

*Quarterly Updates  
for College Counselors  
Spring 2014*

## **Admission Notifications**

Admission decisions will be mailed to all first-year applicants on March 26. Electronic copies will be posted to applicants' USConnect accounts on March 29. [www.usc.edu/USConnect](http://www.usc.edu/USConnect)

## **Congratulations to our newest Nobel Laureate!**

On December 10, USC celebrated as Dr. Arieh Warshel received the 2013 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Dr. Warshel is a Distinguished Professor of Chemistry in the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences and a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Warshel frequently teaches CHEM 105, Introduction to General Chemistry.

## **New financial aid resource online**

The Department of Education has recently launched its new Financial Aid Toolkit for counselors and mentors. The website can help you locate financial aid resources and educate students and families about their options. Learn more:

[financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk](http://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk)

## **Anonymous gift funds more scholarships**

A recent anonymous donation of \$20 million will fund new undergraduate scholarships at the Dornsife College Letters, Arts and Sciences; the Marshall School of Business; and the USC School of Social Work. Funds will provide grants and merit scholarships to help outstanding students meet their college expenses. This represents one of the largest gifts for student support in USC's history.



USC Marshall students help bring microfinance to Ekumfi, Ghana.

PHOTO BY SCOTT FAIRBANKS

## **Connecting the dots from classroom to career**

*New USC initiative integrates career development with undergraduate programs.*

**THE ECONOMIC RECESSION BROUGHT THE COST OF HIGHER EDUCATION INTO FOCUS**, highlighting the importance of ensuring a solid and stable return on a family's investment. To that end, USC wants students to not only gain more from their college experience, but also prepare for the highest levels of achievement beyond the classroom.

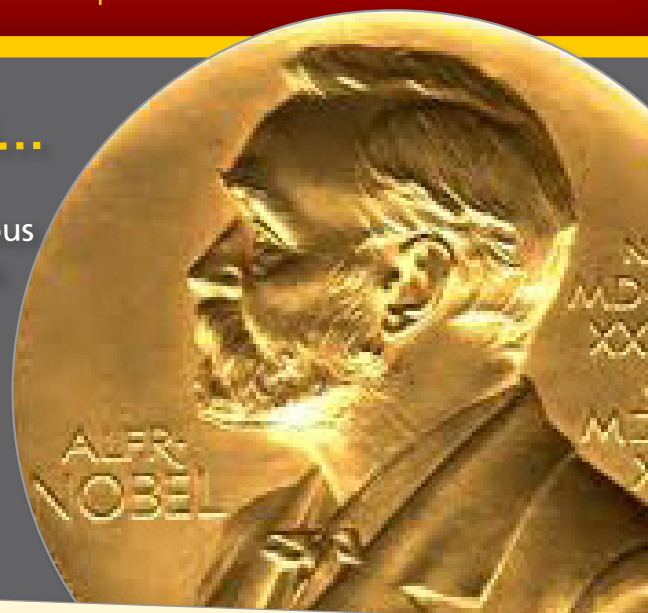
**WITH ITS NEW PLAN FOR A CAREER INITIATIVE** the USC Provost's Office has begun integrating career planning into all levels of academic services. In several schools, students now attend seminars, workshops and networking events beginning their sophomore year. Academic advisors coordinate with career counselors to plan mentorships, internships, travel abroad and activities that will help students link their interests with specific careers or graduate studies.

By the time students graduate, they will already have many of the skills and experiences necessary to ensure their path to success in whatever field they pursue.

**Learn More:** [careers.usc.edu](http://careers.usc.edu)

## BEFORE THEY WERE NOBEL LAUREATES...

AS WE HONOR DR. WARSHEL AND HIS FELLOW NOBEL LAUREATES at USC, we reflect on their journeys from ambitious young adults to the recipients of the world's most prestigious intellectual distinction.



Future Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences

### Daniel McFadden

*Professor of Health Economics*

McFadden attended rural public schools in North Carolina. Because his high school offerings were limited, he completed algebra and math classes through correspondence courses. His junior year, a sense of justice led him to start a petition drive in support of student rights. As a result, he was suspended and had to finish his schooling on his uncle's dairy farm. Looking back, he sees how that experience opened his mind and shifted his interest to the sciences, which he pursued with very notable success, at the University of Minnesota and beyond.



Future Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

### George Olah

*Professor of Chemistry*

Olah was born in Hungary between the World Wars, and attended one of Budapest's best high schools. He excelled in the humanities, especially history and literature. As he describes it, the decision to shift to sciences in college was a pragmatic one: "It's hard to make a living in a poor country as a philosopher." But when he took his first course in chemistry, he fell in love. He underscores the value of a broad-based educational foundation, and has never stopped seeking ways to use his knowledge to benefit mankind. His breakthrough discoveries in hydrocarbon chemistry have led to important advances in multiple fields, and he continues to inspire his students to do the same.

### Murray Gell-Mann

*Professor of Physics*

Gell-Mann is the son of immigrant parents who struggled financially but instilled in him a keen interest in science and math. He excelled academically, was class valedictorian of his New York City prep school, and received a scholarship to Yale. There was only one subject in which he did poorly: high school physics. It was not until college that, on a whim, he chose to study it again, and became so captivated by the subject that he went on to reveal entirely new dimensions of the field.



Future Nobel Laureate in Physics



Future Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

### Arieh Warshel

*Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry*

Warshel grew up on a kibbutz in northern Israel, where he attended high school and tended the community's fish ponds. After serving two years' active duty in the Israeli army, he headed to college. As he recalls, he checked chemistry as his field of study on his application thanks to the random suggestion of an army buddy who thought it was a fit for those with good eyesight. Warshel went on to become the first in his family to graduate from college, with chemistry as his lifelong obsession. His work in computer simulations has revolutionized the study of chemical reactions.

**We congratulate all our laureates** and are proud to count

them among our many distinguished faculty members at USC. We look forward to having your students study with them!



Students immerse themselves in their studies at USC Dornsife's Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies on Catalina Island.

**How Careers Take Shape at USC**  
We asked three students to tell us how their career plans evolved during their undergraduate years.

PHOTO BY COREY ARNOLD



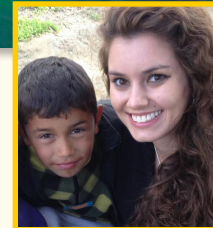
**Scott Fairbanks '13**

*Major: Business  
Minor: Photography  
Now employed at Ashoka U.S.  
Washington, D.C.*



**Kristal Diaz**  
*Senior*

*Major: Health and Humanity  
Minor: Sports Media Studies*



**Emily Zolfaghari**  
*Senior*

*Major: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention*

**I APPLIED TO COLLEGE AS A BUSINESS MAJOR**, mainly because I excelled at math and people told me I would be good at investment banking. But my world literally opened up during freshman year at the Marshall School, which has a huge focus on international experience. I quickly found myself on a student group trip to rural El Bale, Panama with Global Brigades, applying what I was learning in class in meaningful ways such as helping beekeepers design a cooperative business model. This experience was my introduction to social entrepreneurship, and my professors and even the dean actively supported this interest throughout college.

**I WAS MENTORED BY THE CEO OF A LOCAL NONPROFIT** and got help starting my own apparel venture to raise money for wells in Africa. Thanks to grants and fellowships from the university I was able to spend every summer in paid internships, including positions in China, South Africa, and Thailand. All these experiences led to my new job in Washington, D.C., where I plan to continue the commitment to lifelong learning and openness to new ideas I learned as a Trojan.

**I LOVE SCIENCE AND ALWAYS SAID I WANTED TO BE A DOCTOR**, though I knew it meant a lot of schooling and long hours. Then I moved far from home freshman year and realized how important having balance and being close to family was to me. I was lucky enough to transfer to USC as a sophomore, and it was there that my academic advisor brought my worlds together. After listening to my concerns, he introduced me to several careers I had no idea existed, including physician assistant, that I realized would be a perfect fit. From that point everything became clearer, and I was able to take advantage of many opportunities the university offers. Through the Career Center I found a position at the California Science Center that I kept for three years, and an internship in entertainment, to gain experience outside medicine. As a Latino Alumni Association Scholar I'm part of a close network that introduced me to fellow students and connected me with mentors.

**I'LL BE APPLYING TO GRADUATE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAMS IN FALL**, but no matter where I go, it's great to know that I'll be part of the Trojan Family for life!

**I FELL IN LOVE WITH USC IN HIGH SCHOOL**, when I wanted to do research for my science fair in a college lab. I contacted all the local universities but only got one response — from a doctor at the USC Norris Cancer Center. I ended up working in that lab for two years, and it took me to the state science fair finals!

**AS A FRESHMAN, BEING PART OF THE FIRST-GENERATION MENTOR PROGRAM OPENED MY EYES** and taught me not to have limits. I originally planned to work in a hospital setting, and funding from the Dream Dollars program underwrote a summer internship shadowing a cardiothoracic surgeon at Huntington Hospital. Starting sophomore year, several things influenced my path: I volunteered as a campus peer health educator, and took a class in human rights that led me to the Global Health Institute, where I became passionate about global medicine and helping underserved communities. For three years I have been part of Healing Hearts Across Borders, going with USC med students to set up regular clinics in Tijuana, Mexico. I'm now starting a progressive master's degree in gerontology, and pursuing my dream to become a surgeon for Doctors Without Borders.



The **Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism** will soon have a new facility. Construction is well underway for the new Wallis Annenberg Hall, an 88,000-square-foot, five-floor building that will open in fall 2014. According to Annenberg’s dean, Ernest J. Wilson III, the hall will become an “inviting” space encouraging visitors and students “to experiment, collaborate, innovate and learn.”

The school of fine arts has a new name: the **USC Roski School of Art and Design**. The name change reflects subtle but important shifts in the definition of “art” as it expands to include new media and other forms, as well as the longstanding impact and importance of the design profession, in which many Trojans have excelled.

Our **architecture** students can now take advantage of a new scholarship to support their overseas studies. USC alum and Pritzker Prize winner Warren Lortie has pledged \$500,000 to pay all expenses for selected undergraduate students to study abroad for a semester in the school’s Global Studies Program.



The **Price School of Public Policy** has appointed former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, one of the nation’s best-known civic leaders, as a professor of public policy. He will lecture in undergraduate courses, collaborate with USC research centers and spearhead a newly formed initiative, Restoring the California Dream, that will point to “important ways forward...on major policy issues.”

## INTERNSHIPS ABOUND AT USC. DID YOU KNOW...

Over 1,000 internships are posted in our Career Center each month. Many are paid and all offer academic credit. And as part of a national consortium, we have access to a database of opportunities across the U.S.

Students who choose to intern in nonprofit organizations can apply to the USC Dream Dollars Program, which provides \$1,200 stipends to help cover students’ internship expenses.

## SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS



### Back- to- Back with Elton John

On September 16, **SIR ELTON JOHN TREATED USC STUDENTS TO A FREE CONCERT** as part of the fall Visions and Voices program — the arts and humanities initiative established by USC president C. L. Max Nikias. The next week, the USC Thornton School of Music Chamber Singers and members of the Brass Ensemble provided vocal and instrumental back-up for John’s performance at the 65th Emmy Awards. Afterward, actor Michael Douglas thanked “the amazing young musicians from the USC Thornton School of Music.” We couldn’t be more proud!

## FROM THE SPORTS DESK

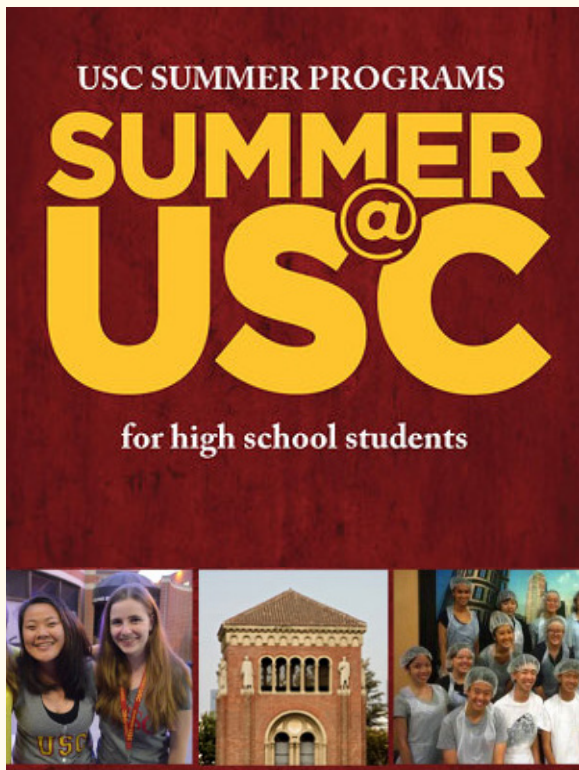


USC Men’s Water Polo team wins **6th** straight NCAA title!



USA Women’s Lacrosse team, captained by USC women’s coach Lindsay Munday, wins **7th** World Cup gold medal in a row!





**Summer@USC** offers an inspiring and educational way for high school students to sample life on a beautiful college campus. Students can make new friends from around the country and the world, meet some of our professors, and enjoy signature events that include a campus film festival, and recreational and cultural excursions.

**Applications are now being accepted for:**

- **Two-Week Programs: July 6-20** Discover the worlds of architecture or pre-health/global studies in small-group, interactive settings guided by USC faculty.
- **Four-Week Programs: July 6-August 2** Select from 22 different college-level courses and earn 3 units of college credit in challenging and engaging classes taught by our faculty. Registration is open, and spaces are filling up. Need-based financial aid is available and awarded on a rolling basis as funds allow. Applications must be received by April 1, but students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

Learn more: [summer.usc.edu](http://summer.usc.edu)

## 2014 IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

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- March 26:** Admission decisions mailed to first-year applicants
- May 1:** National Candidates Reply Date
- May 16:** USC Commencement
- July 6-20:** Two-week high school summer programs
- July 6-August 2:** Four-week high school summer programs

## HOW TO FIND YOUR ADMISSION COUNSELOR

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**Web:** Visit [www.usc.edu/contactadmission](http://www.usc.edu/contactadmission), and click on the Find Your Admission Counselor option.

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

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

## USC'S PROGRAM AND ID CODES

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**CSS/College Board Code:** 4852  
PROFILE Application and SAT scores

**Federal School Code:** 001328  
Used for FAFSA application

**ACT test ID Code:** 0470  
Used for sending ACT scores

## CONNECT WITH US ONLINE:

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