Congratulations to our 13 Fulbright Scholars!
More Fulbright Scholars have been selected from USC than from any other U.S. university. These grants support one year of independent study, research and teaching in one of over 140 countries around the world. Nearly 9,000 students across the U.S. competed for 1,800 available grants.

Let the Games begin!
This summer USC will proudly host the 2015 Special Olympics World Games, which will bring together 7,000 athletes representing 177 nations in a celebration of acceptance and diversity. During the Games, our summer programs will be limited and campus tours may be disrupted. Visit www.usc.edu or www.usc.edu/visitusc to check program availability before making your travel plans.

Donations to Colleges Reach Record High
According to the Council for Aid to Education's annual survey, USC received the third highest number of donations in 2013 (the last year for which figures are available). As of December 2014, the university's Campaign for USC had reached nearly $4 billion of its $6 billion fundraising goal. A substantial portion of these funds will be used to support student scholarships and academic priorities.

As part of USC's new digital humanities initiative, students use facial scanning technology to create virtual characters.

How Far Can You Go with the Humanities at USC?

“What can you do with a degree in philosophy...? Or history...? Or anthropology?”

THIS IS WITHOUT A DOUBT THE ONE QUESTION that students in the humanities get from friends, families, even strangers. For students fortunate enough to experience the depth and breadth of a liberal arts education within the context of a major research university, the answers have always been clear. Besides acquiring extensive knowledge in one field, students gain the keys to launching a successful career and navigating the challenges of the 21st century: the ability to write clearly and compellingly, conduct original research and most important, to think critically and across disciplines.

At the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, students gain unique advantages found nowhere else. In 2006, the College partnered with the nation’s top-ranked School of Cinematic Arts and the Institute for Multimedia Literacy (IML) to establish the Multimedia in the Core Program, which united General Education courses with multimedia labs. Since then, multimedia studies have been incorporated into upper-division courses, giving students across all majors the tools for communicating in the digital age, from website design to filmmaking and social media. Partnerships with the Game Innovation Lab add skills in computer animation and virtual reality. As Peter Mancall, vice dean for the humanities, puts it: “AT THE END OF THE DAY, THE CORE OF THE HUMANITIES IS ABOUT TELLING STORIES, USING ALL FORMS OF MEDIA.”

In 2014, a $1.9 MILLION GRANT FROM THE MELLON FOUNDATION HELPED LAUNCH A “DIGITAL HUMANITIES” INITIATIVE through Dornsife College, the School of Cinematic Arts, and University Libraries. Though the grant will primarily support doctoral and postdoctoral research, funds will also support digitization and storage of research materials, best practices workshops, undergraduate summer fellowships and coursework toward a digital humanities certificate through the IML.

So, while the humanities are in many ways truly timeless, they are also a realm in which the possibilities are just beginning.
Teach Your Students How To “Game” The System

Five years ago, the USC Rossier School of Education enlisted the experts in our top-ranked Game Innovation Lab at the USC School of Cinematic Arts to create Mission: Admission, one of the first games to help high school students hone the skills necessary to navigate the application process. Since then, the number of online games, apps and websites aimed at college access has exploded.

**THE GAMING APPROACH HAS PROVED HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL WITH MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR SEVERAL REASONS.** It meets them where they are, employing the game mechanics they have internalized throughout their lives: elements like points, badges and multiple “lives.” Students can cultivate strategies that support college-going within a safe and playful environment, where mistakes — such as missing a FAFSA deadline — don’t have real-world consequences.

The biggest challenge counselors now face is helping their students select, from hundreds of options, those that will serve them best.

**Game On! USC’s Free Suite of College Admission Games**

**FUTUREBOUND**
This role-playing game guides students through the transitions from middle school to high school, college and career. Along the way, students face various challenges, from meeting deadlines to confronting with their own self-doubt, to explore their passions and interests.

[interactive.usc.edu/project/futurebound/](interactive.usc.edu/project/futurebound/)

**MISSION: ADMISSION**
In this whimsical -- and effective -- Facebook app, players must balance their academic coursework and extracurricular activities with navigating the financial aid application process. Players not only learn how to apply for financial aid, but how to make sound financial decisions and prepare for their college of choice.

[https://apps.facebook.com/missionadmission](https://apps.facebook.com/missionadmission)

**APPLICATION CRUNCH**
A “no-tech” card game where players role-play engaging characters in a college application process. Request your free copy by e-mailing zcorwin@rossier.usc.edu

**Who gains the most from games?**
First-generation and low-income students stand to gain the most from games. Studies show that, while 95 percent of low-income eighth-graders aspire to college, only 7 percent will actually graduate from a four-year college, compared with 85 percent of their high-income peers. Games and apps can serve as knowledgeable “nurturers” or “naggers”– and make a difference in closing the college-going gap.

**collegeappmap.org:**
**A great tool for counselors**
This tool offers “best of the best” recommendations for mobile and web-based apps that inform, inspire and guide students through the college access and application process. Recommendations are based on grade level and function (such as exploring career options or identifying colleges to apply to). Apps are selected via a rigorous process in the College Knowledge Challenge, conducted by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

**Which games to choose?**
Dr. Zoe Corwin, co-creator of Mission: Admission and lead researcher of a federally funded grant to study the behaviors and outcomes of college game-playing, has a couple of tips for counselors:

- **APPS ARE GREAT FOR KEEPING STUDENTS ORGANIZED,** sharing info, calculating financial aid and other tasks.
- **GAMES ARE USEFUL FOR TEACHING STRATEGIES,** boosting aspirations and providing students with opportunities to experiment in virtual space. According to Corwin, there is one essential rule: To benefit, students need to play a game multiple times. Improved results and deeper understanding begin to occur only after two or three sessions.
TROJAN VOICES   Getting the Humanities Edge

We asked three students with liberal arts majors to describe the unique advantages they have gained by delving broadly and deeply into the humanities at USC.

Joyce Feinman ’12
Alumna
Arlington, Massachusetts
Major: History
Minor: French

AS A CHILD I LOVED ANY BOOK ABOUT HISTORY, and my favorite vacations were to places like Gettysburg. I had great history teachers in high school; I was drawn to USC by outstanding humanities faculty and have gotten a small liberal arts college education plus the advantages of a major research university.

I WAS A PAID RESEARCH ASSISTANT FOR 4 YEARS TO A PROFESSOR WRITING A BOOK IN THE OXFORD HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES SERIES. A USC scholarship enabled me to spend summers at the Massachusetts Historical Society. I really lived the college dream, with great classes, great weather, making lifelong friends, studying in Paris for a semester, graduating summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. Senior year I was recruited by Teach For America, and spent the next two years teaching in San Antonio, getting a real taste of Texas and paying off my college loans. When I decided to explore new directions, the local Trojan alumni club was instrumental in opening doors. I’ve landed in an unexpected place for a humanities major – working in marketing at a Mechanical Electrical Plumbing (MEP) Engineering firm. But I love it and am using all the skills I took away from USC: the ability to write, think, research, and build relationships!

Oscar De Los Santos
Senior from North Hollywood, California
Major: Political Science
Minor: Spanish

MY PARENTS CAME TO THE US FROM MEXICO ILLEGALLY to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty that plagued their pueblo. And luckily, we broke it – all five of their children went on to college. Still, that’s not the norm, and it fueled my interest in issues of inequality. When Barack Obama announced his presidential campaign, I got actively involved in interning during the summer, organizing voter registration trips to Nevada. Just before I started USC, I was rewarded beyond my wildest dreams when I was invited to Washington, D.C. to have lunch with him! It was a pretty incredible introduction to my major in political science. Over the past four years I have learned an enormous amount.

WITH USC’S SUPPORT I SPENT A SEMESTER IN FLORIDA DURING OBAMA’S SECOND CAMPAIGN WORKING WITH LATINO COMMUNITIES, served as a summer intern with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and studied for a semester at USC in Madrid, where I saw myself and my country through new eyes. My college experience was capped when I was named a Truman Scholar, which will help pay for my graduate studies. I’m excited to pursue a career in public service, and will take with me everything I learned at USC: how to think critically, work with other people, and creatively use people’s differences to build something great.

Linda Wang
Senior from Palo Alto, California
Double major: Philosophy, Politics & Law; Sociology

I WASN’T REALLY SURE WHAT PHILOSOPHY MEANT WHEN I SIGNED UP TO MEET A GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT. But I walked into that class as one person and walked out as someone completely different, with a new awareness of social and ethical issues, and better logical reasoning and critical-thinking skills. I’ve kept honing those skills in my humanities studies, and find they give me an edge in both academic and personal life. For instance, I can formulate intelligent questions, find the cracks and build a winning case in political debates. Our professors constantly encourage us to explore new opportunities, which has led to an incredible array of experiences – from documenting an indigenous language during a summer in Taiwan to creating an interactive website and researching with top professors.

JUNIOR YEAR, USC SUPPORTED MY APPLICATION FOR A BOREN SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, which paid for a semester in Senegal, West Africa. I studied French and discovered how many fascinating jobs fall under the umbrella of national security. After graduation I’ll work for a year in Washington, D.C., hopefully in the intelligence field. So when people ask, “What can you do with a humanities major?” I say, “Anything!”
FOR STUDENTS

Opportunities and new majors

Finding Fellowships
USC’s Office of International and Academic Fellowships Opens Doors to Opportunities.

Prestigious awards such as the Rhodes Scholarship and Fulbright Grant can provide once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for students to pursue research, study or intern abroad, or gain a competitive edge in applying to graduate programs. Yet, busy undergraduate students often forget about these opportunities to excel at home and abroad. Trojans, however, have an enviable advantage: a fully staffed office that prepares high-achieving students and guides them through the application process.

Although nominations are also solicited from faculty members, students can begin the process by meeting with university staff to discuss which fellowships to apply to, their academic criteria and application requirements. The result is one of the most successful track records in the country: 37 Trojans are current recipients of major fellowships, developing the knowledge and skills to shape the 21st century.

usc.edu/programs/ugprograms/aif

The BA in Nongovernmental Organizations and Social Change is the newest interdisciplinary major to be offered in the Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. Combining practical tools with theoretical, historical and global perspectives, coursework includes a semester-long internship at an NGO and is designed to empower students to create positive social change — at home and abroad.

Students help imagine new worlds at USC’s Institute for Creative Technologies

A FEW MILES EAST OF THE TECHNOLOGY HUB KNOWN AS SILICON BEACH – which hosts such tech giants as Google, Yahoo, Microsoft and YouTube, the USC Institute of Creative Technologies is finding innovative ways to unleash the potential of new technologies.

One of a handful of University Affiliated Research Centers funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, the Institute conducts research and develops practical applications for artificial intelligence, gaming and visual effects technologies, helping solve the problems facing service members, students and society. In this cutting-edge workspace, over 170 USC distinguished faculty, staff and students study and develop immersive media for military training, health therapies, education and more. Among its other achievements, the ICT has created virtual reality applications to help veterans deal with combat stress and speed the recovery of stroke victims.

SUPPORTED BY A GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, THE RESEARCH EXPERIENCES FOR UNDERGRADS (REU) PROGRAM provides ongoing opportunities for paid research internships at the Institute. During these 10-week summer internships, students team with other students, research staff, and faculty in one of several labs to focus on one aspect of the virtual experience.

ict.usc.edu/reu

Looking to save the world? We’ve got a new major for that!

LGBT at USC – It Keeps Getting Better!

IN 2005, USC BECAME THE FIRST MAJOR UNIVERSITY TO ESTABLISH A DEDICATED RESOURCE CENTER TO WELCOME, SUPPORT AND ADVOCATE FOR OUR LGBT STUDENTS. Ten years later, the university has far exceeded its goals for promoting diversity and acceptance on campus. The LGBT Center regularly wins honors as the university’s best student-led organization — and attracts thousands of participants to its campus-wide initiatives and programs each year.

AS THE CENTER GEARS UP FOR ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY, we are proud that USC has been recognized by CampusPride.org, as one of their top tier schools, where all members of our community are valued and celebrated. sait.usc.edu/lgbt
Our High School Programs are the place to be this summer!

USC’s summer programs continue to grow every year, attracting hundreds of high school students from around the world to live on campus, learn interactively with distinguished professors, and explore one of the world’s most exciting cities. This summer, students can choose from over 20 subjects in four-week credit courses; or take 2-week non-credit courses.

Programs are starting earlier this year for a very exciting reason: the World Games are coming!

The Special Olympics World Games are being staged in Los Angeles from July 24-August 4, and USC will be a major host venue. Last held in Athens in 2011, the Games will be the largest sports and humanitarian event in the world this year. So, the campus will be in prime condition and buzzing with extra excitement as athletes begin assembling from 177 countries. Your students may also want to check out the thousands of inspiring volunteer opportunities. [la2015.org](http://la2015.org)

Note that students interested in our most popular programs of entrepreneurship, engineering, gaming and future physicians are advised to apply as soon as possible! [summer.usc.edu](http://summer.usc.edu)

USE THESE ID CODES FOR USC

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Use for PROFILE® Application and SAT scores

Federal School Code: 001328
Use for FAFSA application

ACT test ID Code: 0470
Use for sending ACT scores

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A COLLEGE ISN’T A TROPHY, IT’S A MATCH.

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