fall 2017 and are open to graduate students across departments.

Kristen Gates  EdD ’05 is the director of research, education and planning in the Yuba Community College District in Yuba City, Calif. In this role, Kristin leads district-wide research and planning and institutional effectiveness activities that work to continuously improve levels of student success.

Anna  (Weidhofer) Moore  EdD ’05 was reappointed for a four-year post on the Committee on Accredidation at the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. She also moved from educational support services at the Sonoma County Office of Education to the North Coast School of Education, where she directs the administrative credentialing programs.

Jacqueline Perez  EdD ’05 is the assistant superintendent of instructional support at Riverside Unified School District.

Sarah Peyre  MS ’05 EdD ’08 is the associate dean for innovative education and the executive director of the Institute for Innovative Education at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

Dana Udall  PhD ’05 is the head of psychology at Ginger.io, a digital mental health program for people with depression and anxiety.

David Dunstan  MS ’06 EdD ’14 was promoted to director of student support and intervention at the district office of Antelope Valley Union High School District. David supports the English Learner program in the district, the Antelope Valley Migrant Education Program Consortium, and the International Student Exchange program. He also published an article titled “Sustaining Arts Programs in Public Education” in the winter 2016 edition of the Journal of School Administration and Research Development.
Gregory Anderson EdD ’07 Appointed Saddleback College President

Gregory Anderson EdD ’07 has been appointed Saddleback College’s new president following a unanimous vote by the South Orange County Community College Board of Trustees.

Anderson has worked as a faculty member, director, dean and vice president in the California Community Colleges for the past 12 years, most recently as vice president of planning, research and institutional effectiveness for the San Mateo County Community College District. Prior to that he served as vice president of instruction at Cañada College. In addition to gaining tenure and serving as president of the Academic Senate at De Anza College, Anderson taught for over 20 years and managed programs at colleges and universities in Southern California and around the world.

Jude Higdon EdD ’07 is the chief information officer at Bennington College in Bennington, Vt.

Matthew Horvath EdD ’07 is the assistant superintendent for human resources at Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District.

Erin Kunkle MAT ’07 is the coordinator of curriculum and instruction and Bellevue Public Schools in Bellevue, Neb.

2010s

Steve Martinez EdD ’10 received the 2017 Gold Ribbon and Title I Academic Achieving School distinction as the principal of John Burroughs Middle School in Los Angeles.

James Moss EdD ’10 was appointed by Governor Gary R. Herbert to the Utah State Charter School Board. James is the managing partner of Payne & Fears LLP’s Salt Lake City office and continues to work extensively with California clients from the firm’s Irvine office. He represents employers in state and federal courts and before administrative agencies in all areas of employment law, including wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment, breach of contract, class actions, and trade secret litigation. He has obtained summary judgment or trial victories in numerous employment law cases. James also serves on the Education Committee of the Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Sumun Pendakur EdD ’10 hired as Chief Learning Office for USC Race & Equity Center

Sumun Pendakur EdD ’10 has returned to USC Rossier to spearhead new efforts aimed at improving equity and inclusion within organizations.

The USC Race and Equity Center has hired Pendakur to be its first chief learning officer. She previously served as associate dean for institutional diversity at Harvey Mudd College, in Claremont, Calif., and was that school’s co-chief diversity officer.

Pendakur’s reputation as a leader has been won through many years of work at multiple institutions. She had a seat on the president’s cabinet at Harvey Mudd College, and spent more than seven years working for USC Asian Pacific American Student Services, including five years as director.

She received the 2011 USC Rossier Dissertation of the Year Award for her study, "The Search for Transformative Agents: The Counter-Institutional Positioning of Faculty and Staff at an Elite University."

She serves on the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education Board of Directors, keynotes and presents annually at national conferences and publishes extensively about a range of equity-related topics.
Jame’l Hodges EdD ’17 is the associate vice president for Student Success and Engagement at Virginia State University.

Anthony Ikehara MAT ’17 is a senior English teacher at Maple Leaf International School in Wuhan, China.

Tyler Kyle MAT ’17 is a sommelier and wine educator at John Anthony Vineyards in Napa, Calif., where she provides wine education outside in the vineyard and in downtown Napa in both English and Spanish.

Antonio Raddi MAT ’17 is a social studies teacher at Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory School in Hollywood, Fla.

Dina Bissonnette MAT ’12 is a mathematics teacher at Scots College in Wellington, New Zealand.

Marcellus Brookshaw ME ’12 is the career transition services director at the Sacramento Job Corps Center.

Lee Desser ME ’12 is a career advisor at University of California, San Diego.

Andrea Elzy ME ’12 EdD ’17 is the director of student development at City Colleges of Chicago.

Mark Gomez EdD ’12 is an assistant principal of curriculum and instruction in the Pomona Unified School District. In this role, Mark is responsible for development of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) on campus, AP testing and teacher development and assisting in educational technology, ELs and other duties that the assistant principal job entails.

Marisa Herrera EdD ’12 is the vice president for students, equity and success at Shoreling Community College in Seattle, Wash. In this role, she leads veterans programs, advising, success coaching, counseling, tutoring, multicultural center, center for women and gender equity, athletics, youth re-engagement programs, high school programs, disability services, assessment and testing services, community integration and employment program, Title IX, conduct, and student life with a commitment to educational equity and inclusion.

Cecilia Santiago-Gonzalez EdD ’12 is the director of strategic initiatives for student success at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

William Yadron MAT ’12 is a learning specialist at Flossmoor School District in Flossmoor, Ill.

Whitney Hannaford Hahn MAT ’13 is a part of the founding staff at Democracy Prep at the Agassi Campus in Las Vegas. Her role as a writing teacher involves teaching ninth grade students how they can use writing to effect change in the world around them. Democracy Prep is a network of open-enrollment, high-performing public charter schools teaching students to work hard, go to college and change the world.

Jeanette Jimenez MAT ’13 is a teacher at Fullerton Joint Union High School District.

Owynn Lancaster MAT ’13 is the curriculum developer at Education Management Systems.

Angela Lopez MAT ’13 is a special education teacher at Clayton County Public Schools in Jonesboro, Ga. In this role, Angela works with eight students with disabilities. She provides each student with independent learning experiences with a focus on individual education plan goals, as well as life and social skills enrichment. They work together to accomplish these goals, with each student participating actively and fully in his or her own goal achievement. Every day is an enriching experience for Angela as she guides each student to reaching their fullest potential and to become a positive member of society.
Josefina Martinez MAT ’13 is a first grade teacher at Camino Nuevo Charter Academy, Jose A. Castellanos Campus.

Daniel Assisi EdD ’14 leads the operations team at California Charter Schools Association (CCSA), the advocacy and membership organization serving over 1,250 charter public schools and over 600,000 students. CCSA helps increase student learning in California by providing high-quality options for parents so no student is denied the right to a great public education. Daniel’s areas of responsibility include data, operations, information technology, membership, conference and events, diversity and inclusion, as well strategic planning.

Janna Bernstein ME ’14 is the assistant director of leadership and scholar development at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. In this role, Janna engages students in curricular and co-curricular exploration of leadership and civic engagement. She also oversees the administration and curriculum development of an 18 credit leadership and civic engagement minor, facilitates co-curricular leadership programs and manages the endowed Engelstad Scholars Program.

Denalee Choy EdD ’14 is the director of communications and extended school programs at the Hongwanji Mission School in Honolulu.

Jessica Cowan ME ’14 is the collegiate engagement specialist at the New Memphis Institute in Memphis, Tenn.

Michael Gotto EdD ’14 is the director of human resources at the Norwalk-La Miranda Unified School District in Norwalk, Calif.

Five Rossier Alumni Appointed as First-Time Superintendents

Roxanne Fuentes EdD ’15 was named superintendent at Berryessa Union School District in San Jose, Calif. Previously, Roxanne was the assistant superintendent of educational services in the El Rancho Unified School District in Pico Rivera, Calif.

Brett Geithman EdD ’09 was named superintendent at Larkspur-Corte Madera School District in Northern California. Previously, Brett was assistant superintendent of educational services for the Manhattan Beach Unified School District.

David Haglund EdD ’09 was named superintendent of Pleasanton Unified School District. Previously, David was deputy superintendent of education services and chief academic officer for the Santa Ana Unified School District.

Betsy Hamilton EdD ’12 was named superintendent of Lawndale Elementary School District. Previously, Betsy was assistant superintendent of education services at Lawndale Elementary School District.

Crystal Turner EdD ’13 was named superintendent of Saddleback Unified School District. Previously, Crystal was assistant superintendent of administrative services in the Tustin Unified School District.
Jane Hutchinson  MAT ’14 is a history teacher in Chicago Public Schools.

Daisy Jauregui  MAT ’14 is a new teacher induction coach at Alliance College-Ready Public Schools.

Arnold Laanui  EdD ’14 is a special agent with the FBI in Honolulu, Hawaii. In addition to his work as investigator, Arnold conducts research, outreach and serves as an official spokesman for the FBI. He has been running a successful Adopt-a-School program since 2009 that was recently featured on the FBI website.

Stanley Liu  MAT ’14 is the assistant director of admission at USC.

Oscar Macias  EdD ’14 was selected as the ACSA Region XV Middle School Principal of the Year for 2016-17. Oscar works at Luther Burbank Middle School in the Burbank Unified School District. Luther Burbank Middle School was recognized as a Gold Ribbon School and for having exemplary arts education and career technical education programs.

Acacia Warren  EdD ’14 published her first book, Project-Based Learning Across Disciplines: Plan, Manage, and Assess Through +1 Pedagogy, with a forward by USC Rossier professor Maria Ott. It provides a comprehensive problem-based learning curriculum for K-12 educators. Acacia also submitted a proposal to open a STEAM Magnet Middle School in LAUSD. The proposal was accepted by the Board of Education and is set to open in the fall of 2018.

Maritza Williams  MAT ’14 is a third grade teacher at Curtis School.

Christine Wilson  EdD ’14 is the executive director of Knox Presbyterian Church Nursery School and on the faculty of child development at Los Angeles Trade Technical College.

Theresa (Exum) Bolden  ME ’15 is the assistant director of academic services in the Washington State University Athletic Department, where she coordinates all advising for student-athletes.

Erin Cooper  MAT ’15 welcomed her third daughter, Eleanor Grace Cooper, with husband, Edward, on Aug. 12, 2016.

John Epstein  EdD ’15 is the assistant principal of Milford High School in Milford, Del. In this role, John provides service leadership to the mission and vision of the school and makes recommendations to the principal concerning the school’s administrative procedures and program of instruction.

Alice Huguet  PhD ’15 is an associate policy researcher at RAND Corporation.

Nicole Marshall  MAT ’15 is the ESL director at St. Mary’s Parish Annapolis.

Adam Tekurio  ME ’15 is an account manager at London Business School, where he manages external client relationships with partner organizations and corporations for executive development and learning programs.

Mary Angell  ME ’16 is an undergraduate advisor for the computer science and engineering department at University of California, San Diego.
Tessa Castillo MAT ’16 is a kindergarten teacher in the San Diego Unified School District.

Byron Gatton MAT ’16 is a science teacher at Duke Ellington School of the Arts in the District of Columbia.

Miguel Gonzales EdD ’16 is an assistant professor of education psychology and higher education at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, College of Education.

Megan Mekjian MAT ’16 is a teacher, director and choreographer at California School of the Arts, San Gabriel Valley.

Chad Smith EdD ’16 is the principal at Balsz Elementary School in Phoenix, Ariz.

Shannon Soto EdD ’16 is the associate superintendent of business services at Oceanside Unified School District.

Curtis Stimach MAT ’16 is a general education teacher for sixth grade math and science in the Reef-Sunset Unified School District in Avenal, Calif.

Two Rossier Alumni Receive Widney Alumni House Awards

On Sept. 13, the USC Alumni Association hosted their annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner at Town & Gown. Two Rossier alumnae received the Widney Alumni House Award – Maggie Chidester EdD ’95 and Shelly Lang EdD ’04. The Widney Alumni House Award recognizes the outstanding contributions of volunteers through service to the Trojan Family.

Congratulations Maggie and Rochelle and thank you for your volunteer service!
This past May, Rossier conferred 631 degrees to students representing 11 programs – four that hooded doctors and seven that awarded master’s degrees. This year marked the first graduating cohort from the Organizational Change and Leadership program, launched at Rossier in January 2015.

**CLASS OF 2017**

**Katherine Ampaw ME ’17** is an academic advisor at the University of California, Davis.

**Alex Atashi ME ’17** is a project specialist in the Center for Education, Identity, and Social Justice at USC Rossier. The center was founded on Feb. 1, 2017 by its co-directors, Professor Shafiqa Ahmadi and Professor Darnell Cole. Its mission is to facilitate productive and meaningful interactions among students, educators and community members. In particular, they examine how multiple identities such as religion, ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation and disability intersect to foster shared values and democratic ideals. As project specialist, Alex helps with each aspect of the center’s work, including its research, events, communication and overall logistics.

**Maria Baghasarian MFT ’17** is a clinician at Hathaway-Sycamores in Pasadena, Calif.

**Nathan Baskett MAT ’17** is a sixth grade teacher at McKinley Elementary in the Santa Barbara Unified School District.

**Emily Boghoskhan MAT ’17** is a third grade teacher at Chamlian Armenian School in La Crescenta, Calif.

**Azalea Bohorquez MAT ’17** is a fifth grade math and science teacher at David Cox Road Elementary in Charlotte, N.C.

**Julie Brandon EdD ’17** is a principal in the Fullerton School District.

**Serina Bravo ME ’17** is a student programs advisor in the graduate and international programs office at USC Gould School of Law.

**Hannah Brent MAT ’17** is a mathematics teacher at the Palmdale Aerospace Academy.

**Kimberly Brower EdD ’17** is the associate director of instructional design at USC Marshall School of Business.

**Juliana Calhoun EdD ’17** is the assistant director of the Kortschak Center for Learning and Creativity at USC.

**Courtney Canatsey MAT ’17** is an English teacher for the New York City Department of Education in Brooklyn, N.Y.
Elizabeth Castro ME ’17 is an adjunct faculty member at Pasadena City College.

Jenee Corum EdD ’17 is a school counselor at Gladstone High School in the Azusa Unified School District.

Andrea Cota EdD ’17 is an English teacher and administrative intern at Foothill High School in the Shasta Union High School District in Palo Cedro, Calif.

Julia Cramer MFT ’17 is a clinical therapist at Rossier Educational and Mental Health Enterprises, Inc. for at risk students at two middle schools in the Garden Grove School District.

Ayanna Davis EdD ’17 is a principal in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Danielle Fischoff Lev ME ’17 is the associate director of admissions at Columbia Law School.

Vilma Fuentes ME ’17 is an adjunct counselor at El Camino College in Torrance, Calif.

Daniel Galván EdD ’17 is a research analyst at Golden West College in Huntington Beach, Calif.

Jovany Gaucín ME ’17 is an adjunct counselor at East Los Angeles College.

Sandy Ghoubrial ME ’17 is a program coordinator at USC.

Carina Gonzalez ME ’17 is a STEM peer mentor coordinator at the University of La Verne. In this role, Carina developed a peer mentoring program to provide support for first-generation, Hispanic, low-income students majoring in STEM fields.

Cindy Guardado EdD ’17 is a middle school principal at Ingenium Schools in Winnetka, Calif.

Trent Hall EdD ’17 taught AP literature, world literature, American literature and humanities at Poway Unified School District in San Diego.

Jeremy Hart EdD ’17 is a professor of counseling at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, Calif.

Shannon Hebroni MAT ’17 is a fifth grade teacher at Brentwood Science Magnet School.

Paul Gothold EdD ’17 named Superintendent of Schools for San Diego County Office of Education.

Paul Gothold EdD ’17, a 25-year educator who has championed educational equity, was named the next San Diego County Superintendent of Schools.

Led by the San Diego County superintendent of schools, the San Diego County Office of Education provides 42 school districts with financial oversight and curricular and professional development support, in addition to developing countywide educational initiatives. The organization also educates 10,000 of the county’s most vulnerable students through its Juvenile Court and Community Schools program.

"Dr. Gothold is a true leader who has demonstrated an ability to raise educational outcomes and overall student success for not just some students, but for students at all levels," San Diego County Board of Education President Rick Shea said. "San Diego schools are some of the strongest in the nation. We also have some of the toughest challenges. With Paul at the helm, we anticipate increased academic opportunities for the students we serve, and deeper collaboration with our partner districts to further elevate achievement for our more than 500,000 students across San Diego County."

Gothold is the former superintendent of Lynwood Unified School District, a 15,000-student district in Los Angeles County recognized nationally this year for boosting Advanced Placement enrollment and exam passing rates. His work was featured in the Spring 2017 issue of USC Rossier magazine.

Jennah Jones EdD ’17 is the executive director of student affairs at the University of California, Irvine School of Law.
Michelle King EdD ’17 Named 2017 National Superintendent of the Year by NASS

The National Association of School Superintendents (NASS) announced Michelle King EdD ’17 as its 2017 National Superintendent of the Year.

“Michelle exemplifies what it takes to be a leader,” said NASS President Tom Armelino. “She has a mindset in place to confront equity issues and the achievement gap, and has a strategy in place to do what is best for all students.”

NASS’ annual award recognizes exemplary leadership skills, including evidence of productive innovations, and of effective communications. Honorees also have demonstrated success with growth in student enrollment, integrity in service, models of relationship building and positive leadership with equity and social justice.

Since stepping up to lead the nation’s second-largest school district in January 2016, King has called on communities throughout Southern California to support LAUSD in achieving its goal of 100 percent graduation.

She has spent time in the Los Angeles area in dialogue with students, families, educators and community members about their aspirations and concerns. She has been a vocal champion of diversity, of continuously encouraging students to dream without limits and of working and studying hard to achieve those dreams. During her tenure, the District has reached record highs in graduation rates.

Erica Kirk ME ’17 is an undergraduate student services advisor in the University of California, San Diego Urban Studies and Planning program.

Philip Lantz ME ’17 is an adjunct counselor at El Camino College.

Jeanmarie Levy ME ’17 is the assistant director of orientation programs at University of California, Santa Barbara.

Xiomara Lopez ME ’17 is a counselor and coordinator of the Chicano/Latino Cultural Resource Center at University of California, Santa Barbara.

Andreina Lucero ME ’17 is an adjunct counselor at Rio Hondo College in Whittier, Calif.

Shuo Ma ME ’17 is a behavior technician at Northwest Behavior Associates in Seattle.

Brittany Manzer EdD ’17 is a career and technical education specialist in the Ventura County Community College District.

Bree Martin MAT ’17 is a resource specialist at Orange Unified School District.

Erica Martinez MAT ’17 is a kindergarten teacher at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School in Hanford, Calif.

Solomon Matthews ME ’17 is the academic and career specialist in the Master’s Programs Office at USC Rossier. In this role he serves as the academic advisor for the post secondary administration and student affairs (PASA) and educational counseling (EC) programs and is responsible for planning career and professional development programming.

Alejandra Meza ME ’17 is an academic advisor at USC Dornsife where she advises the philosophy, politics, and law majors.

Stacy Millsap MAT ’17 teaches 10th and 11th grade English teacher at CHAMPS Charter High School of the Arts in Van Nuys, Calif.

Brenda Montaine EdD ’17 is on a year long leave of absence from the Simi Valley Unified School District as she relocates to Arlington, Va. Brenda is excited to be a class champion for the Class of 2017.

Yvonne Monteverde MFT ’17 is a mental health therapist at Pacific Clinics in Santa Fe Springs, Calif.

John Moran EdD ’17 is the superintendent of Brethren Christian Schools in Huntington Beach, Calif. In this role, he leads all aspects of school strategy and operations.
Tara O'Connor MFT ’17 is a MST clinicial at Community Options for Families and Youth.

Kimberly Olson ME ’17 is a learning specialist for football at the University of Utah. Kimberly provides one-on-one academic support for at-risk student athletes on the football team. She assists with planning class assignments, developing time management skills, studying, reading comprehension, note taking and other skills. Her main goal is to ensure her students feel supported and can eventually become self-regulated learners.

Maria Parker EdD ’17 is an assistant principal in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Hayley Peltz ME ’17 is a student services advisor at USC.

Jennifer Ray ME ’17 is a retention specialist at California State University, Fullerton. In this role, Jennifer facilitates degree completion and progress for undergraduate students by assisting with registration, petition processes and career services while working with students on academic probation. As a member of the student success team, she provides a web of support services to students.

Kelsey Shook ME ’17 is a resident director in a first-year residence hall at University of California, Riverside.

Micki Smith MFT ’17 is a field-based therapist for Almansor Clinical Services – The Institute for the Redesign of Learning in multiple community locations, including school sites, client’s home, clinic site, parks and other sites as needed.

Helene Sparangis ME ’17 is a career programs coordinator at USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

Dana Tanigawa EdD ’17 is a content and programs coach for grades three through six at the Hawai‘i Department of Education in Waipahu.

Audrey Vera MFT ’17 is a mental health therapist at the Fred Finch Youth Center in Oakland, Calif. In this role, Audrey works with adolescents and teenagers who are at risk of losing foster home placement or in need of higher level care due to severely maladaptive behaviors.

Divina Vidales EdD ’17 is a student services and admissions advisor for distance learning at USC Annenberg.

Catherine Vogl MFT ’17 is a therapist at Cate Vogl Psychotherapy in Beverly Hills, Calif. Catherine’s areas of specialty include couples and individuals experiencing depression, anxiety, or trauma. She also works at a residential treatment center for adolescents.

Hugo Yepez ME ’17 is a program manager of summer and special programs at Brown University.

Xiaoxi Zeng MAT ’17 is a teacher at EIC Premier Only in Beijing, China.

Krystle Zhang ME ’17 is a student services advisor at USC Price School of Public Policy.