

USC a capella group, the Troy Tones, performs on the steps of the USC Bookstore before a Homecoming game.



PHOTO BY CAITLIN HARKENRIDER

Quarterly Updates for College Counselors

Spring 2011

BIG NEWS!

USC now has a single admission notification day.

In response to student and counselor feedback, we streamlined our admission decision process. All freshman applicants who submitted their materials by January 10 should have received a decision by the last week of March.

USC ranks high in overseas study

The latest report by the Institute for International Education names USC as one of the top five schools in the country with the most students studying abroad – over 2,300 at any given time.

Welcome home, Frank Gehry!

We are thrilled to have one of our most distinguished alumni, architect Frank Gehry, join our faculty. World-renowned for iconic structures such as Bilbao's Guggenheim Museum and LA's Disney Concert Hall, Gehry was recently appointed the Judge Widney Professor of Architecture by USC President Max Nikias.

Thatcloudgame.com

The USC School of Cinematic Arts' Interactive Division remains the top-ranked game-design program in the U.S. Find out why by downloading the award-winning *Cloud*, one of the most popular student-designed games ever. It's free at Thatcloudgame.com.

Counselor News

Creativity for all

USC brings the arts into every student's education

Just over 10 years ago, President Sample unveiled the Renaissance Scholars program and announced the University's mission to become an unparalleled place for students to explore multiple disciplines, where creative, innovative thinking would flourish. It was a vision that our acclaimed art schools embraced with gusto. A decade later, opportunities abound for students in every field to expand their educational experience in a wide array of majors and minors. How better to learn how to give a compelling speech than from a Tony Award-winning playwright, or discover the secrets of contemporary design than from a giant of architecture? And if you would like to study filmmaking at the top-ranked film school in the world, you can do that too, – just declare a minor or take a course in the School of Cinematic Arts. The possibilities are plentiful. Here are some of the ways our creative schools are opening their doors:

The School of Architecture offers two minors, free workshops and an open lecture series featuring talks by architects, engineers, artists, landscape architects and social theorists.

School of Theatre students enrolled in one of eight minors can also audition for 14 main stage shows each year. Any student can apply for a grant to write, direct and/or produce their own independent production.

Roski School of Fine Art offers seven minors, and welcomes all students into studio classes ranging from digital drawing to sculpture. The school sponsors lectures and exhibitions throughout the year, and even partners with the Athletic Department to present the unique "Artletics" annual exhibition, which showcases the artwork of Trojan athletes!

School of Cinematic Arts In addition to eight minors, classes, free film and TV show screenings, the school's summer programs, conducted on the backlots of major studios, attract students as well as working professionals. Anyone can join the action at Trojan Vision, the student run TV station regularly cited as one of the best college stations in America.

Thornton School of Music, named one of the top five schools in the country by *Rolling Stone*, offers eight minors. There are ongoing opportunities to perform in musicals, sing or play in a wide variety of ensembles including the BackBeats, a Trojan group that recently went to the finals in the TV show, *Sing Off*.



TROJAN VOICES

We asked several students from a few other majors to describe how they have made the arts part of their college life.

Matthew Cruz, '11

*Covina, Calif.
Major: English
Minor: Gender Studies
Theatre directing and writing*

I was involved in theatre productions during high school, but when I came to USC I realized I love studying and analyzing literature, which led me to become an English major. Then a friend asked me to direct the play *Oleanna*, so to prepare, I took a class in directing from the School of Cinematic Arts. It turned out that the world-class faculty was overwhelmingly welcoming, and I've never looked back. I've now directed three shows, including one that I wrote and produced with a grant from the Theatre Students' Association, which any USC student can apply for. Working with Cinematic Arts professors who are true geniuses has been life changing, and the experience woke me up to the human part of storytelling – understanding why writers are compelled to write what they do, what they want to say. Being involved with the arts has been crucial to my growth in college. It has definitely extended my resumé, but on a whole other level, I've met incredibly talented people and have found something I didn't know I was good at. I used to just want to analyze literature, now I want to be actively involved in bringing it to life.

James Creech, '12

*Singapore
Double major: Business
Admin. and Political Science
Minor: Film & Television
Production*

I was active in numerous musical groups throughout high school, as well as mock trial and student government. Although I opted to enter USC as a Political Science major, I knew it had great creative schools, including the top-ranked film school in the world. As a freshman, in addition to joining the Troy Tones a capella singing group, I attended the open house for Trojan Vision, the student-run campus TV station. I signed up to be the producer of a debate show and realized it was the perfect convergence of political science and film! I went on to become an anchor, executive producer of the debate program, and I am now the general manager of the station. The experience has been wonderful for my social life and my education. At Trojan Vision, you can have a camera in your hand from day one, and the people I've met and the leadership and technical skills I've acquired have been incredible. The experience also prompted me to add a second degree in Business Administration to prepare for a possible career as a film executive or manager of a leading technology company. USC's philosophy of encouraging students to explore multiple fields has made it an extraordinary place to follow all of my passions, and I've loved every minute of it!

Jessica Jones, '12

*Springboro, Ohio
Major: Industrial and
Systems Engineering
Minor: Applied Computer
Science
Tuba player in the
Trojan Marching Band*

I'm from Ohio, but my dad went to USC and I grew up listening to CDs of the Trojan Band. In high school I was involved in every band possible, so joining marching band was tops on my list when I got here. People are surprised to hear that the vast majority of the players are non-music majors, and the largest contingent are engineers like me. As a band member I've gone places I never would have seen, and had some amazing experiences – like marching in the Rose Parade, and recently filming an episode of *Glee*. I've also gained unbelievable time management and teamwork skills. No matter what your major, the arts are the missing puzzle piece of any education, that round it out and provide a way to just have fun and feel free. One thing I love about USC is that it's rigorous academically but everyone has multiple interests: in fact, one of my favorite events is Artletics – the annual exhibition of the artworks created by our athletes. I'm having the time of my life – and why not? I'm at my dream school getting a fantastic education and a chance to be part of "The Greatest Marching Band in the History of the Universe!"

Creativity for all *continued*

As noted author Daniel Pink asserts: "The future belongs to right-brain thinkers – who supplement technical skills with the ability to create artistic beauty, detect patterns, create a compelling narrative and combine seemingly unrelated ideas into novel invention." We believe that creative minds come from creative places. And it's hard to imagine a more creative one than USC.

Want to study in a top-ranked art school? Minors available to any student include:

Architecture

- Architecture
- Landscape Architecture

Theatre

- General Theatre
- Musical Theatre
- Playwriting
- Performing Arts
- Applied Theatre Arts
- Dance

Thornton School of Music

- Music Industry
- Performing Arts
- Popular Music Studies
- Music Recording
- Jazz Studies
- Musical Studies
- Songwriting
- Musical Theatre

Roski School of Fine Arts

- Painting
- Drawing

- Two-Dimensional Studies

- Sculpture and Ceramics
- Communication Design
- Art for Games
- Digital Media-Based Imaging
- Photography

School of Cinematic Arts

- Animation and Digital Arts
- Cinematic Arts
- Cinema-TV for Health Professionals
- Digital Studies
- Screenwriting
- Video Game Design Management
- 2D Art for Games
- 3D Animation
- 3D Art for Games

USC offers a simpler way to earn advanced degrees

Some students may look back fondly on their college application process as a valuable learning experience, but once is more than enough for most we know. So it's no wonder that the opportunity to pursue a master's degree without taking more aptitude tests, filling out a cumbersome application and paying additional fees has become an increasingly popular choice on campus. Available exclusively to USC students who have maintained a GPA of 3.0 or higher, the progressive degree option enables students to apply during their junior year for acceptance into a master's program in their own or related field. The admission process is greatly streamlined, there is no application fee, and often, unit requirements are reduced. For many students, that's advanced thinking at its finest.

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■ For more information visit:

www.usc.edu/programs/ugprograms/progressive/

“Art teaches nothing, except the significance of life.” Henry Miller

How to be part of the arts at USC

At USC the problem is not finding creative things to do; it's figuring out how to fit them all in! Here are three places to start:

Roll Up Your Sleeves

In what has become a campus tradition, the USC arts schools jointly sponsor day-long festivals where students can try everything from salsa and swing dancing to photography and digital media-making, with expert guidance from architecture, theatre, fine arts and cinema faculty.

■ For more information, visit roski.usc.edu/.

Special perk for Trojans: Free First-Run Movies

The School of Cinematic Arts remains a favorite venue for major Hollywood studios and independent producers to screen their films before releasing them to the public. Each week, several hundred students enjoy sneak peaks at four to five new films, many accompanied by discussions with cast and/or crew.

■ For a schedule of showings, visit cinema.usc.edu/events/index.cfm.

“Visions and Voices”: Year-round calendar of cultural and art events

Our signature arts and humanities program continues to expand, offering more than 70 on- and off-campus events, from dance, theatre and music performances, to lectures, poetry readings and trips to some of LA's hottest cultural tickets. Enjoy Gustavo Dudamel conducting at the Disney Concert Hall, or a night at Hollywood's Pantages Theatre.

■ For a schedule of showings, visit www.usc.edu/visionsandvoices.

Two Innovative Centers Focus on Developing Creative Minds

New Academy for Polymathic Studies teaches breakthrough thinking to undergrads

The faculty of every great university includes brilliant visionaries and researchers who see can beyond the confines of their fields, able to illuminate common themes and spark transformational discoveries. Known in scholarly circles as “polymaths,” they are more commonly referred to as “Renaissance” thinkers. Most undergraduates, however, rarely have the chance to encounter, much less engage in meaningful conversation with, these extraordinary scholars. Opened in February 2011, the USC Academy for Polymathic Study aims to do exactly that: offer students a first-hand opportunity to learn from the masters how the polymathic approach works. As Director of Programs Karin Huebner explains, the academy adds a key complementary piece to USC's academic offerings: “As a university we emphasize interdisciplinary learning, with initiatives like ‘breadth with depth’ and the Renaissance Scholars program, to encourage students to develop expertise in disparate fields. With this academy we are helping students take the next step – to integrate what they are learning, using knowledge from multiple fields to arrive at breakout ideas.” During its inaugural year, the academy will invite students to participate in a series of “polymathic encounters”: small group sessions where they can meet in informal settings with some of the university's most distinguished professors and selected speakers. With no exams, papers or academic requirements, students will be free to delve into understanding the process of polymathic thinking, and gain skills they can apply to their own areas of study. Students who attend 10 events during their undergraduate years will earn a certificate and special distinction upon graduation. Beyond that, we hope to all benefit some day from the products of their fertile minds!

■ For more information, visit polymathic.usc.edu.

USC opens the first Center for Students with Learning Differences

They are smart, they are creative, and they are everywhere. An estimated 20 percent of students at major colleges across the U.S. have dyslexia, while many more face learning differences and disabilities. According to Walter Kortschak, founder of the new USC Kortschak Center for Learning and Creativity, “We need the uniquely creative

minds of these students to excel, problem solve and invent.” To support their different modes of learning, the center, which opened in November 2010, provides innovative services that include assistive technologies, learning strategy sessions and tutoring to help students build the skills they need to get through the reading components of their classes, and unleash their potential in every field. Given the right support, there are no limits to where their distinctive talents can take them. Just ask Trojan alumni Paul Orfalea, founder of Kinkos, and Bob Foss, director of access technology at Intel, both of whom are dyslexic and were on hand to launch what we believe will serve as a model for universities across the country.

■ For more information, visit kortschakcenter.usc.edu.

Meet USC's New Executive Director of Financial Aid

We are proud to announce the promotion of Thomas McWhorter to Executive Director of Financial Aid. Tom has been part of the Trojan Family for 25 years, completing the Marshall School of Business' Executive MBA program in 2005, and most recently serving as Associate Dean of Finance and Administration for Enrollment Services. We asked Tom to share his thoughts about USC, his new role, and his vision for the future of the Financial Aid Office.

What do you like most about USC?

Of course, the Trojan Family. It's not a cliché. Our faculty and staff are an integral part of this family, all striving to help USC achieve its goals and reach even greater heights.

What is your vision for the Financial Aid Office? What do you hope to accomplish?

Our general mission is to assist students in a fair and equitable manner, to ensure that the cost of attendance is not a barrier to enrollment or the completion of a degree. We are also committed to increasing the financial literacy of our students and families. In addition to helping them understand the types of aid available to them, we want our students to develop smart money management habits and make informed decisions about financial products and services.

All in all, I am very excited about this new opportunity to serve the university and our students. We look forward to working with you!



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Counselor News

Quarterly News for College Counselors
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A college isn't a trophy; it's a match.



The University of Southern California admits students of any race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical disability or mental disability.

Important Dates & Deadlines

April: USC will be hosting receptions for newly admitted students throughout the U.S. Please visit www.usc.edu/experienceusc for dates and times, or to reserve your space.

April 23rd: On-campus admitted student reception.

May 2: National Candidates Reply Date

How to find your Admission Counselor

Visit usc.edu/uga and click on "Contact Us." Enter your high school's name in the "Find your Admission Counselor" box. Or call us anytime at (213) 740-1111 or e-mail us at scounsel@usc.edu.

USC's Codes

ACT Code: 0470 Used for sending ACT scores

CEEB Code: 4852 Used for PROFILE® Application and SAT scores

Federal School Code: 001328 Used for FAFSA application

Send your students to a summer adventure in the arts and beyond!

Now in their 30th year, USC's summer programs for high school students are an ideal way for your students to sample life on a college campus, explore possible fields of study, earn college-level credits, make friends from around the globe, and enjoy the considerable cultural and recreational pleasures of summer in LA. Taught by USC faculty, this year's two- and four-week courses cover the academic spectrum, including some not-to-be-missed offerings from our creative schools.

■ For a complete roster of classes and more information, visit summer.usc.edu or call (213) 740-5679.

Two of our art schools also offer specialized, advanced summer programs that welcome high school students.

USC School of Cinematic Arts Summer Program – designed for college students, but open to high school students and working professionals, the program draws attendees from over a dozen countries. Students can be immersed in the world of filmmaking for six to seven weeks, taking classes from the school's award-winning faculty in all aspects of the craft: from cinematography and directing to screenwriting, computer animation and gaming. Creatively demanding and rewarding, these programs provide a unique opportunity for students passionate about filmmaking to learn from the best.

■ For more information visit cinema.usc.edu/summer/index.cfm.

The USC Summer Guitar Seminar – Considered one of the finest in the world, the Thornton School's four-week studio jazz guitar program prepares high school juniors and seniors to become successful college and career musicians. The program includes master classes with the school's renowned faculty, field trips to LA's famed jazz venues, and numerous student performances. For more information, visit the USC Summer Guitar Seminar MySpace page at www.myspace.com/uscsummerguitarseminar.

■ Learn more about Continuing Education at USC at cesp.usc.edu.