



Longtime USC supporters John and Julie Mork recently gave the University one of its largest gifts to support undergraduate scholarships.

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Quarterly Updates for College Counselors *Fall 2011*

We now use the Common App!

Applicants should now submit all materials using the Common Application. We believe this will streamline the process for both you and your students, while allowing us to continue thorough reviews of each student's file.

Our TWO big application deadlines:

December 1: All applicants who submit their applications by this date will be considered for merit scholarships. This is also the deadline for programs within the Schools of Cinema, Theatre and Music.

January 1: Final application deadline for regular consideration.

How many merit scholarship recipients were in the freshman class?

- 20 Mork Family Scholars (full tuition + stipend)
- 140 Trustee Scholars (full tuition)
- 349 Presidential Scholars (half tuition)
- 107 Deans Scholars (quarter tuition)
- 63 Other USC scholarship recipients

Counselor News

A Great Gift, an Incredible Impact

USC adds a significant new merit scholarship

"One of the things we treasure about our country is a belief that we live in a meritocracy," states USC vice president of Admissions and Planning Katharine Harrington. "It's in the DNA of who we are to expect that if you are talented and work hard, you can achieve and will be rewarded for your efforts." High school students who are designated National Merit Finalists and list USC as their first-choice college can earn National Merit Scholarships. USC also recognizes outstanding student accomplishment in academics and leadership through Trustee, Presidential and Deans Scholarships, plus an array of others. Awards range from several hundred dollars up to full tuition for four years.

This spring USC received one of the most generous gifts in the University's history, from longtime supporters John and Julie Mork. Their \$110 million donation recognizes and supports student excellence by establishing a fund for undergraduate scholarships. The Morks' extraordinary success exemplifies the heights to which ability, dedication and vision can carry someone, and they know firsthand how a world-class education at USC can transform lives. Their gift will undoubtedly help talented, passionate students become future leaders and innovators.

How it works: A four-year, full-tuition award, plus an annual living stipend of \$5,000, the Mork Family Scholarship is awarded to high school seniors "with exceptional talent and intellectual capability, who have demonstrated the highest qualities of scholarship and citizenship." Emphasis is given to accomplishments in the areas of science, technology, social sciences, arts and humanities. In keeping with the University's longstanding commitment to its neighborhoods and the Mork family's personal values, Mork Family Scholars will also include students from the USC Family of Schools. Students who apply for admission to USC by December 1 will be automatically considered for the scholarship.

This year, 20 Mork Family Scholars were invited to move into the new Honors Residential College, where they will enjoy special programs throughout the year. Eventually, USC plans to host up to 40 scholars on campus, but it is already clear that, as the capstone of our Merit Scholarship program, Mork Family Scholars will be enhancing the educational landscape of the University for years to come.

In our view, every student should aspire to become a merit scholar. As one of our Presidential Scholars put it: "I can't control how much my parents can or want to contribute to my college education. What I can control is how much I care and how much effort I put in." That's the kind of commitment and dedication USC hopes to inspire in all its students.

2015 Freshman Class Profile

Welcome to the class of 2015!

Incoming freshmen continue to raise the bar in terms of academic excellence and all-around accomplishment. Thanks for preparing them so well!

Total Applicants: 37,210

Admit Rate: 23%

Total Matriculants: 2,931

Mean GPA: (unweighted) 3.72

Middle 50% SAT Composite: 1970-2180

Critical Reasoning: 610-720

Math: 670-770 **Writing:** 650-740

Middle 50% ACT Composite: 29-33

National Merit Scholars: 247

Gender:

Male 50% Female 50%

Ethnic Background:

African American 7%

Asian 25%

Caucasian 39%

Latino/Hispanic 12%

Native American/Pacific Islander 2%

International students: 15%

First Generation College-Goers: 14%

Scions (legacy) students: 20%

Financial Aid: More than 60% of undergraduates in 2010-2011 received some form of financial aid; 23% of the fall 2011 freshman class were merit scholarship recipients.

New Tools for Counselors

Coming Soon!
Help your students improve their college prep skills with **Collegeology**



As games have pervaded young people's lives, a growing body of evidence shows they are one of the most powerful ways for players to become familiar with the unknown. For most students, the biggest unknown they face is the world of college, where the possibilities and pitfalls are numerous and the stakes are high. For several years, our Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis has been working on ways to harness the potential of games to help high school students envision the college experience, how to prepare for it, identify and evaluate their choices and navigate the process by making mistakes in a safe environment.

Recently our Rossier School of Education and nationally top-ranked Game Innovation Lab were awarded over \$1 million in grants to build a groundbreaking suite of computer games called *Collegeology*. The first, "Application Crunch," is based on our innovative Pathfinder card game. Students can use this cutting edge game technology to create personas with different skill sets and interests, then play out scenarios that reveal the consequences of actions (such as failing classes or missing deadlines), as well as the strategies that lead to success. Counselors now have an opportunity to test the game and receive free sets of the updated card game.

- To sign up for updates and free trials, please visit pathfinder.usc.edu.
- To learn more, visit mat.usc.edu.

From the Sports Desk | USC fields two new NCAA Division I Teams!

Women's Lacrosse and Sand Volleyball added to athletic scholarship sports

This fall marks the beginning of the Pac-12 era as we welcome the Universities of Colorado and Utah to the ranks of our storied athletic conference. USC is also thrilled to mark another athletic milestone by adding two new NCAA Division I women's sports: lacrosse and sand volleyball.

Well-established on the East Coast, **Women's Lacrosse** is gaining popularity along the West Coast, and we believe the time is right to establish ourselves as collegiate leaders in the sport. Although full competition does not begin until spring 2013, the first athletic scholarship recipients have already arrived on campus for training. We expect to hit the ground running as a contender for a national championship and have signed Lindsey Munday as coach. Munday is an All-World member of the US National Team and helped lead Northwestern University to five national championships as both player and assistant coach.

Women's Sand Volleyball was perhaps literally invented in our backyard. A mainstay of Southern California beaches, sand volleyball is making its debut as an NCAA Division I sport, with competition beginning in spring 2012. We believe it will be the perfect complement to our championship-caliber Women's Indoor Volleyball team, and we are proud to have signed Anna Biller Collier as coach. Collier played three sports while at USC and is a sand volleyball legend, having coached some of the most high-profile players in the world, including teams in two Olympics.

■ Our coaches are now actively recruiting for these sports. Interested students should contact Anna Biller Collier, Women's Sand Volleyball, at annacoll@usc.edu or (213) 740-4151, or Lindsey Munday, Women's Lacrosse, at uscwlab@usc.edu or (213) 740-0917.

Our student athletes are merit scholars too! *The scholar-athlete tradition remains strong at USC. We pursue excellence in athletics as well as in the classroom, and offer the maximum number of scholarships allowed by the NCAA for each of the 21 sports we play. We are also proud to be rated among the top 10 universities in the nation by Stack Magazine for the quality of our combined athletic and academic experience.*

New on Campus

Freshman merit scholars fill new honors residential college

Move-In Day is always filled with anticipation, but this year there was an extra air of excitement among the 259 freshmen who became the first residents of the USC University Residential College. These Mork, Trustee and Presidential scholars fill to capacity all seven floors of Birnkrant Hall, enjoying a prime location near the heart of campus. The University Residential College is designed to give these students an unforgettable first year — living with their peers from around the country and the world, in a culturally and intellectually stimulating collegial atmosphere. Students moved in early to attend a campus retreat featuring a mini international film and literature fest. Faculty master in residence Stan Rosen, professor of political science, hosts weekly dinners for students to interact with other professors and visiting scholars. The meal plan covers regular excursions to sample the city's diverse cuisine, and free tickets and transportation are provided for performances at LA's most exciting cultural venues. Professor Rosen says, "It's proving to be a place where future leaders of the University and beyond can meet, form lifetime friendships, and get everything possible out of their college experience!"



TROJAN VOICES

Our scholarship recipients possess outstanding qualities that received the attention of our reviewers. We asked them to tell us, from their perspective, how they reached the top, and what their scholarship has meant to them.

**Rachel Marshall
Presidential Scholar**

Junior from Atlanta, Georgia, double major in Neuroscience and Occupational Therapy.

I attribute my success in high school to the atmosphere of the school I attended, that just inspired hard work. The whole student body was extremely driven, and my teachers were challenging and supportive – invigorating the material and giving me a passion for academics. I planned to be pre-med, but started working with children with autism during my summers, and knew I had found my career focus.

Presidential Scholars get some added benefits. For me, the best part was getting automatically invited to participate in the Thematic Option honors program, which I loved because the classes are small and discussion-based, and gave me a small liberal arts experience. The scholarship has taken a big load off my parents, and helped close the geography gap by making it easier to fly home. It has also opened up other opportunities: I can afford to stay for a fifth year to earn a master’s degree in Occupational Therapy, and having no student loans will make it possible for me to pursue further graduate work in neuroscience.

One other great thing about merit scholarships at USC – you don’t even have to think, just apply on time!!!

**Kevin Platt
Trustee Scholar**

Class of 2011, double major in Biological Sciences and Sociology from Baltimore, Maryland; now a first-year medical student at Keck School of Medicine.

My desire to work hard and give back comes from a blend of things, such as my family and the community where I grew up, where those values were stressed. My English teacher was a big influence – he was the first person to really challenge me, gave me my first C, then became a mentor who stressed the importance of following your passion. In high school I worked hard and did well academically, but what made me go the extra mile was that I was passionate about a lot of things, especially contributing to the community, and becoming actively involved in everything from tutoring bar mitzvah kids to serving on the teen board of the Jewish Federation, which helped raise money for local nonprofits.

Having the scholarship has been amazing, and has allowed me to immerse myself in a myriad of opportunities on campus and in the surrounding community – from being a math and reading tutor at a local elementary school, an admission intern who helps future scholarship candidates feel at home, to studying abroad and joining a fraternity.

I tell students not to fall into the trap of doing what others tell them, but get really involved in whatever interests them.

**Gabriella Santillanes-Weber
Presidential Scholar**

Sophomore from Albuquerque, New Mexico, majoring in Business Administration.

One secret to my success is that I am really curious and hate to be bored, so I am always looking to get involved – in high school that meant everything from student government to managing the football team. My mom is an incredibly hard worker who instilled in me the value of never giving up. Many of my high school teachers reinforced that value and inspired me to continue planning for my future.

Getting a college scholarship was an important goal for me. My high school counselor stressed the importance of graduating without a lot of debt, and as the oldest child, I did not want to use up the family resources. USC’s scholarship came with some great opportunities, including a spot in the Marshall School’s Global Leadership Program. This program gave me the opportunity to participate in a spring break study trip to China, a life-changing experience which inspired me to give back to the program by becoming a mentor for younger members. I am also a counselor for Troy Camp, in which I teach at-risk elementary school kids during the year and take them to a week-long camp in the summer. I believe a scholarship comes with responsibility: People are investing in you, so you need to give back.

It’s your life, your one and only life – so take excellence very personally.

Scott Johnson

**New Program Opportunity:
Occupational Therapy Now Open
to Freshmen**

For the first time, the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy has opened its B.S. in Occupational Therapy to freshman and sophomore applicants. Declaring OT earlier not only gives incoming freshmen a “home department” at the start of their university career, but also offers other unique benefits. Students can enroll in a progressive track that allows them to earn their master’s degree in just five years, conduct original research and take classes at the world-class Health Sciences campus. *Forbes* magazine recently listed occupational therapy as a Top 5 Recession-Proof Job. *US News & World Report* also listed it as a Best Career for 2011, based primarily on salary, job satisfaction and strong forecasted growth over the next 10 years.

■ Prospective applicants should contact the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy at (323) 442-2850 or otdept@usc.edu or visit our website for more information: www.usc.edu/ot.

**Looking ahead:
What does it take
to be lauded at USC?**

Traditional academic honors conferred at graduation are based on a student’s four-year GPA, as follows:

- Cum Laude:** 3.5
- Magna cum laude:** 3.7
- Summa cum laude:** 3.9

Students also earn University Honors by maintaining a 3.5 GPA in their major and completing an honors project. All students can participate in programs to earn the University’s top distinctions of Renaissance Scholar, Global Scholar, or Discovery Scholar, which are noted on their diplomas and qualify them for considerable awards to be applied to graduate study.

Counselor News

Quarterly News for College Counselors
Fall 2011

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

October & November
Off-campus receptions

November 20

Discover USC on-campus reception
This full day program will provide you and your family with an opportunity to meet staff from the Offices of Admission, Financial Aid and our academic departments, in addition to meeting current USC students and alumni.

December 1

First-year application deadline for scholarship consideration. Deadline for Schools of Cinema, Theatre and Music.

January 10

Final first-year application deadline.

How to find your Admission Counselor

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

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: www.twitter.com/USCAdmission

Discover USC at our off-campus receptions

We understand that choosing a college is one of the biggest decisions your students will face. To help them learn more about USC, we will be visiting 21 cities across the U.S., in addition to six international locales, this fall. We hope that you, your students and their parents will be able to "Discover USC" at one of these friendly and informative events.

■ To RSVP to the reception nearest you, please e-mail us at scounsel@usc.edu.

City	Date	Time	Location
Atlanta	Nov. 5	2-4 p.m.	Grand Hyatt Atlanta
Bay Area-San Jose	Oct. 1	3-5 p.m.	DoubleTree by Hilton San Jose
Bay Area-Oakland	Oct. 2	2-4 p.m.	Marriott Oakland City Center
Beijing	Oct. 22	2-4 p.m.	Shangri-La Kerry Centre Hotel
Boston	Oct. 30	2-4 p.m.	The Westin Copley Place
Chicago	Oct. 9	2-4 p.m.	Chicago Marriott O'Hare
Dallas	Oct. 1	2-4 p.m.	Dallas/Addison Marriott Quorum
Denver	Oct. 16	3-5 p.m.	The Westin Denver Downtown
Hong Kong	Oct. 16	2-4 p.m.	JW Marriott Hong Kong
Honolulu	Oct. 9	2-4 p.m.	Waikiki Beach Marriott
Houston	Oct. 2	2-4 p.m.	JW Marriott Houston
Las Vegas	Oct. 17	7-9 p.m.	JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort & Spa
Miami	Nov. 6	2-4 p.m.	The Westin Diplomat Resort
Minneapolis	Oct. 10	7-9 p.m.	Minn. Airport Marriott Bloomington
New York	Oct. 29	2-4 p.m.	New York Marriott Marquis
Philadelphia	Oct. 29	2-4 p.m.	Courtyard Philadelphia Downtown
Phoenix	Oct. 15	2-4 p.m.	Embassy Suites
Portland	Oct. 22	2-4 p.m.	Courtyard by Marriott
Sacramento	Oct. 3	7-9 p.m.	Sheraton Grand
San Diego	Oct. 5	7-9 p.m.	Hyatt Regency La Jolla
Seattle	Oct. 23	2-4 p.m.	Seattle Marriott Waterfront
Seoul	Oct. 24	7-9 p.m.	Grand Hyatt Seoul
Shanghai	Oct. 20	7-9 p.m.	JW Marriott Shanghai
Taipei	Oct. 18	7-9 p.m.	Grand Hyatt Taipei
Vancouver	Oct. 24	7-9 p.m.	St. George's School
Washington, D.C.	Oct. 27	7-9 p.m.	Hilton Alexandria Old Town