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## 1960s

**Jack Nelson EdD '61** wrote a chapter, "Academic freedom and issues-based social education," in *Handbook on Teaching Social Issues* (2nd edition), published by Information Age Publishing. He also wrote *Critical Issues In Education* (9th edition) co-authored with Stuart Palonsky and Mary Rose McCarthy published by Waveland Press.

**Stan Charnofsky MS '63, EdD '65** recently completed a novel, *Charlotte*, about a seventy-year old woman living in a retirement village in Pennsylvania who solves a murder the police thought was a death from old age. The novel has just been published by Hawkshaw Press in Delaware. The sequel, *Accident: A Charlotte Smart Mystery*, was released at the end of October. The third novel in the series, *Broadway*, will be published at the beginning of next year. In all, Stan has published eight novels, though the earlier ones were author assisted by the publisher.



**Sonnee Weedn BS '68 MS '72** received the Clark Vincent Award from the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists for her contributions to clinical applications of research for the writing of *8 Ways to Wellbeing for Recovering People*. This workbook was the first in a series of three. The others are *8 Ways to Sustainable Wellbeing for Teens and Families* and *8 Ways to Wellbeing for Resilience and Vitality*. In addition, Sonnee will premiere her new documentary film, *From Sharecropper's Daughter to Surgeon General of the United States of America: The Life of Joycelyn Elders, M.D.*, at Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Ark. on November 11, 2021 as part of the fundraising effort for the new Joycelyn Elders, M.D. School of Allied and Public Health.

## 1970s

**Loren Latker MS '71** created a map, "The Raymond Chandler Mystery Map of Greater Los Angeles," which is for sale on Amazon and is slated to be in the "Mapping Fiction" exhibition at the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. The exhibition will be on view from January 15 - March 28, 2022, and is based around the 100th anniversary of James Joyce's *Ulysses*, and explores the relationship between maps and literature.

**Joanne Pittroff BS '76, MS '78** retired from teaching in the Pasadena Unified School District, after 42 years of teaching elementary school at Daniel Webster School.

## 1980s

**Deborah Berry BS '80** retired in June 2019 after 36 years of teaching. She most recently served as a teacher at West Hollywood Elementary School in the Los Angeles Unified School District.



**Randall Miller EdD '86** is serving as a senior consultant to the chancellor of Wayne County Community College District in Detroit, Mich. where he had previously served as executive vice chancellor and president of two of the district's five campuses. Randall also served as president of Lake Michigan College.

**Douglas Tedford BA '87, MS '92** leads the Teaching Services Latin America Foundation, a non-profit committed to the development of effective teacher training systems for marginalized people, currently based in Guatemala. With the personal commendation of a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and as author of *Identities*, an EFL series oriented to high school/college learning of English and published by Cengage, Doug and his wife, Rebeca Chavez, are collaborating with their daughters and many very talented humanitarians to find ways to improve the quality of life for marginalized and impoverished rural Guatemalans. He is excited about the prospect of staying in touch with other alumni to share details of his current teacher training certification project, Palenque Socrates.

## Donald Leisey EdD '73 receives "Lifetime Achievement Award" from WestChester University of Pennsylvania



**Donald Leisey EdD '73** was awarded a "Lifetime Achievement Award" by being inducted to the Wall of Honor by West Chester University of Pennsylvania College of Education and Social Work, his undergraduate alma mater. The following bold type is the inscription on the plaque that appears on the Wall of Honor in Recitation Hall at West Chester University:

*Few educators have experienced opportunities to practice their profession in as many different ways as Dr. Donald E. Leisey accomplished. After graduating from West Chester State Teachers College with a B.S. in Education, Don served in public and private education in Pennsylvania, California and Japan as a teacher, lecturer, principal, business manager, assistant superintendent, superintendent of schools, owner and executive director of private schools. Dr. Leisey earned a M.A. degree from Villanova in 1962, a Certificate in School Business Administration in 1972, and a Doctorate in Education from the Univ. of Southern California in 1973.*

*As an educational entrepreneur, he organized ten companies, including twenty-two private schools, a chain of educational retail stores, including catalogue and internet sales, and real estate partnerships leasing properties to educational organizations. He is the co-author of *The Educational Entrepreneur: Making a Difference* and has been the Executive Director of the International Academy for Educational Entrepreneurship since 2000.*

*At WCU, Dr. Leisey served on the Foundation Board and the Advisory Council to the Dean of the College of Education and Social Work. WCU recognized Leisey through the Distinguished Alumnus Award (1962), 3E Founders Award (2009), the Presidential Medallion for Service (2011), and was the Commencement Speaker in 2011. Dr. Leisey attributes his education as the "launching pad" for providing numerous opportunities to work with dedicated educators and other outstanding individuals in assisting him over the years in providing quality educational programs, materials and facilities to enhance learning opportunities for students.*

Don lives with Patricia, his wife of 57 years, in San Rafael, Calif. They have four grandchildren, one of whom is a first-year student at USC.

### 1990s

**Janice Filer EdD '93** continues to teach at the university level after retiring from Long Beach Unified School District as a high school principal. Janice recently graduated from Pepperdine University with a PhD in global leadership and change.

**Rebecca Constantino PhD '94** started Access Books to make sure that all children, regardless of their economic status, have access to plenty of high quality books via a well-stocked school library. Access Books has been refurbishing school libraries in under-served neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles for over 20 years. They recently partnered with the Herbert R. Mayer

and Jeanne C. Mayer Foundation to create a brand new library at Laurel Street Elementary School in Compton, Calif. The school serves kindergarten through eighth grade students, 100% of whom live at or below the poverty level with various needs such as English language proficiency, being new to the country, and living in foster care or experiencing homelessness. Nine percent of the students receive special education services. Several years ago, due to overcrowding, the district dismantled the library to make room for an additional classroom. The library space was opened back up but the shelves were empty of books and the room was in need of reading furniture and a reading rug.

## 2000s

**Cheryl Osler** *EdD '02, MSL '19* was elected to the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) Board of Commissioners. Her three-year term began in October 2020. Additionally, Cheryl is on the American Red Cross Board for the Greater Inland Northwest Chapter in Washington and has just been approved by the Red Cross to provide mental health services to the Armed Forces and their families.



**Barbara Christie** *PhD '03* presented during the Alliance for Hispanic Serving Institution Educators (AHSIE) Best Practices Conference in March 2021. The title of her 40-minute breakout session was “Developing successful STEM summer bridge programs for first-year students.”



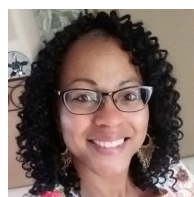
**Janette Brown** *ME '04, EdD '04* received the 2021 Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) HERO (Higher Education Retirement Organization) Distinguished Leadership Award for significant contributions, distinguished leadership, and service. The AROHE HERO awards bring national recognition to the outstanding efforts of retirement organizations in higher education and the individuals that are transforming retirement practices and/or influencing creative life of the mind activities on a wider scale. Janette was recognized for her long and productive service as the former volunteer AROHE executive director and her continued activities supporting AROHE's mission. Her leadership in promoting the development of many successful retirement organizations and programmatic practices has had an extensive impact on AROHE and its member organizations. Janette, a well known retiree center director, leads USC's Emeriti Center and Emeriti College as an assistant vice provost and adjunct professor in USC's Davis School of Gerontology.

**Jennifer Vega La Serna** *MS '04* is the assistant superintendent/vice president of academic services at College of the Sequoias in Visalia, Calif. She has been elected as a commissioner to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) where she will serve a three-year term. She recently completed a year

of service as the president of the California Community Colleges Chief Instructional Officers (CCCCIO) executive board and is serving her term as past-president.

**Serena Gould** *MS '05* will earn her PhD in English literature and criticism from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in December 2021.

**Sarah Peyre** *MS '05, EdD '08* is taking a brief leave from serving as the dean of the Warner School of Education to be the interim provost while the University of Rochester conducts a national search.



**Damita Miller** *EdD '07* is an instructional director/principal supervisor of elementary schools in Long Beach Unified School District. Damita works with principals on instructional leadership by coaching them through analyzing data, providing feedback to teachers, observing classrooms together, and creating principal learning communities.

**Erik Ohlson** *MAT '08* recently accepted the newly created position of visual and performing arts teacher on special assignment in Santa Rosa City Schools. His position is focused on creating new arts integration curriculum for all students grades K-6, supporting an award winning elementary music program across 11 elementary schools, and unifying the arts offerings and varied needs of five middle schools and five high schools. In addition to his new job, Erik purchased a new house and welcomed a new baby to his family!

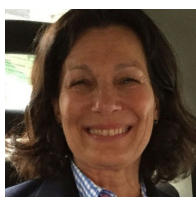
**Rendy Opdycke** *ME '08* is a specialist, marketing and communications with US Masters Swimming (USMS) where she will focus on USMS's variety of channels that engage and connect with current members while encouraging non-members to join. She is tasked with engaging audiences on social media platforms, assisting with internal and external email messaging, helping create content, updating the website, and assisting with advertising campaigns using analytics and marketing trends to optimize each facet. Rendy will also execute marketing and membership initiatives to improve the reach of USMS, engagement of current audiences, acquisition of new members, and retention of current members in support of annual goals and the USMS Mission and Strategic Plan.

## Kimberly White-Smith EdD '04 appointed to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC)



**Kimberly White-Smith EdD '04**, dean of the LaFetra College of Education at the University of La Verne, was appointed to be the independent, higher education sector's representative to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC). As the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities' (AICCU) CTC representative, she will also serve, in an ex officio position, on the Education Deans and Directors Council (EDC) Executive Committee.

AICCU and the EDC represent 43 schools and programs of education at independent, nonprofit colleges and universities. In 2019-20, the independent colleges and universities sector credentialed for the first time a majority of California's teachers. With the demand for new teachers, AICCU institutions are central to preparing the diverse workforce that California's K-12 school districts require. Kimberly brings more than 25 years of experience in urban education and teacher development, with a passion for academic justice for minoritized students through enhanced educational environments, organizational structures, policies, and teaching practices.



**Pat Pefley EdD '08** matriculated in the National Defense University (NDU) College of Information and Cyberspace's masters program in cyberspace and anticipates graduating in June 2022. Pat was also honored to be selected to the

NDU American Fellows Class of 2022 that will allow her to collaborate with NDU's International Fellows.

**Alexis Rampaul ME '08** is a content strategist at Forage, a Series B EdTech startup providing free, self-paced, on-demand virtual work experience programs provided by Fortune 500 companies globally. Acting as an instructional designer, Alexis oversees the content production of these virtual experience programs.

**Jeff Teng ME '08** is an associate director at the USC Marshall School of Business where he manages a team of advisors providing academic advising services to Marshall undergraduate students.

**Jonathon Hyde EdD '09** is dean of students at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Ore. He provides oversight for several areas of the Division of Student Affairs including housing and residence life, dining, student activities, student support, orientation, student veteran services, transfer and commuter services, and Greek life.



**Julienne Jose-Chen ME '09, EdD '21** is the assistant dean for student services at UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. She oversees the central student services team that provides support in the areas of admissions, graduate funding, academic

services and policies, and student engagement and programming for master's and doctoral students within the school.

**Breanna Landwehr ME '09** is working with Work Window, the first VR careers exploration app available in the Oculus Quest 2. Work Window is changing the way educators prepare and support young people for the world of work via technology. Through interactive virtual reality experiences, they transport students to the workplaces of their interest. Work Window allows students to gain insight into what it's really like to work in a wide range of careers, helping them make more informed career decisions, and building the confidence to take the next steps in their career development journey.

**Tracy Nguyen MAT '09, MGSM '11, MPAP '18** recently joined Providence ExpressCare as a board certified physician assistant. Providence ExpressCare serves the community by striving to increase access for patient care for low-acuity issues (e.g. colds, medication refills, rapid COVID-19/Strep testing, etc.) If patients are unable to obtain a same-day appointment for these concerns with their primary providers, and their concerns do not warrant more urgent attention at immediate care centers and emergency rooms, they aim to close that gap in care.

## Greg Schulz EdD '06 named president of Citrus College



**Greg Schulz EdD '06** has been selected to serve as the eighth superintendent/president of Citrus College. With more than 21 years of leadership experience in the California community colleges system, Greg is known for being an enthusiastic and student-centered administrator. He previously served as the president of Fullerton College since 2016.

Greg has also served in a variety of other educational leadership roles, including provost of North Orange Continuing Education (NOCE); dean of trades and industrial technologies at Long Beach City College; dean of instruction and student services of NOCE; interim director of fiscal affairs at North Orange County Community College District (NOCCCD); manager of administrative services at NOCE; and adjunct associate professor at California State University, Fullerton.

As superintendent/president, Greg will be responsible for providing leadership and advocacy; serving as the educational leader; maintaining community, legislative and college relations; overseeing planning processes; and ensuring the fiscal integrity of the institution. As the chief executive officer of the district, he will supervise all college operations and report to the board of trustees.

**Norman Sauce EdD '09** is executive director of student support services for the Griffin-Spalding County School System in Griffin, Ga. In this new role, Norman supervises and supports the school system's new division of student support services, which encompasses the departments of special education, student services, counseling, and multi-tiered systems of support. The focus of the collective work of the division is to ensure that students, families, and school staffs have all of the wraparound services and supports they need outside of the classroom, in order to engage in high quality teaching and learning inside of the classroom, everyday.

### 2010s

**Laura Castañeda BA '85, EdD '10**, a professor of professional practice at the USC Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism, has been named the school's associate dean for diversity, inclusion, equity and access.



**Charles Flores EdD '10** published an article: "Social justice leadership as inclusion: promoting inclusive practices to ensure equity for all" in *Educational Leadership and Administration: Teaching and Program Development; Special Edition Vol. 1, July 2021: Justice Centered Leadership*, a

peer reviewed journal of the California Association of Professors of Educational Administration (CAPEA).

**Anna Huerta BA '09, ME '10** is a senior game design director for Electronic Arts/Maxis in Austin, Texas. She oversees and champions the creative direction for *The Sims* by inspiring the team through progressive creative design and leadership. Anna partners with consumer insights to break down and understand player motivations, and drive solutions to problems and opportunities. She also provides guidance and mentorship to peers and junior design staff, helping them resolve complex problems, and advance their careers.



**M. Erez Kats MAT '10** is the public address announcer for football games in the Highline Public School District in Seattle. He will be announcing for three schools (Evergreen High School, Mount Rainer High School and Highline High School) at Highline Memorial Stadium.

**Doreen Peterson MAT '10** was named Teacher of the Year by the staff at Granada Middle School. As an active educator on campus and district wide, much of Doreen's time during the pandemic was spent working on curriculum building for distance learning; serving on the 7th grade instructional leadership team; creating parenting workshops for the district; serving as the language arts technology lead for middle schools; and leading other engagement activities for the district.

**Melissa Gillespie** *ME '11* and Carlton Gillespie welcomed their daughter, Sienna Joy Gillespie, on May 4, 2021 in Los Angeles. May the Fourth be with you!

**Eva Hinojoza** *ME '11, EdD '17* and her husband, Manuel Valencia, welcomed their first child and future Trojan, Dylan Jose Valencia, on November 3, 2020.

**Wenli Jen** *EdD '11* was elected as the national compliance officer for Chinese American Citizens Alliance, the nation's longest-serving Asian American civil rights organization. She began her two-year term in August 2021. Wenli also earned a certificate in higher education administration and leadership from California State University, Dominguez Hills, College of Education in May 2021.



**Norfina Joves** *MAT '11* is an associate director for The College Board in Austin, Texas.

**Emily Reyes** *MAT '11* is a third grade teacher at Laurel Cinematic Arts & Creative Technologies Magnet School. She provides in-person instruction for a class of twenty students from diverse backgrounds; supports the social emotional needs of students with restorative justice practices; designs culturally relevant instruction to increase engagement in curriculum; provides cross articulation with multiple grade levels to target improvement in instruction; examines data to provide differentiated instruction; provides English language development for limited English proficient students; and serves on the Linked Learning on-boarding team to implement magnet focus and support colleagues. Emily also serves as chapter vice chair for UTLA and executive vice president for the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, Los Angeles chapter.



**Kristina Rigden** *MAT '11, EdD '17* recently joined California State University, Fullerton as a research development officer in the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects. In her position, she works closely with

units across campus to seek external support for faculty research, scholarship, and creative activities, as well as institutional projects that support the educational and service mission of the university.

**Bruce Abney** *MAT '12* is a three-time Teacher of the Year honoree.

**Pierre Campbell** *ME '12* is assistant director for North Campus, a residential area for 5,500 students at the University of Maryland, College Park.

**Leonel Diaz Jr.** *ME '12* completed a PhD in organization, information, and learning sciences from the University of New Mexico. In addition, Leonel recently began a new role as the assistant director of the MOSAIC Multicultural Center at the State University of New York (SUNY) Delhi.

**Mark Gomez** *EdD '12* was promoted to principal at Diamond Ranch High School in Pomona Unified School District after previously serving as assistant principal at the same school.



**Matthew Jellick** *MAT '12*, an alumnus with the US State Department's English Language Fellow Program, has been working in partnership with different US consulates in China, hosting teacher development programs throughout the country, including in Guangzhou, Shenyang, and Wuhan. Matthew believes that this underscores the motto that, "The World is Our Classroom."

**Briana Lamberson** *MAT '12* is a high school English teacher in Clark County School District in Las Vegas, Nev. where she teaches ninth grade English.

**Devery Rodgers** *EdD '12* is an assistant professor at California State University, Long Beach where she teaches a wide range of courses in educational administration and educational leadership. As part of her role she maintains an active scholarly agenda in educational administration and educational leadership; collaborates with students, faculty and staff in meeting department, college and university mission and goals, including involvement in shared professional development activities; actively engages in service activities including program coordination, student advising at the master's and doctoral level, and faculty governance; chairs and serves on master's project, thesis and doctoral dissertation committees; and participates in service at the department, college, university, and community levels.

## Dieuwertje Kast BS '11, MAT '14, EdD '20 presented with the Social Impact Abie Award

**Dieuwertje Kast BS '11, MAT '14, EdD '20** was presented with the Social Impact Abie Award at AnitaB.org's 2021 Grace Hopper Celebration. Dieuwertje was selected for her outstanding work to increase access and equity for low-income students of color in the educational technology field.

The Social Impact Abie Award celebrates those who have made a positive impact on society through technology. Past winners have developed technology that promoted social change or benefited underrepresented communities. Dieuwertje is the director of STEM education programs at USC's Joint Educational Project, where she works with approximately three thousand K-12 students each year exposing new and emerging technology to students who may not have had access to it otherwise. She graduated from USC Dornsife in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in biological sciences and a master's degree in marine environmental biology. She then earned a Master of Arts in Teaching with a single subject biology credential from USC Rossier in 2014.

Her doctorate research focused on teaching elementary school teachers how to integrate STEM into their curriculums. Currently Dieuwertje is primarily a curriculum writer, program developer, and implementer of technology. She ensures her work is publicized via open-source articles, social media, conference sessions, and other public formats so educators can access it and use it in their own practices. Dieuwertje is also a recipient of the Forbes 30 under 30 in Science Award (2016), North American Association for Environmental Education "EE 30 under 30" Award (2016), The National Association of Geoscience Teachers – Far Western Section (NAGT-FWS) Outstanding Earth Science Teacher Award (2017), International STEM Education Association Mike Neden STEM Champion Award (2017).



On a personal note, Dieuwertje and her husband, Roe Fung, also welcomed their son and future Trojan, Grayson, on August 3, 2021.



**Erik Schott MSW '98, EdD '12** published [\*The LGBTQI Workbook for CBT\*](#) with Routledge publishing house. Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT) is one of the most popular evidence-based interventions in the world, but little

has been done to explore how it affects different groups of people, such as the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI) community. *The LGBTQI Workbook for CBT* is filled with hands-on, practical perspectives for readers who are seeking a new point-of-view or for clinicians and students seeking additional tools, competence, and humility when working with sexual and gender minorities. *The LGBTQI Workbook for CBT* is an invaluable resource for interested members of the LGBTQI community, beginner or experienced clinicians, and students working with sexual and gender

minority clients. It is an excellent supplementary text for graduate students in social work, psychology, nursing, psychiatry, professional counseling, marriage and family therapy, and other healing professions such as medicine, acupuncture, or physical therapy.



**Lee Tacliad ME '12** is the alumni and employer engagement manager for Scripps Research in La Jolla, Calif. Lee cultivates relationships with employers in the biotech industry to hire doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers; engages alumni in events and virtual webinars; and cultivates an alumni mentorship program.

**Elizabeth Torres MAT '12** was selected by the mayor of Denver to serve on the Energy Committee for the City and County of Denver's Sustainability Advisory Council.



## Nickey Woods EdD '15 appointed dean of diversity, equity and inclusion at USC Gould School of Law



**Nickey Woods EdD '15** was recently appointed the inaugural dean of diversity, equity and inclusion at the USC Gould School of Law. She is responsible for leading Gould's diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging efforts. This involves three key areas: 1) knowledge and skill development, 2) community, culture, and climate, and 3) assessment, planning, and evaluation. Nickey is the faculty advisor for the Student Bar Association and co-chairs Gould's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism Committee. Nickey is also the co-chair of legislative monitoring for the diversity section of the National Association of Law Placement (NALP) and serves as a DEI consultant for Nickelodeon/Viacom.

It is a two year appointed position. Elizabeth is excited to represent her city and community on issues around sustainability and energy.

**Alina Varona ME '12**, dean for workforce development and career education at College of Marin, won a North Bay Business Journal's 2021 Women in Business Award.

**Patricia Beckmann Wells MFA '97, EdD '13** created and hosted a panel for SIGGRAPH to a community of 30,000 film, game and emerging technology professionals entitled "Creating a diverse workplace with authentic multicultural voices: How can we create real long-term equality?," an honest and blunt discussion of the non-white studio experience from persons of color. Panelists included a White House awardee by Barack Obama and local leaders of minority driven media groups.

**Rocío Hernández EdD '13** earned tenure as counselor faculty at Ventura College last spring.

**Sheila Schneider MAT '13** started a new job teaching at Green Technology Charter High School in Albany, N.Y., an all boys school that is predominantly African American. Sheila teaches tenth grade global history (1750- Present) and 12th grade psychology.

**James Winter MAT-TESOL '13** is an associate at Amazon in American Fork, Utah. He has worked the past year at Amazon in different capacities including the sortation center in San Antonio, Texas; the fulfillment center in West Jordan, Utah; and now in the delivery station in American Fork. Each location is responsible for a different part of the supply chain. James has been highly successful in breaking area manager's hearts everywhere he goes with hard work, stamina, tenacity and perseverance.



**Leena Bakshi EdD '14** always had such a strong foundation in equity and social justice. However after graduation from Rossier, she oftentimes felt isolated in this plight for equity, especially in STEM education. So after years as a math and science teacher and county administrator, she founded STEM4Real, a professional learning non-profit dedicated to equity and social justice in math and science (NGSS) education. She invites Rossier alumni to join the [STEM4Real Network](#), with year-long professional learning that combines standards with social justice through Lesson Study.

**Viet Bui ME '14, EdD '20** was promoted to associate director of student affairs at the USC Thornton School of Music. In this new role, Viet serves as supervisor to the academic advisors at the school.

**Arturo Perez MAT '14** is a history teacher at The Harker School in San Jose, Calif.

**Tagrina Rayhan ME '14** is a program manager, Smith MBA operations at the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland, College Park where she oversees MBA operations for flex, full-time, and online MBA programs.

**Joseph Rios EdD '14** joined the nonprofit organization, Community Work Services, as a job readiness instructor, responsible for developing workforce development curricula for persons with barriers to employment and creating quality assurance processes in preparation for audits and assessments.

## Two EdD alums recognized with statewide K-12 administrator awards



**Isaac Huang EdD '16** was named the State of California Site Administrator of the Year by the California Association of Latino Superintendents and Administrators (CALSA) for his efforts in bringing a focus on equitable and inclusive practices through his service on the inaugural equity task force in the Conejo Valley Unified School District. He continues to bring forward practices at his school site that bridge the opportunity gaps seen with marginalized communities. In addition, he works to support the development of other educational leaders through his work on the CALSA Mentoring Committee. Furthermore, Isaac amplifies the voice of underrepresented communities through his work as a founding member of the California Association of Asian and Pacific Leaders in Education (CAAPLE); a newly formed statewide organization that supports the needs of AAPI students, administrators, and educational leaders.



**Kimberly MacKinney EdD '16** was named 2021 Curriculum & Instruction Administrator of the Year for Association of California School Administrators. Kimberly is an assistant superintendent at Oro Grande School District in San Bernardino County.



**Tensie Taylor ME '14** is a consultant at Lindauer Global, a global search and talent firm that places people across various sectors, such as higher education, independent schools, hospitals and academic medical centers, research facilities and foundations, social justice, and other mission-driven nonprofits. As a consultant, Tensie works with clients in the above sectors to identify, assess, select, and retain the very best possible candidate to place in executive level positions. Additionally, she helps ensure the applicant pool is diverse and the client has DEI initiatives when hiring.

**Elizabeth Trayner EdD '14** was recognized with University of the Pacific's 2021 Woman of Distinction Award. Elizabeth currently serves as Pacific's Title IX coordinator.



**Acacia Warren EdD '14** recently founded [RRISE UP](#) with Kelley Le, director of UC Irvine's Science Project. RRISE UP (Radical Reimagination of Inclusion, Science, and Education) is a nonprofit designed by BIPOC educators for educators, students, and educational leaders. The nonprofit builds capacity for stakeholders to use their agency, lived experience, and cultural wealth to RRISE UP for environmental, social, and economic justice. RRISE UP provides increased access, awareness, and opportunities

to marginalized K-12 students through a STEM mentoring program, first generation scholarships, summer coding camps, and scholarships for student community projects. Scholarships for teacher community projects are supported as well. RRISE UP also offers K-12 professional development services, specifically on project-based learning, climate change, equity, and inclusion. Acacia and Kelley are fearless in the pursuit of what sets their souls on fire. Their tenacity, ambition, courage, and passion is a +1 for BIPOC communities and youth.



**Tess White MAT-TESOL '14** is an ESL teacher at the adult school in Clovis Unified School District.

**Stella Yuen ME '14** is a university programs lead for The Clorox Company in the Bay Area.



**Ashley Brown ME '15** is an education policy analyst in the San Francisco Unified School District. As a team member of the African American Achievement and Leadership Initiative (AAALI) in the superintendent's office, Ashley manages the AAALI Advance Program which coordinates support for Black high school students in order to increase on-time graduation, college eligibility and matriculation. Through deep partnership and

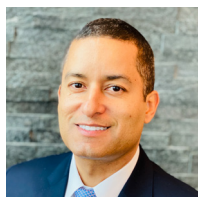
collaboration with district departments, Advance moves from program to system-wide framework for supporting focal populations.

**Trisha Callella EdD '15** is a principal researcher at LEANLAB Education, a non-profit organization based in Kansas City, Mo. Trisha leads the strategy, design, development, and research using a co-design, participatory approach to rapid cycle evaluations involving EdTech companies and school districts intentionally centered around equity.

**Nancy Dayne EdD '15** was hired in 2015 as an assistant professor at California State University, Long Beach in the area of child development and family studies. In fall 2021, she received tenure and was promoted to associate professor.

**Shana DeVliieger MAT '15** will complete her PhD in applied developmental psychology from the University of Pittsburgh School of Education. Her work in the Department of Health and Human Development and at the Office of Child Development has investigated teacher education experiences that promote teacher well-being and sustained enactment of equitable pedagogy through critically-conscious mental health literacy.

**Kēhaulani Enos EdD '15** is a strategy consultant for the 'Ōiwi Leadership Institute at Kamehameha Schools in Honolulu, Hawai'i.



**Steven Lorick EdD '15** was appointed global golf performance ambassador and national key accounts for golf at Technogym. He consults for the PGA Tour Player Performance Center, PGA of America Performance Center, Golf Fitness Association of America, PGA Magazine, and serves as the golf subject matter expert for Technogym.

**James McKenna EdD '15** serves as the assistant director of professional learning and leadership development for the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE). Under the direction of the deputy director, James leads the planning, management, and dissemination of professional learning, research, resource development, and service delivery for the CCEE.

**'Alohilani Okamura EdD '15** received the Southwest Conference on Language Teaching, Excellence in

Teaching Award - Post Secondary. 'Alohilani is an adjunct professor at the Institute for Teacher Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She has 30 years of experience teaching Hawaiian language and helping run and develop programs at various public and charter schools throughout the state of Hawai'i. 'Alohilani has a deep love for the Hawaiian language, culture and 'aina (land), thus she is a passionate proponent of place-based learning. Words in Hawaiian can have many meanings; the word kumu, which means teacher, can also mean the foundation or source. 'Alohilani truly embodies all of the nuanced meaning of the word kumu as she is a great source of cultural knowledge, inspiration, and guidance for her students.



**Seth Pickens EdD '15** is a project designer at Economic Roundtable where he provides visionary and strategic leadership for the Realization Project (RP). RP is a research demonstration of The Economic Roundtable. The project's purpose is to improve economic mobility and advocate policies that affirm the housing rights of California's over two million community college students.

**Candace Rypisi EdD '15** has been promoted to assistant vice provost and director of student-faculty programs at California Institute of Technology (Caltech).



**Janet Schmidt ME '15** and Russell Schmidt MS '19 welcomed Eli Schmidt on September 29, 2021.

**Edgar Barron EdD '16** recently started an organizational and leadership consulting agency, [Dr Ed Barron Consulting](#), after 11 years in higher education. His agency is focused on strategy, training and coaching in the diversity, equity and inclusion space.



**Trista Beard EdD '16** published a research paper in the *Journal of First-generation Student Success*, titled "Emerging social capital in the lives of Latinx first-generation college students: the case for 'apprentice agents' in a social capital framework" extending the lexicon of social capital theories to include near-peer models and mentors.

## San Diego County Office of Education, led by Paul Gothold EdD '17, cited for best practices by the Learning Policy Institute



**Paul Gothold EdD '17** is superintendent of schools for the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE). SDCOE was cited by the Learning Policy Institute in a recent white paper regarding their response to the COVID-19 pandemic and how that support helped 98% of local school districts reopen for in-person learning as of May 2021. Noting SDCOE has “mobilized technical assistance, leveraged partnerships, and gathered data to support districts as they have navigated initial school closure, distance learning, and planning for reopening,” the brief also describes how

SDCOE supported the reopening of child care programs. The white paper is part of a series of reopening profiles produced by the Learning Policy Institute to disseminate key public health research and reopening strategies to educators and policymakers. The Learning Policy Institute conducts and communicates independent, high-quality research to improve education policy and practice. Working with policymakers, researchers, educators, community groups, and others, the institute seeks to advance evidence-based policies that support empowering and equitable learning for each and every child. Nonprofit and nonpartisan, the institute connects policymakers and stakeholders at the local, state, and federal levels with the evidence, ideas, and actions needed to strengthen the education system from preschool through college and career readiness.



**Alison Carlock ME '16** was elected secretary for the California Community Colleges CalWORKs Association.

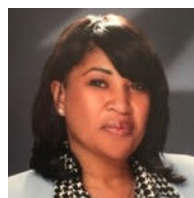


**Michael Gorse ME '16** joined Teach For America in the last year and has been working toward a preliminary credential in single-subject mathematics. They now teach algebra 1 and algebra 2 to ninth and tenth graders at Esperanza College Prep in East Los Angeles. Additionally, Michael advises their school's Gender & Sexuality Alliance and holistically supports 20 ninth grade advisees for all four years of their high school career. They happily have left the field of student affairs and now work passionately in K-12 education while completing their PhD in education at Chapman University. Michael plans to complete a dissertation on the experiences of LGBTQ+ students with LGBTQ+ inclusion in high school classrooms.



**Oscar Lugo MAT '16** moved into the position of instructional lead after two years as acting English department head at Fusion Academy Los Angeles. This new role includes pedagogical support for teachers; liaising academic and social-emotional relationships between teacher-

mentors and students; design and implementation of academic programming and professional development opportunities; as well as general campus support for the campus director.



**Crechena Wise EdD '16** is director of secondary schools at ABC Unified School District in Cerritos, Calif. She is responsible for the overall management of secondary school sites and supervision of the curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional development program for the district and secondary school sites. Crechena is a member of the superintendent's cabinet and leads the execution of the strategic plan.

**Iris Agrafiotis MAT '17** is an English teacher at Girls Academic Leadership Academy in Los Angeles where she teaches sixth grade creative writing, seventh grade English, 11th grade English, and middle school and high school yearbook.

**Everardo Carvajal EdD '17** is director of correctional education, data and school accountability at New Opportunities Organization. Their high school, based in the Los Angeles County Jails, recently hosted a virtual graduation for 19 students who persevered through the pandemic and completed their high school requirements while incarcerated and under exceptional Covid

## Kay Faulconer-Boger EdD '93 will serve as the interim president of the San Diego College of Continuing Education (SDCCE)



**Kay Faulconer-Boger EdD '93**, former acting vice president of instruction at the College of Continuing Education, assumed the role of interim president after the previous president, Carlos O. Turner Cortez PhD '06, became chancellor of the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) on July 1. Additionally, Kay served as SDCCE's director of industry partnerships, creating training and sustainability for government, business and workforce development programs.

With 40,000 students annually enrolled, the College of Continuing Education is the largest noncredit institution in California and serves large populations of the state's most vulnerable and underserved adult learners. In some cases, enrolled students have dropped out of high school as teenagers and are coming back to school for the first time, decades later. Others are immigrants, refugees, formerly incarcerated or opportunity youth.

The safe return to campus and advancement of the SDCCE's Seven Pillars are among Kay's primary responsibilities as interim president. The pillars address basic needs barriers that adult noncredit students face including employment security, food security, housing security, transportation security, financial literacy, textbook and course material affordability, and intellectual and emotional security.

Kay has more than 30 years of higher education and business consulting experience. Prior to leading SDCCE, she worked as the dean of Ventura College, acting vice president of instruction at Oxnard College, and was the manager of America's Job Centers.

restrictions. The Los Angeles County Sheriff recognized the accomplishment on their webpage and their video team [created a video](#) highlighting the ceremony.

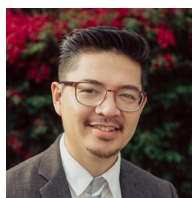


**Cecil Cheng ME '17** founded [elearningdesigners.org](http://elearningdesigners.org), a collaborative online community for learning designers and enthusiasts that provides resources on the latest research and news in learning and development. The

elearningdesigners.org community helps launch the careers of newly graduated and aspiring instructional designers by providing them with opportunities to gain real-world experience and a platform to establish themselves in the learning and development industry.

**Lillian Farzan MMFT '17** marked her first business anniversary as the owner of her private practice, Grounded Therapy. Lillian passed her licensure exam last year after a strenuous journey including years of long commutes, ethically questionable work environments, multiple exams, and tireless hours. Today she is proud to be working for herself, focusing on clinical work with minoritized communities, and being in a community with like-minded colleagues.

**Michelle Hooks MAT '17** is an education coordinator at NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. She develops lessons, activities and challenges to connect K-12 students and teachers with the wonders of space exploration and NASA missions. Michelle also leverages partnerships with teams across multiple NASA centers, local agencies, industry partners and school districts to identify synergies and opportunities for collaboration to promote space-based STEM learning experiences for K-12 students.



**John Reyes EdD '17** is director of research, program evaluation, and innovation for the Roche Center for Catholic Education at Boston College. He is an integral part of the Roche Center team and manages the design, coordination and execution of the center's research portfolios in Catholic education; conducts program evaluation on all center offerings; and supports Catholic schools nationally as they look to innovate, primarily through the integration of design thinking to improve student learning outcomes.

## New Superintendent Announcements



**Jeff Davis** *EdD '07*  
Superintendent, Oak Park Unified School District  
Oak Park, Calif.



**Carmen Garcia** *EdD '07*  
Superintendent, Morgan Hill Unified School District  
Morgan Hill, Calif.



**Kenneth "Chris" Hurst** *EdD '11*  
Superintendent, West Contra Costa Unified School District  
Richmond, Calif.



**Steve McLaughlin** *EdD '11*  
Superintendent, Fullerton Joint Union High School District  
Fullerton, Calif.



**Stephen Nellman** *EdD '08*  
Superintendent, Centinela Valley Union High School District  
Lawndale, Calif.



**Julie Parks** *EdD '21*  
Superintendent, Moraga Elementary School District  
Moraga, Calif.



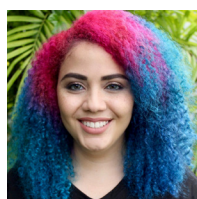
**Andrew Schwab** *Current EdD Student*  
Superintendent, Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District  
Santa Ynez, Calif.



**Ryan Smith** *EdD '10*  
Superintendent, Monrovia Unified School District  
Monrovia, Calif.



**Wes Smith** *EdD '05*  
Superintendent, Newport-Mesa Unified School District  
Newport Beach, Calif.



**Janderie Rivera** *MAT-TESOL '17* earned her EdD in organizational leadership from Nova Southeastern University. In 2017 she lost everything in Hurricane Maria. Janderie started her EdD and considered not finishing. But her daughter was her motivation to finish what she started. Being a single parent, a teacher and a student at the same time was hard, but Janderie managed to "fight on" and achieve her goal!



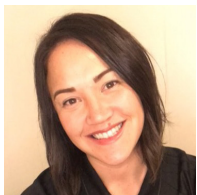
**Helene Sparangis** *ME '17* is a CTEIG coordinator for the Los Angeles Unified School District - Linked Learning. Helene works at Roosevelt High School in the work-based learning space. She helps build partnerships, career awareness and exploration opportunities for high school students. The goal is to help expand career and technical education pathways for 9-12 grade levels.

**Ingrid Twyman** *EdD '17* is an independent consultant and owner of TwyLight Solutions, LLC in Long Beach, Calif. She consults as a school improvement coach with Long Beach Unified School District where the American

Institutes for Research has partnered with the Gates Foundation to create a Network for School Improvement in Long Beach. They are supporting middle schools to enact Plan-Do-Study-Act cycles to identify change ideas that will help improve outcomes for Black and Latinx students.



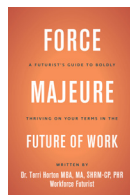
**Hugo Yopez** *ME '17* is director, strategic plan evaluation and assessment - diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice at UMass Global.



**Stefanie Baduria** *EdD '18* was hired as a campus lead for Alpha, a private, K-8 school redefining the way kids go to school. Alpha believes success lies in hard work and innovation. Everything begins with the three promises Alpha makes to families: 1) students will love school; 2) students will learn 2x as fast; and 3) students will learn life skills. Stefanie's priority is to establish Alpha's newest location in Brownsville, Texas, which opened in October 2021. As someone who is passionate about how kids learn and are motivated, Stefanie is thrilled to be part of an innovative school that is rethinking learning, motivation, and engagement in schools, to ultimately lead to successful students!

**Amie Carter** *EdD '18* is an assistant superintendent in the Marin County Office of Education in San Rafael, Calif. She leads efforts to provide enhanced services and resources to districts in Marin County to support continuous improvement in student achievement with particular focus on closing the achievement gap. Amie also designs and implements countywide programs to identify and promote quality, cost-effective educational practices and services while providing support to school districts in the area of curriculum and instruction.

**Tara Harcourt** *MAT '18* is a mathematics teacher at California High School in Whittier Union High School District. She teaches algebra 1, algebra 2 and geometry and is in her fourth year of teaching.



**Terri Horton** *EdD '18* published her first book titled, *Force Majeure: A Futurist's Guide to Boldly Thriving on Your Terms in the Future of Work* in August 2021. For most workers today, the unfolding of the future of work, particularly between 2021

and 2030 will be a series of disruptive, unanticipated, and uncontrollable events. It will be their force majeure. The book is built on Terri's framework of the power and intersectionality of being resilient, hyper-relevant, audaciously bold, and thriving. Terri integrates her experiences and expert insights with leading industry research to guide you through the path forward, to think, act and perform like a futurist, unapologetically pursue new possibilities, leverage power currencies, and to thrive in the future of work on your terms!

**Brenda Lopez** *EdD '18* is the chief external officer for Magnolia Public Schools in Los Angeles. She provides support and leadership in internal and external affairs related to parent and community engagement, partnerships, advocacy, advancement opportunities and communications.

**Fanisha Muepo** *EdD '18* is a H.E.E.T (humanizing equitable education for transformation) equity coach at Bret Harte Middle School in Los Angeles. H.E.E.T equity coach is a new position within LAUSD Local District West that supports Black student achievement. In her role, Fanisha promotes Black student achievement by supporting students in the classrooms and/or small group instruction, coaching teachers, conducting informal observations, and providing the best quality customer service to schools and families. Also, her business, Think Big Educational Services, now has a podcast on Apple. Topics include tips on nurturing children's talents, pandemic opportunities, and identity politics in relationships.



**Karla Prince-Cheng** *EdD '18* founded Mixed Methods Consulting (MMC), LLC. with business partner and fellow Trojan, **Auleria Eakins** *EdD '18*. They are based in the Bay Area, Los Angeles, and everywhere in between. MMC

is a boutique consulting firm that exists to address organizational gaps that impede workplace productivity and culture. Their driving focus is workplace equity and they cover difficult conversations about race,

## Maria Cozette Akopian EdD '20 has her women's leadership program adopted by California State University, Los Angeles



**Maria Cozette Akopian EdD '20** had the female leadership development program she designed in her doctoral studies at Rossier adopted by the College of Professional and Global Education at California State University Los Angeles. She is one of the first Rossier students to have an institution adopt an innovation designed in the Organizational Change & Leadership program. The program is called "Women First: Leadership and Professional Development Program" and will be offered to students as certification in spring 2022.

diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, & anti-racism (DEIB&A) program creation and implementation; policy and procedure creation and implementation; staff development - group or individual coaching; train the trainer; and cultural competency training. In addition they offer technical assistance, organization management, leadership, as well as research and evaluation services. Karla is also an adjunct professor at California State University, East Bay, where she teaches courses in research in educational technology and learning theories and the design of e-learning environments, to graduate level students. Karla recently became co-executive director of United Educators for Housing and Literacy (UEHL), based in the San Francisco Bay Area. UEHL's mission is to bring awareness of reading scores of Black youth throughout the San Francisco Bay Area; educate parents, teachers, and community leaders on literacy instruction; and support a basic allowance for housing (BAH) for teachers, one community at a time. Karla serves as a board member and outreach team chair on the California State University, East Bay Alumni Association Board of Directors.

**Miguel Solis EdD '18** was named head of school at Maui Preparatory Academy, an independent school in Napili, Hawai'i serving preschool-12th grade.

**Marina Theodotou EdD '18** is the director of learning experiences for the Department of Defense in Alexandria, Va. She recently completed a six-month rotation from Defense Acquisition University to NavalX, the innovation cell of the US Navy, where she developed learning experiences on digital readiness, innovation leadership, and adaptive acquisition for sailors and Marines.



**Nina Thomas EdD '18** was named Rehabilitative Professional of the Year by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

**Jonathan Townsend EdD '18** is director of faculty development at California University of Science and Medicine in Colton, Calif.

**Adriana Alcantara ME '19** is a school counselor in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District.

**Camille Edwards ME '19** is an executive assistant to the co-executive producer and supervising producer for *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* in New York City.

**Brooke Flores MAT '19** is a middle school social studies teacher at Lifeline Education Charter School in Compton, Calif. Brooke is the primary social studies teacher teaching sixth, seventh and eighth grade students and loves it!

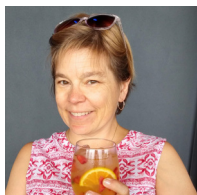
**Mark Mathews EdD '19** is a new adjunct professor in the security management graduate program at the University of Houston - Downtown and has been selected to speak as a panelist on virtual training at the 2021 Clean Gulf Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

**Alondra Morales ME '19** is the assistant director for the Global Executive EdD program at the USC Rossier School of Education.

**Sunterrah Palmer ME '19** is a supervisor, outreach and communications for UCLA Financial Aid and Scholarships.



**Richard Pedroza EdD '19** is an adjunct professor at USC Rossier teaching in the Master of Arts in Teaching program. Richard is also an education specialist supervisor.



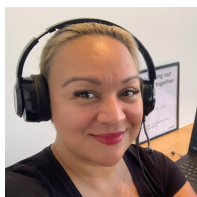
**Lesley Ruzon BA '96, MAT '19** is a theater arts teacher in the Moreland School District in San Jose, Calif. She teaches six theater arts classes at Moreland Middle School.

## 2020s

**Yeraz Benlian ME '20** is founder of Pathway2Career Consulting. She works closely with prospective college students and current undergraduate students in the college admissions process, as well as with continuing education learners who are working towards advancing their career goals.

**Jacqueline Gonzales ME '20** is a school counselor for Vista Hill Foundation in San Diego, Calif.

**Faith Haley ME '20** is executive director of admissions at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Ind. where she oversees the undergraduate admissions division.



**Cecilia Jerez MAT-TESOL '20** is an English language fellow at the US Department of State. English language fellows complete 10-month assignments focused on improving the capacity of English language teaching and learning at universities or other academic institutions supported by the US Embassies worldwide.

**Leshai Johnson MAT '20** and her boyfriend, David, welcomed Cassandra Ahaiwe-Dixon, a beautiful baby girl, on September 25, 2021.



**Megan Nicholson EdD '20** is a human resources coordinator at Castello di Amorosa Winery in Calistoga, Calif.

**Josephine Ochoa MAT-TESOL '20** is a program assistant at Bridge to Enter Advanced Mathematics in Los Angeles. She is the lead translator, seventh and ninth grade counselor, summer camp associate and site director.



**Cortlyn Raymond ME '20** is the coordinator of student engagement at Pitzer College. She works directly with the campus life staff to facilitate the operations of student programming, provide support to student organizations, and develop and implement new student orientation.



**Cory Reano EdD '20** celebrated Mother's Day, May 9, 2021, with the birth of her first child, Liam. She enjoys spending every day listening to his little giggles, coos, and even cries, as they are glimpses of his developing personality that brings her so much joy. Cory is the director of student success and engagement at the USC School of Pharmacy. She completed her EdD with a concentration in educational psychology in December 2020. Her dissertation was titled, "U.S. Filipinos in higher education: sense of belonging, validation, well-being, and campus culture as predictors of GPA and intent to persist."



**Anna Santa Maria EdD '20** is a principal in Coachella Valley Unified School District.

**Alina Tenderich MAT '20** is a third grade teacher at Wise School in Bel Air, Calif.



**Soraira Urquiza EdD '20** was awarded the 2021 Emerging Leader Award from the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO). This award is presented to professionals who have, early in their AACRAO engagement, made an exceptional or unique contribution that demonstrates promise as a future AACRAO leader.

## French Connection - Bill Troost BS '65, MS '67, PhD '73

*As a follow up to the story below that first appeared in the Fall 2009 issue of Trojan Family magazine, **Bill Troost BS '65, MS '67, PhD '73** recently traveled to Nanaimo, Canada to meet Lt. Denis Barois. Bill is working on a mixed media presentation that augments what he learned after he returned from France.*

A forgotten family letter and a long drive through the country roads of France led Bill Troost '65, MS '67, PhD '73 to uncover a little-known story about one of the great American authors. As Troost planned a trip to Europe in the spring of 2008, he remembered a single line written about his great aunt – Gone with the Wind writer Margaret Mitchell – in a family memoir passed down by his mother. The line mentioned how she helped rebuild the French town of Vimoutiers after it had been destroyed during World War II.

He began making inquiries to representatives of the Normandy town, and the response surprised him. Not only was Mitchell remembered in Vimoutiers, but the mayor himself invited Troost to come and represent his aunt in a ceremony the French people had hoped to hold for her nearly 60 years earlier.

In Vimoutiers, Troost learned the whole story. During the war, Mitchell, an Atlanta native, received a letter from a French airman in training at nearby Turner Field in Albany, Ga. Denis Barois wrote about how Gone with the Wind resonated with him because the description of Scarlett fleeing Atlanta during the Civil War reminded him of his own escape from France with the German army approaching in 1940. This began a letter exchange between the author and the French air force pilot.

Barois returned to France after the war and married Monique Boullard, who hailed from Vimoutiers. He wrote to Mitchell about the tragic fate of the town, which was bombed by American forces mistakenly believing it to be occupied by the Germans.

Mitchell was so moved by the story that she donated part of the proceeds from the sale of the movie rights to Gone with the Wind to rebuild the town hospital and pledged to use her influence to find a group willing to restore the rest of Vimoutiers. Following months of letters, she persuaded a women's charitable organization named Pilot Club International, which still exists today, to adopt the town in 1949.

For her efforts, Mitchell was made an honorary citizen and invited to visit the city.

“Nothing that has happened to me before has ever pleased and touched me as much as this honor,” wrote Mitchell, who won a Pulitzer Prize for her bestselling book in 1937, in response to notification of her honorary citizenship. But before she could make the trip, Mitchell was struck by a car and killed at age 48. Troost never met his great aunt. His side of the family had moved to Los Angeles when his grandfather, A. O. Bowden, took a job as chair of the archaeology and anthropology departments at USC. Yet, Troost always had an interest in Mitchell, who joined the family when she married John Marsh, brother to Troost's grandmother. The display Vimoutiers put on for his arrival brought home for Troost and his wife, Trudiee, the impact Mitchell had made on the town. An American flag was draped over the main entrance to one of two hospital buildings, and then pulled away to reveal a plaque dedicating the pavilion to Mitchell. “I do feel a certain connection to Mitchell and hope she's able to know that she's not forgotten,” says Troost, who previously taught at Los Angeles Trade Tech and now serves as vice chancellor of education at Coe Technology Center in Stockton, Calif. “I marveled at seeing her humanitarian accomplishments still in effect after 59 years. One really positive result of this trip is that now anybody can go to that town and see the hospital dedicated to her.”

Frankly, Mitchell did give a damn – and the people of Vimoutiers remember.



**Samantha Casañas** *ME '21* is the assistant director of academic support in the Center for Advising and Academic Success at Whittier College. Samantha oversees the peer tutoring and student-athlete peer mentoring programs, as well

as provides support for students on academic probation and warning.



**Adolfo Diaz** *MAT '21* is a fifth grade elementary school teacher in the South Pasadena Unified School District.



**Greg Frank** *MAT '21* is an English language development coordinator at Environmental Charter High School Gardena. He ensures that English language learners at his school are receiving the accommodations and

support they require across their content classes. Greg works closely with content teachers by co-planning, co-teaching and conducting small group learning sessions, and 1-on-1 teaching. He also administers the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC).



**Jeremy Garcia** *ME '21* is the sole elementary school counselor for Hollyvale Innovation Elementary School in Hesperia Unified School District.



**Enrique Gonzalez** *MAT '21* is a full time teacher at Saint Mary's College High School, a private Catholic school in Berkeley, Calif. where he teaches World and Latin American history.



**Michael Grace** *EdD '21* is the chief administrative officer/chief executive officer for the West Virginia University Health System in Morgantown, W.Va.

**Karina Gutierrez** *ME '21* is a pupil services and attendance (PSA) counselor in the Los Angeles Unified School District. As a PSA counselor, Karina interprets laws pertaining to education, enrollment, attendance, and pupil records. She trains staff and works directly with students who experience difficulties in achieving their academic potential due to social/emotional, home and community barriers.

**Breanna Hummitsch** *ME '21* is a sixth grade teacher in Eastside Union School District in Lancaster, Calif. She works with 33 sixth graders from low income families and foster homes. Her amazingly small school does a fantastic job of supporting the community as much as they can with food drives, sunshine baskets full of clothes, and diaper drives for struggling families.



**Peter Maharaj** *EdD '21* is director, information technology services for the San Diego Community College District. He is responsible for all information technology services operations to ensure the technical and operational aspects of

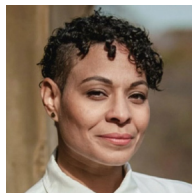
successful development, coordination, and delivery of enterprise applications, infrastructure, academic, security, administrative technology, and customer service delivery for the district. Peter provides leadership and direction to operations, infrastructure, and achieves educational milestones for student retention and completion. He is also responsible for aligning information technology-related support functions with the needs of the district, colleges, and administrative departments to provide effective technology support for end-users.

**Amit Mohindra** *EdD '21* is head of data analytics and insights, global corporate affairs at Takeda Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge, Mass. This is a new executive role to enhance data-driven decision making and build digital platforms for global communications, public affairs, environmental, social, and governance (ESG) and corporate social responsibility (CSR) in a purpose-driven, values-based global organization with a 240-year heritage.

**Brent Obleton** *EdD '21* is vice president of diversity and inclusion at Hudson Pacific Properties in Los Angeles. He leads the development and execution of an organizational strategy to advance Hudson Pacific's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, related to the company's internal processes, external relationships and the real estate industry at large.

**Lauren Petrea** *EdD '21* is the interim executive director of human resources for Aldine Independent School District in Houston, Texas. She oversees staffing for the 85 schools in the district with a focus on retaining talent and recruiting quality candidates.

**Paloma Roman** *ME '21* is a certified counselor in the Los Angeles Unified School District.



**Alicia Roman** *EdD '21* is senior associate dean for finance and administration at Columbia University in New York. With the founding dean and co-founding deans, she is tasked with building out the newly formed Columbia Climate School.

**Alicia Roman** *ME '21* is an academic advisor for the Community College of Denver.

**Jeanette Sanchez** *ME '21* is a school counselor in Long Beach Unified School District.

**Cherre Stoneham** *MAT '21* is a third grade teacher at Learning By Design Charter School in Los Angeles.

**Harley Young** *MAT '21* is a lead teacher, sports medicine and anatomy and physiology for iLEAD Online.

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