

## Quarterly Updates for College Counselors *Spring 2013*

### USC Financial Aid Expands to Meet Demand

USC's financial aid program remains one of the largest in the U.S. and has expanded in the last few years to meet growing demand. Gift aid to undergraduates, including federal and state grants, now totals more than \$290 million. In 2012-2013, more than \$429 million in financial aid was awarded from all sources (including work-study and loans). We're proud of our commitment to students and look forward to helping future Trojans gain access to a world-class education.

### Thank you for sending so many outstanding young people our way.

We were honored to receive over 47,000 applications for admission – another record-breaking year. Students applied from 8,700 different high schools, 50 states, and 132 countries and promise to comprise the most accomplished and diverse first-year class ever!



2012 Discovery Scholar Prize winners with President Nikias, in front of Wall of Scholars where their names will be inscribed.

## Celebrating Achievement of the Highest Order

*University Scholars has become a signature program.*

**OVER A DECADE AGO, USC PRESIDENT STEVEN B. SAMPLE** envisioned a new academic distinction that would go beyond traditional departmental or academic honors. It would challenge students to pursue the qualities the university identified as essential for world citizens and leaders: knowledge that is both broad and deep, perspectives that are global and humanitarian, along with an ability to create and innovate. It was the inception of an honors program unmatched in higher education: the USC University Scholars.

The University Scholars program has continued to expand under USC's current president, C. L. Max Nikias, and ranks among the university's most prestigious undergraduate honors. Students who maintain a GPA of 3.5 and meet program requirements are recognized with a special medal and a University Scholar designation on their final transcript. The pinnacle of the program is the opportunity to compete for \$10,000 cash prizes to support graduate-level studies, with 30 winners named each year.

Three separate Scholar designations are offered. Any student in any major may compete:

**RENAISSANCE SCHOLARS:** complete unique double-majors or major-minor combinations across disparate fields.

**DISCOVERY SCHOLARS:** conduct original research, create outstanding works of art or achieve exceptional standards of creative expression.

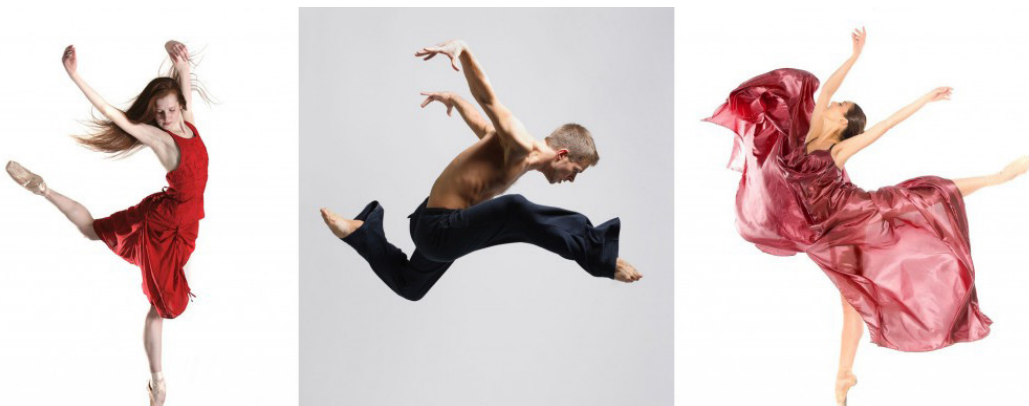
**GLOBAL SCHOLARS:** have excelled in studies both at home and abroad.

Students may undertake multiple programs and find strong, enthusiastic support from the Office of Undergraduate Programs, their departmental advisors, professors and the university community.

How has the University Scholars program enriched the undergraduate experience? The facts are impressive: This year, half our students who entered as first-year students will graduate with multiple majors or minors; close to 400 will receive Renaissance Scholar designations; hundreds more are involved in original research and creative projects; and USC again ranked sixth in the US in the number of students who are studying abroad.

As the newest University Scholars cross the stage at Commencement, they will be ready for anything, equipped with a truly world-class and uniquely Trojan education. Learn more: [www.usc.edu/programs/scholars](http://www.usc.edu/programs/scholars)





## USC to launch the Kaufman School of Dance

THANKS TO ONE OF THE MOST GENEROUS DONATIONS IN THE HISTORY OF DANCE, USC will soon open its first endowed school in 40 years. It's thrilling news for the university, and a cultural boon to the region. Already recognized as a world center for art, music and entertainment, Los Angeles will now have a school devoted to training the world's best dancers.

Funded by a gift from philanthropist and arts patron Gloria Kaufman, the new school will be housed in a beautiful, fully equipped facility at the heart of USC's main campus and is scheduled to welcome its first students in 2015. The curriculum will combine artistic training of the highest caliber with business and other courses to prepare talented students for success in the professional world.

We are honored to bring to life Kaufman's vision of dance as "an expression of the heart and soul." The Kaufman School of Dance will be the perfect addition to our acclaimed family of fine and performing arts schools, and we are committed to making the Kaufman School the premier center for dance on the Pacific Rim.

## Honor students reap valuable rewards

There's no question: USC students thrive on academic challenge. For those who go above and beyond, USC offers Academic Achievement Awards worth 2 units of tuition remission, extending the maximum course load from 18 to 20 units. Students must maintain a 3.75 USC grade point average and declare a double major, a dual degree program or a major-minor combination.

Not only does the Academic Achievement Award allow students the flexibility to complete ambitious programs of study and still graduate in four years, it can save them thousands of dollars in tuition. For our 400 Academic Achievement Award recipients this semester, it's another way to help them make the most of their education.

## NEW GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS WILL ADD BREADTH AND FLEXIBILITY

THE UNIVERSITY PERIODICALLY ADJUSTS ITS GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS to better align them with the skill sets students will need in the real world, while encouraging them to take full advantage of the university's resources while they are here.

BEGINNING IN 2014, the General Education course requirements for all undergraduates will include two new categories: Arts and Quantitative Reasoning.

At the same time, the university has expanded the list of classes that meet both General Education and specific major requirements. The net result will be more freedom for students in class scheduling, with the same assurance of on-time degree completion. It also means students will still have the flexibility to explore subjects outside their majors or pursue unique double majors. And that will translate to more opportunities in the real world for every Trojan!

## HOW TO FIND YOUR ADMISSION COUNSELOR

**ON THE WEB:** Visit [www.usc.edu/uga](http://www.usc.edu/uga), click on Contact Us, then Find Your Admission Counselor. Enter your high school's name in the Find your Admission Counselor field.

**PHONE:** (213) 740-1111

**E-MAIL:** [scounsel@usc.edu](mailto:scounsel@usc.edu)

## TROJAN VOICES



### Rebecca Wertman

Senior from Vancouver,  
British Columbia, Canada.

Major: International Relations

Double minor: Economics and French

**GROWING UP IN CANADA**, I fell in love with the idea of the big American college, where everyone is passionate about their school and what they study. That's exactly the vibe I've found at USC, where our advisors strongly promote studying abroad, doing original research and exploring diverse fields. I've tried to take advantage of everything USC has to offer, including two chances to study internationally.

**A TRULY LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE** was a month-long program with 13 other USC students in Geneva, Switzerland. We took classes at a graduate school, and I did an internship with a nonprofit organization where it was my job to monitor sessions of the UN Human Rights Council. It was a dream come true. I even got to speak on behalf of my organization at the UN! My final paper for that class was later published in the Southern California International Review and qualified me as a Global Scholar. Along the way I've gotten to work alongside some amazing faculty, and found I love research and teaching. So now my plan is to work, earn a PhD in international relations and become their colleague someday!



### William McGarey

Senior from McLean, Virginia.

Major: Chemical Engineering

Minor: Theatre

**IN HIGH SCHOOL I HAD DUAL INTERESTS** in engineering and theatre, but thought it wasn't possible to pursue both in college. So I was really excited to find that at USC, they don't just allow students to study multiple disciplines, but they have actually set up programs like the Renaissance Scholars that actively encourage them.

**IT'S BEEN CHALLENGING** to balance my schedules, but I've been able to take the maximum possible number of units, and advisors in both schools have helped me. I was even able to study abroad twice – taking summer engineering classes in Rome, and a fall semester at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. In Edinburgh, I continued my coursework in chemical engineering and was also in two theatrical productions, which was an incredible way to make new friends! While my two fields seem completely unrelated, I've found that doing theatre has taught me a lot about public speaking and being an effective communicator, which is important in both engineering and in business, where I may be headed. My advice to high school students is: More than anything, do what you love – that's what leads to success!



### Aadrita Mukerji

Senior from Saratoga, California.

Major: Economics

Double Minor: French and  
Screenwriting

**WHEN I WAS LOOKING AT COLLEGES**, I was intrigued by USC's unique emphasis on both breadth and depth. Since I'm equally drawn to the humanities and the sciences, I loved the idea that I wouldn't have to narrow my studies to just one area. I am an economics major but had always wanted to take a screenwriting class. At USC, I had the opportunity to do so at a top film school, and it opened the door to a whole new career path. Through the School of Cinematic Arts, I've completed multiple internships in the entertainment industry, including working as a writers' assistant to six feature film writers at the Fox Writers Studio. Going back and forth between the professional world and the learning atmosphere of USC has been the best thing I could have done.

**I'M NOW AN ASPIRING SCREENWRITER** and was thrilled when my advisor suggested that my pilot for a TV show about college kids would meet the requirements to become a Discovery Scholar. I'd say that getting a Scholar distinction and prize would be a perfect ending to my college career!



## Summer@USC is filled with opportunity!

FOR ASPIRING COLLEGE STUDENTS LOOKING FOR LEARNING, CAMARADERIE AND INSPIRATION, there is no better experience than summertime on a college campus. USC's programs are among the best anywhere, offering two-week and four-week options for high school students, where they will earn certificates or academic credit in college-level courses, make new friends and sample the spectacular cultural and recreational resources of Southern California.

Students can choose to live on campus or commute. All are invited to participate in USC's summer signature events and excursions, which range from screenings of Hollywood blockbusters to campus rock concerts, trips to the beaches and Disneyland, as well as intramural tournaments, career planning workshops and of course, college application workshops run by USC admission staff.

### TWO-WEEK PROGRAM: JULY 7-21

Participants can explore the worlds of architecture, global health or graphic design in small-group, interactive settings guided by USC faculty.

### FOUR-WEEK PROGRAM: JULY 7-AUGUST 3

Students can select from 20 different college-level courses and earn 3 units of college credit in challenging and engaging classes taught by our faculty.

**HURRY! REGISTRATION IS OPEN, AND SPACES ARE FILLING UP FAST.**  
Information and registration forms: [summer.usc.edu](http://summer.usc.edu)



### IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

- June 14-July 25: On-campus First-Year Orientation sessions
- July 7- 21: Two-week high school summer programs
- July 7-Aug 3: Four-week high school summer programs
- August 21: New student Move-In Day
- August 26: First day of fall classes

### HOW TO UPDATE YOUR MAILING INFORMATION

If you wish to update your school's mailing address, or the addressee for this newsletter, please e-mail us at: [scounsel@usc.edu](mailto:scounsel@usc.edu)

### USC'S TEST ID AND FINANCIAL AID CODES

**CSS PROFILE Applications and SAT scores: 4852**

**FAFSA information:**  
Submit to Federal School Code: 001328

**ACT scores:**  
Submit to test ID code: 0470

**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.*