

DAILY TROJAN

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represent USC faculty and are intended to help address their concerns at an administrative level.

“[The] Former President of the Academic Senate explained that the Senate’s resolution-making ability has no force of authority and that there is no instance where USC has implemented a request made by the Academic Senate through resolution or otherwise,” the NLRB wrote in a March decision document from the election hearings. “The Academic Senate has made several recommendations and requests in the past five years that have all been rejected or ignored by USC.”

Pamela Conley Ulich, an adjunct lecturer in the Gould School of Law, pointed to Tuition Assistance Benefit cuts as an example of the kind of say non-tenure track faculty have in high-level changes.

“[Faculty are] really not managerial, because if they were, the Tuition Assistance Benefit wouldn’t have been reduced,” Ulich said. “[The University is] trying to make these arguments that they’re managers, but in reality, when push comes to shove, the managers are the Board of Trustees and the President’s Office, and the faculty do not have that power.”

In October 2024, USC announced that Tuition Assistance Benefit for employees would be cut in the following summer. The program was to remain unchanged for those enrolled at the time of the announcement. The changes meant spouses and domestic partners would be eligible for 25% of tuition to be covered for up to one degree program, dependent children could be covered until the age of 26,

and graduate certificates or studies would no longer be covered for faculty, staff or their dependents.

“As managers, would we do that? Would we ever decide to cut our own benefits or freeze our merit pay increases? Of course not,” Levin said. “It’s a pretty laughable argument on its face, but of course it’s a legally opportunistic

argument that the University is going to make, because they want to suppress the union drive. Their goal is to keep the union from forming, keep us from getting to the bargaining table.”

On June 4, a delegation from UF-UAW walked to President Beong-Soo Kim’s office to deliver a letter with over 256 signatures asking

him to respect the election results, according to Madhav.

Madhav said this effort is vital because over 70% of faculty are non-tenure track who teach the majority of undergraduate courses, do research and provide almost all the patient care.

“I would hope that [President Kim] takes a hard look and thinks

about what kind of legacy he [wants] as a president,” Madhav said. “Does he want to be the president that went out of his way to silence the votes of [almost] 1,300 faculty that voted in favor of the union, or does he want to be known as the president that collaboratively worked with non-tenure faculty on solving these very real issues that we have?”



United Faculty-UAW
Faculty deliver a letter to President Beong-Soo Kim’s office on June 4, requesting results from the United Faculty-UAW union election are accepted. The letter had over 200 signatures and was recieved by a member of the President’s office.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2026 | STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1912 | VOL. 218, NO. 1

Guzman reflects on three years as provost

Provost Andrew Guzman discussed challenges and projects from his tenure.

By **ANYA MOTWANI**
News Editor

Provost Andrew Guzman won't be going very far after his replacement is chosen. The soon-to-be Gould School of Law professor said, "I've learned a lot, I've grown a lot, I've loved it, even though it's been hard."

In an exclusive interview with the *Daily Trojan*, Guzman reflected on his three years as provost amid moves from the Trump administration, ensuing layoffs and financial concerns, and backlash against the University's response to the Spring 2024 pro-Palestinian encampments.

"It's been really an honor to be able to play a role in leading [the University] forward, and I think it's in a great place," Guzman said. "One of the great features of this university is that for a long time, it has always had a tomorrow that's a little bit better than its yesterday, and that remains true, and that's pretty exciting."

Nearly a year after Guzman's appointment in April 2023, the campus faced several student protests following the start of the Israel-Hamas war and the Oct. 7 attack,

eventually culminating in an encampment in Alumni Park.

University administration called the Los Angeles Police Department on the protesters, and 93 people were arrested, most of whom were USC students. None faced charges due to "insufficient evidence." At least 12 student protesters received interim or full suspensions from the University.

Less than two weeks later, the Academic Senate censured then-President Carol Folt and Guzman due to "widespread dissatisfaction and concern among the faculty" about the response.

"The ground was moving underneath the feet, and what I was trying to do every day was make decisions that served the interests of the community as well as possible," Guzman said. "I wasn't literally making the decision, because obviously that's the President's job. ... All you can do is make the decision at the time that you think is the best decision, and I've never lost any sleep thinking that I was failing to do that."

Guzman maintained that canceling Class of 2024 Valedictorian Asna Tabassum's speech was because the administration "thought there was a real safety risk."

The move came less than a week after pro-Israel groups criticized



Provost Andrew Guzman spoke at the first-ever Jewish American Heritage Month Celebration in April 2026.

Tabassum and accused her of promoting antisemitic views and rhetoric. At the time, Guzman wrote that the cancellation of the valedictory

address had "nothing to do with freedom of speech" and that there is "no free-speech entitlement to speak at a commencement."

Similarly scrutinized by the USC community were changes to language around diversity, equity and inclusion last year.

In interviews from 2023 with the *Daily Trojan* and Annenberg Media, Guzman stressed the importance of diversity and DEI programs on campus. Two years later, in response to pressure from the Trump administration, the University changed one of its Unifying Values from DEI to "community" and combined the Office of Inclusion and Diversity with the Culture Team.

"We still have a lot of energy going into making sure that everybody who comes here, no matter who they are, where they're from, what their background is, that they can thrive and succeed," Guzman said. "It is true that we had to deal with some of those language issues, but I don't think those are at the core of what any of us really care about."

Guzman stressed the need for communication and good working relationships between University administration and its deans. Guzman, a former Gould dean, noted that uncertainty around federal research funding, impacts to international students and the consequences of an over \$200 million deficit exposed the need for such dialogue.

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Non-tenure faculty move to unionize amid pushback

In a recent election, 70% of faculty voted in favor of the United Faculty-UAW union.

By **ANYA MOTWANI**
News Editor

A year and a half into unionization efforts by non-tenure track faculty, 70% voted in favor of organizing in an election that closed June 1, according to a post by United Faculty-UAW, the union that will represent them. A day later, before the results were announced, the University filed a review of the election with the National Labor Relations Board.

In a statement to the *Daily Trojan*, the University reiterated its concerns with the UF-UAW election.

"We are grateful to our faculty for all they do for our students and as partners in our academic mission. This election has presented not just important substantive issues but important legal issues as well," the statement read. "The University has asked the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to quickly review the validity of this result as the first step toward obtaining much-needed legal clarity over these issues."

The union would represent research, training, practitioner and clinical-track faculty — which accounts for more than 2,500 faculty members. Adjunct faculty at the School of Cinematic Arts unionized under Adjunct Faculty Alliance-UAW in 2025 and would not be represented by UF-UAW.

Some groups of non-tenure-track faculty previously moved to unionize in 2016 but were unsuccessful. In February 2016, adjunct faculty at

the Roski School of Art and Design and the USC International Academy voted to join Service Employees International Union Local 721, but Dornsife's election rejected the measure. The NLRB ruled the vote was invalid after faculty appealed the results, citing emails sent out by then-Provost Michael Quick that urged voters to side against the union.

In 2019, a D.C. appeals court ruled that non-tenure track faculty at USC could not unionize, despite a contrary decision by the NLRB. The SEIU dropped its petition to unionize Roski faculty, and union efforts seemed to be put on pause.

Despite facing similar pushback, the UF-UAW's election went through and was a "thrilling victory" for Kate Levin, an associate professor of writing, with over 1,200 people voting in favor of the union.

"This is a very high turnout election, which shows that faculty were really invested in making their voices heard," Levin said. "We're excited that this can usher in a bright and positive new chapter for the University, which many of us feel is really necessary — not just for faculty, but for students and for patients. ... It's up to USC now to do the right thing and bargain in good faith with us."

Both Levin and Sanjay Madhav, an associate professor of technology and applied computing practice, said they received emails from the University, including from the Office of the Provost, for weeks leading up to the election.

"Without a union, RTPC faculty take home more of their paycheck," read a May 16 text sent to RTPC faculty by the University. "The United

Auto Workers may charge 1.44% of your gross salary in union dues each year, which could offset an annual salary increase that the union may be promising. There is also no guarantee they will deliver on this promise. Make the choice that lets you keep what you earn. Make the choice that protects your voice. Vote."

Some faculty said they felt the messages were anti-union.

"The provost kept sending out emails saying that 'Our votes matter,' and 'Don't let a few decide for the many,' and 'Make sure you vote' with a very clear anti-union tilt. ... They're trying to convince people to vote no," Madhav said.

Since union efforts in 2016, the University has said that non-tenure track faculty hold managerial positions and, more recently, that they encompass too great a variety of roles to justify organizing under one union.

"Given the important issues raised by the petition — notably, the status of USC's faculty as managerial employees, and the appropriateness of including in the same unit more than 2,500 faculty who teach and provide services under completely different terms and conditions — the hearing will require thoughtful preparation and witness participation," the University wrote in a statement to the NLRB requesting special appeal of the 2024 union petition.

The petition resulted in NLRB hearings, which concluded this March and ultimately resulted in the approval of UF-UAW's election.

Specifically, the University said the RTPC faculty cannot unionize because of the Academic Senate and other faculty bodies, which

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Everything to know about the upcoming financial aid changes

On July 1, the Big Beautiful Bill will change student loan and federal aid programs.

By **LIZZY LIAUTAUD**
News Staff Writer

On July 1, changes to federal lending programs made by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act will officially begin.

In July 2025, Congress passed a massive bill slashing social safety-net programs and increasing tax cuts for major corporations and ultra-wealthy individuals. The OBBBA made over \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid, food assistance programs and federal student aid programs.

Some of the cuts passed in the OBBBA have already gone into effect over the last year.

Here is everything to know about the changes that may affect USC students.

Changes to federal lending programs

Major changes to federal repayment options and borrowing caps for some students will go into effect as a result of the cuts.

The Biden-era Saving on a Valuable Education plan, a flexible income-driven repayment plan with nearly 7 million borrowers, will officially end. The Department of Education has already notified borrowers, and after July 1, they will have 90 days to choose a new repayment plan.

Along with changes to repayment plans, the OBBBA also implements new borrowing caps

for graduate and professional students. The bill eliminates the Grad PLUS program, which allowed graduate students to borrow up to the cost of their program, and lowers federal loan borrowing for non-professional students to \$25,000 a year with a \$100,000 lifetime cap. Professional students will have a new cap of \$50,000 a year with a \$200,000 lifetime cap.

Undergraduate student borrowing caps will not change.

However, the Parent PLUS plan will see changes, with a new borrowing cap of \$20,000 a year per student and \$65,000 total — parents could previously borrow up to the entire cost of each student's program. Additionally, new parents on the Parent PLUS plan will no longer be eligible for income-based repayment plans or loan forgiveness plans.

Who will be affected?

A banner at the top of the USC financial aid website specifically calls out that graduate and professional students may be affected by the OBBBA. New graduate student borrowers will be subject to the new loan caps, while returning borrowers who were enrolled in their program before June 30, 2026, and took out a loan for that program by July 1, 2026, are exempt.

Those exempt can continue to borrow under current limits for three years, or until they graduate.

In a statement to the *Daily Trojan*, the USC financial aid

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Broken systems demand radical change

As law enforcement wields more power, people must call for more accountability.

By **EMMA IBRAHIM**
Staff Writer

“Hands up, don’t shoot!” “No justice, no peace, no racist police!” “I can’t breathe!”

In 2020, at the height of the Black Lives Matter movement, Black Americans shined a haunting spotlight on Minneapolis’s finest — former police officer Derek Chauvin, after he knelt on George Floyd’s neck for nine minutes and 29 seconds, ignoring Floyd’s pleas for his life.

Floyd’s tragic death broadcast police brutality into every corner of the country, forcing many Americans to face a stark reality: The fundamental faults in our unjust justice system can no longer be ignored.

Six years later, Minneapolis became the site of state-sanctioned violence once again when Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents killed American citizens Renee Nicole Good and Alex Pretti in January.

Now, after four months of superficial attempts to rein in ICE’s virtually unchecked tactics, their blatant persecution of people of color will only be exacerbated by their fresh slew of funding: a nearly \$70 billion investment that will fund ICE through the end of President Donald Trump’s term.

When the officials we trust to “protect and serve” us hide behind a badge to abuse their power, the system becomes a tool to enforce injustice.

With a history entrenched in racism and oppression, is it possible to reform a justice system that was born broken?

The United States holds more than 20% of the world’s prison population, despite only constituting around 5% of the global population. In the 1970s, then-President Richard Nixon declared a war on drugs and forged a tough-on-crime legacy that the Reagan administration amplified through harsh sentencing, mandatory minimums and an emphasis on punishment rather than rehabilitation — policies that disproportionately impacted people of color.

In Los Angeles, the police officers tasked with enforcing law and order wielded the power of a uniform, a weapon and a system they could count on to exonerate them, becoming one of the most notorious police departments in the country.

In August 1988, the Los Angeles Police Department conducted a raid on the corner of 39th Street and Dalton Avenue, destroying homes and beating residents, none of whom were charged with a crime. One of the officers involved in the raid, Todd Parrick, said in a *Los Angeles Times* interview, “If I was out of control and doing something wrong, how come nobody told me to stop?”

After a high-speed chase ended in the brutal beating of Rodney King on camera, the four police officers responsible were acquitted in April 1992. Not long after, anger and unrest erupted through the streets of South Central, culminating in the infamous L.A. riots.

There is no room for ambiguity when police brutality is captured on video. But when cops are acquitted, it gives them the license to act as if they are untouchable because the system will shield them from responsibility. It also sends a loud message to those victimized by law enforcement: The system was not built to protect them.

In 2021, Chauvin was convicted of the murder and manslaughter of Floyd, an exceedingly rare delivery of justice. But most victims will never receive justice, including Michael Brown, Philando Castile, Tamir Rice and countless others whose killers slipped through the cracks of the justice system without ever being charged with a crime.

Following the death of Breonna Taylor — who was fatally shot in March 2020 — the Louisville, Kentucky Metro Council passed Breonna’s Law in her honor, outlawing “no-knock” warrants and imposing stricter body camera requirements. It took more than two years for any officers involved to face charges. But, in late March, a federal judge dismissed the charges against the two police officers accused of falsifying



Lucy Chen / Daily Trojan

the search warrant that led to the unjust raid on Taylor’s apartment.

Five years after Floyd’s murder, 72% of Americans say they do not believe that the increased focus on racial inequality led to changes that improved the lives of Black people, according to the Pew Research Center.

As the years drag on, our country is becoming increasingly militarized. But what exactly is the great threat that necessitates ripping families apart and turning lives inside out?

Is it college students who protest against their universities’ investments in Israel? Is it immigrant parents celebrating their child’s preschool graduation, only to be detained in front of them?

Maybe the system is working exactly how it was designed to — simply another power hierarchy. But the

damage is not irreversible. When footage of Floyd’s murder spread like wildfire through social media, it irrevocably shook the American conscience. Police violence is no longer an issue people can deny. And activism is no longer confined to the communities affected.

After the deaths of Good and Pretti in Minneapolis, protesters spilled out into the streets in outrage. Our shared grief over tragic, unjustified deaths has coalesced into a shared hunger for justice.

Know your rights and record injustice wherever you see it. Get involved with organizations like the American Civil Liberties Union and the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles. Accountability is the only way to force those in power to face their actions and change the system.

Forget the calendar, start your next chapter when you feel like it

Motivation is fleeting; don’t let it go by waiting for the perfect moment to ignite it.

By **KIYOMI MIURA**
Staff Writer

This past May brought another wave of melancholy goodbyes and exciting beginnings. Graduation ceremonies leave graduates reminiscing the era they’re leaving behind while current students are reminded of how soon they’ll be the ones walking the stage.

Time seems to slip by a little quicker and easier in moments like these — when so many people are collectively moving from one era to another, urging everyone to also take time to contemplate their next moves for the chapter that lay ahead.

The temporal landmarks we follow — the end of a semester, the beginning of a new season, the celebration of a midsummer holiday — excite us with epochs that seem to only come on days that are collectively anticipated.

But jumping on the bandwagon to follow these temporal landmarks only gets in our way.

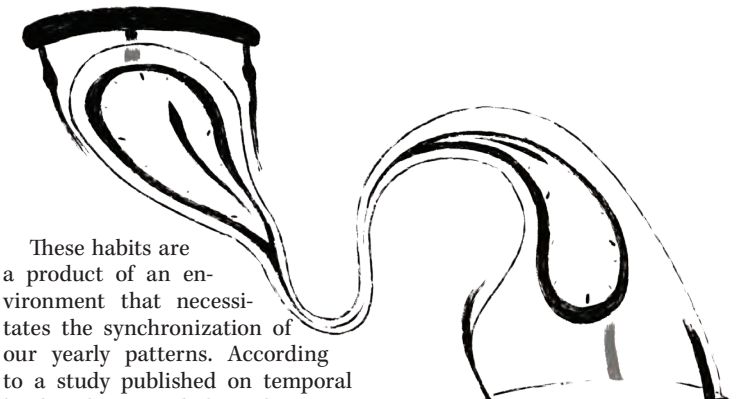
Goals should be adopted and pursued in alignment with

landmarks personal to us. Whether it’s a tragic loss, a minor accomplishment or a major epiphany, who cares whether the event happened to fall on the first day of summer or on a random Wednesday in the middle of winter?

As college students, we’ve entered another summer era of our ever-changing lives and characters. And with this, we scrutinize the person we were yesterday, dissociating ourselves from a not-so-distant yet entirely different persona we hope to outgrow.

Even before the end of the semester, people begin to obsess over that “summer bod,” antsy to get into the gym as our summer deadline approaches. The pressure that comes with stripping down the layers to expose our bodies causes our motivation cycles to mirror that of a bear’s hibernation pattern. Except for us, nothing about the seasons necessitates change, other than our own internal deadlines.

It’s all about perception, and two people’s perceptions will never be identical. Yet on a larger scale, over the course of our lives, we all adhere to the same timeframes.



Katherine Zeng / Daily Trojan

These habits are a product of an environment that necessitates the synchronization of our yearly patterns. According to a study published on temporal landmarks in Psychological Science, people are naturally more motivated to adopt a new goal at a temporal landmark than on an ordinary day.

While it feels natural and easy to align our goals with the passing seasons, allowing our lives to seamlessly flow from one era to another by mirroring Earth’s passage of time, this restricts our motivational patterns to a synthetic path curated by the masses. It’s disingenuous to the personal internal clocks we ought to discover. This is exactly why so many New Year’s resolutions die off slowly but surely by the third month.

No two people’s lives will operate on the same timeline, so why

give in to the pressure of adopting the same deadlines for our own personal goals? Motivation is a lot easier to acquire when you realize that the relativity of time is something you can take advantage of, and that you have autonomy in deciding your own life’s schedule.

It went through multiple New Year’s of trying to start running consistently only to be humbled by the challenge and slowly pile up excuses to get away with abandoning the resolution within weeks. It was easy to adopt the goal again the next year when the topic of resolutions

came up, but as soon as the topic died down, so did the pressure.

It wasn’t until a random weekend I couldn’t even recall that I started running and haven’t stopped since. There was no social pressure and no timely event to motivate me. I simply wanted it badly enough, and had no other reason to start than that.

By realizing the power we have to create our own timeframes and letting go of external sources of validation, we begin to discover the personal motivations that withstand regardless of the time at which we take action.

The pursuit of meaningful goals can often be overlooked when we outsource our motivation to external measurements of success — in hopes of reaching a result that leads somewhere beyond the activity itself, or, in this case, aiming to accomplish our goals by deadlines of collective timeframes.

The most significant results are often driven by an authentic internal motivation because inspiration is fleeting and entirely personal. Chase that inspiration as soon as you feel it rather than forcing it when time urges you to.

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‘Just Sing’ documentary showcases the SoCal VoCals’ artistry

Created by USC alums, the film follows the a cappella group through competition.

By **NINA KREMER**
Digital Managing Editor

Collegiate a cappella may be niche, but it’s no joke.

Though many may think of it as just “doo doo doo doo dada,” as Veda Krishna, the current business manager of USC’s premiere SoCal VoCals said, “there’s serious artistry going on here.”

Founded 30 years ago, the SoCal VoCals have won five International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella titles. Dubbed the real-life “Pitch Perfect” (2012) by *The New Yorker*, the VoCals certainly draw comparison to the fictional Barden Bellas; but, in 2023, they were given their own chance to make their voices heard on screen, thanks to alumni Angelique Molina and Abraham Troen.

Molina and Troen met as graduate students at the School of Cinematic Arts and began collaborating in their classes before graduating in 2016 and 2017. Their professional relationship extended beyond their years at USC, as they continued working together and decided to come back to campus to make a film about the SoCal VoCals titled “Just Sing.”

During their time at USC, neither Molina nor Troen was involved in the a cappella scene, but Molina said she was aware of their presence on campus ever since attending her first college party at the SoCal VoCal house. After they first met the group, Molina and Troen said they were inspired not only by



Abraham Troen

“Just Sing” is a documentary by USC alums Angelique Molina and Abraham Troen, which follows the journey of the award-winning SoCal Vocals a cappella group from rehearsals through international competition.

the beautiful music the group was able to create together, but the genuine friendship the VoCals shared.

“A cappella is not a soloist sport,” Molina said. “It’s definitely a team sport, and even though you have soloists, it doesn’t work unless

you’re all in sync with each other.”

“Just Sing” was filmed in 2023, the last year that the VoCals competed in the ICCAs, and follows their journey all the way from rehearsals to the finals. But the film doesn’t only focus on the competition aspect

of the journey; it showcases the VoCals as people, getting to know their individual stories.

Competing in the ICCAs with the winningest group in the world — not to mention with a documentary crew following along

— was nerve-wracking, said Mateo Gonzales, a USC alum who graduated in 2024, but he quickly realized what a special thing it was to be a part of.

“We all thought [the film] was going to be more focused on the competition,” Gonzales said. “But it ended up being a really amazing time capsule of everybody’s life at that time.”

Gonzales said the VoCals defined his college experience. It was his dream to be in the group; he said it was one of the reasons he wanted to go to USC in the first place. He said that the VoCals consider singing like a second major, and that they formed a real “familial bond.”

“I think all of us would say that we would really do anything for anybody in that group; it just becomes a real family,” Gonzales said. “I still talk to every single person in that group from that year. I think a lot of us are still singing together.”

But titles are not won only by the power of friendship. It takes real grit and determination — and hours of rehearsal — something the VoCals are known for, according to Krishna, a senior majoring in theatre.

“It’s a little bit more than just a cappella to us,” Krishna said. “We are very, very serious about the musicality aspect of it, and we’re super committed to our sound and our blend, and how we refine everything to the max capability we possibly can.”

Molina said the VoCals’ obsession with perfection is what made them so interesting to follow. Troen described the film’s focus on the rigor of collegiate a cappella as being similar to competitions like those portrayed in “Spellbound” (2002) and

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USC alums shine, star, direct at Hollywood Fringe Festival

Four Trojan alums spoke to the *Daily Trojan* about their projects featured this June.

By **MARINA YAZBEK**
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

Every June, the annual Hollywood Fringe Festival transforms the Hollywood neighborhood — from wig shops to parks — into a stage. A tradition hailing from the original Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Fringe celebrates uncensored artistic freedom through live performances of theater, comedy, cabaret, musicals and more, in a festival where anyone can apply to feature their art.

This year, several USC alums are participating in the festival, with projects that range from clown shows to long-form dramatic plays. Here are a few of the shows this month featuring USC talent.

“F*cking Famous”

For the absurdist and camp-obsessed, “F*cking Famous” is a one-woman clown show written, directed and performed by Molly Sharpe, in which she turns into the ultimate pop star on a tour gone off the rails — or in this case, off the freeway. The show follows the premise that, while on the road, Sharpe’s tour bus was hit in a “horrific accident,” killing her entire team and leaving her to perform entirely by herself and with the help of the audience.

“That’s where the clown

element comes in. It’s fully audience participation, much in the way a concert is,” said Sharpe, who graduated from USC in 2014. “I had to bring the audience in to perform many tasks that my team would have done, like my backup dancers and my musicians, lighting, and various other things.”

“F*cking Famous” will have nine total performances throughout the festival, all hosted at Outfitters Wig, a wig shop located on the Hollywood Walk of Fame — an intentional decision of venue by Sharpe.

“In a space like this, I feel like the instinct is more so to involve yourself and engage, and so I’m kind of cheating there, making the audience want to engage more by having it there,” Sharpe said. “My hope with the people that are there to come see it is that they think it’s really funny, and that they have a lot of fun. ... Most important to me is that they feel like I took care of them.”

“What Women Taught Me”

Recent graduates Haley Warren and Dylan Dolson Gonzalez are co-writers of “What Women Taught Me,” a satirical play about misogyny in which they expose the infamous performative male persona. Gonzalez plays the role of Kirk Anthony Bellagio, who presents himself as a feminist ally organizing a play about women’s rights, but all the while is actually undermining his female peers, primarily his classmate Issa.

“Kirk is taking this [stance of],



Oau Greer

Molly Sharpe will perform her darkly comedic one-woman clown show “F*cking Famous” at Outfitters Wig on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Sharpe is one of several Trojans appearing at the festival, which runs through June 28.

‘I’m trying to empower women by speaking on their behalf, and using their suffering and struggle for my benefit,’” Warren said. “We were like, ‘Okay, well, what’s the

natural inverse of that?’ It would be Issa trying to reclaim her feminist roots and empowering the women around her.”

Both Warren and Gonzalez said

that Kirk isn’t directly based on one single person they know, but takes inspiration from many of the men they’ve met in the entertainment

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ARTISTRY

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“Cheer” (2020), where being “number one” is the “most important thing in the world” to its participants.

“It can definitely be a lot at times. ... [It] holds a mirror to you in every way, being like, ‘Are you capable? Are you willing to put in this much work?’” Krishna said. “I think that’s why we love it so much, because it makes us grow in so many ways.”

Given the intense effort and passion the VoCals put into their performances, it’s no wonder that, after the competition was over, Gonzales said he couldn’t help but get emotional the last time he filmed with the crew in his room.

“We became such great friends, and I just started sobbing because I was so moved by the fact that they had really taken our story and made something beautiful with it,” Gonzales said.

Since graduating in 2024, Gonzales and fellow former VoCals Maddi Lasker, Raymond Ortiz and Yohanna Bauerdorf formed a pop vocal group called Locked and have played gigs across the country. He has also been writing and releasing his own music and teaching choir and a cappella at a few schools in the Los Angeles area.

“Just Sing” premiered at the 2025 Tribeca Film Festival, and has been on a limited theatrical run since May. Gonzales said the first time the group saw the film at a private screening, he felt “complete awe.”

“I think we didn’t realize how beautiful our story was when we were living through it,” Gonzales said. “But getting to see it played back to us, it really was an incredible time, and such a beautiful experience that we had together.”

FESTIVAL | USC Alums are performing original independent theatre productions

I continued from page 5 |

industry and the casual misogyny they witness in the industry today.

“How we think of bigotry now is a lot more subtle, and it’s not as overt, right? We’re not in the age of misogyny where it’s, ‘Go make a sandwich in the kitchen,’” Gonzales said. “We’re in an age of misogyny where men want to come across as the right guy, but are still influenced and holding onto beliefs, like ‘your body, my choice.’”

Audiences can watch the 50-minute unraveling of Kirk at The Activist Kitchen with three performances on June 26 and 27.

“Slack Tide”

“Slack Tide” is a more traditionally structured narrative, centered on a group of four friends at a pivotal moment in life. The play is set on a picnic bench in Maine and

discusses nostalgia, tradition and the characters’ futures, and will run six times between June 5 and 28.

“I think our piece is very different than what’s usually in the Hollywood Fringe,” said Katy Kragel, the producer and assistant director of the show. “Usually, the Fringe is more clown shows or fun experimental theater or short theater, and we want to bring long-form drama to the Fringe and see how it goes.”

According to Kragel, presenting a more traditional play to a Fringe audience is exciting because, as the audience changes from night to night, so do their reactions to the show.

“Some audiences think it’s so funny, and so when you’re watching it, you’re like, ‘Oh, this is a comedy.’ And then other audiences, the more dramatic, sad or deeper conversations that the characters have seem to strike more, so it’s a more silent audience, and that makes it feel like a totally different play,” Kragel said. “That’s what’s fun about doing a hyper-realistic show.”

Hollywood Fringe runs through June 28. Check out these productions and other performances from USC alums at the festival.



JOURNEY

I continued from page 7 |

in an emotional sequence that reduces the theater to gasps.

The rest of the supporting cast excels, too. Eve Hewson is perfectly cast as O’Connor’s girlfriend, who acts as the film’s emotional, grounded heart in a story filled with spectacle. Colin Firth is also great as the film’s villain. His conversations with Hewson and Domingo are, respectively, two of the most thrilling scenes of the film, especially because they’re powered by a strange supernatural object that hurts both him and his conversation partners.

Still, the script’s attempt to make him sympathetic embarrasses the audience a bit with its obviousness, trying to humanize a despicable corporate stalker by explaining that he used to have a wife. This last-minute sympathy play is one of the script’s worst offenses, but one could also argue that the ultimate answers to the movie’s questions are a bit too literal, possibly even easy to guess.

The meaning behind these answers, as well as how the wider world reacts to them, seems to be what Spielberg is more interested in. Spielberg thinks he knows how humanity would react if — or when — the world is handed life-changing information about the universe, and his prediction is very compelling.

However, for anyone who doesn’t care about camera movements, existential themes or the modern movie landscape, seeing “Disclosure Day” is still a very good idea. It’s a roller-coaster ride reminiscent of the glory days, where everything Steven Spielberg touched became the biggest movie in the world, and his newest movie is more than worthy of standing right alongside them.

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‘Disclosure Day’ is a gripping, thrilling journey

MOVIE REVIEW

DISCLOSURE DAY

4/5

GENRE: Sci-fi
RELEASE DATE: April 7, 2026
FOR FANS OF Inception, E.T. the Extraterrestrial

By **SAMMY BOVITZ**
Arts & Entertainment Staff Writer

Though most of today’s college students weren’t alive yet when Steven Spielberg’s most iconic films were released, it is no longer necessary to wonder what it would have been like to witness the debut of “Jaws” (1975), “E.T. the Extraterrestrial” (1982) or “Jurassic Park” (1993). Spielberg’s newest film, “Disclosure Day,” is an astonishing installment in the summer blockbuster season and a great film in its own right.

“Disclosure Day” hinges entirely on unbelievable information about alien life — both how it is given, and how it is withheld. The film follows a furious race between two teams: one wants to reveal a shocking truth about extraterrestrial life, and the other seeks to hide that truth. In order for the screenplay to function properly, it must constantly withhold information from the audience. This might frustrate some viewers, but as the mystery builds, it will only bring audience members closer to the edges of their seats.

From the film’s opening scene at a wrestling match to inventive show-cases of the supernatural, at a spry 79 years old, Spielberg is still an expert at crafting a spectacle. The movie truly feels like a blockbuster built for the-aters with its share of expensive-looking shots, like an ominous projection

of countless computer monitors and a blinding portrait of a young girl walk-ing into a mysterious house.

Spielberg knows his canvas is gi-gantic, and he uses it properly, often pulling the camera back to show the entire landscape, even if it’s just a news station building. For viewers who watched “Star Wars: The Mandalorian and Grogu” a few weeks ago and felt like they were just watching a TV show fit to widescreen, then “Disclosure Day” offers the perfect remedy.

Even the way he portrays fantasti-cal powers feels genuinely original — a rare feat in a film landscape domi-nated by fantasy. The characters don’t just punch each other to make things happen; they use a magical alien glowstick to, for example, cause doz-ens of goons to crash into thin air.

The movie’s set and cinematog-raphy feel fresh and exciting, but the themes the film explores and its story beats are very familiar. Spielberg’s feelings on religion, love, truth and, of course, aliens, are all over “Disclosure Day.”

While many of the ideas are carefully remixed, some feel like leftovers from the 1980s, or like con-cepts Spielberg has already done bet-ter. For example, Spielberg’s previ-ous project, “The Fabelmans” (2022), has a more nuanced depiction of reli-gion and belief. David Koepp’s script for “Disclosure Day” reverts back to more stale, generic ideas of faith.

The spectacle could have also felt a bit too generic, but Spielberg has employed an easy fix to this: work-ing with John Williams as his com-poser for the 30th time, reigniting the same collaboration that brought about scores for “Jurassic Park” and “Jaws,” among many others.



Universal Pictures

“Disclosure Day,” the newest science fiction epic from legendary filmmaker Steven Spielberg, returns to familiar alien territory in a summer blockbuster starring Emily Blunt, Josh O’Connor, Colman Domingo and Colin Firth.

Williams is 94 years old, but he’s still one of the best in the business. The sweeping, brooding orchestra pump-ing through every scene conveys the importance behind what might oth-erwise be seen as an ordinary scene.

The movie’s vast mystery would also risk collapsing in on itself without true support from its trio of leads. Margaret Fairchild (Emily Blunt), Daniel Kellner (Josh O’Connor) and Hugo Wakefield (Colman Domingo) prove themselves more than up to the task.

Blunt’s character requires the most heavy lifting, as her charac-ter flips between two very differ-ent personalities, but it is O’Connor who guides the audience carefully through the entire movie. Much like his turn in “Wake Up Dead

Man” (2025), his passionate perfor-mance propels the rest of the en-semble along with him.

Domingo’s character doesn’t have quite as much to do, but he is wonderful regardless. It takes him nearly the entire movie to meet Blunt and O’Connor, but when he does, he pushes them to their limits

| see **JOURNEY**, page 6 |

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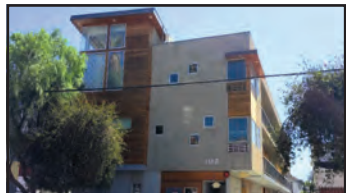
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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0513

- ACROSS**
- 1 Uber alternative
5 The class of '26, at the beginning of '26
8 Hosp. triage specialists
14 One acting on impulse?
15 Wasabi-coated tidbit, maybe
16 Pittsburgh Pirates mascot
17 *Peers
19 Order to relax
20 Group of reps
21 Back-comb, in a way
23 ___ mater
24 *Number of years between Summer Olympics
27 Brews
30 Heated competition?
31 Kilauea output
32 Some porcelain pieces
- 34 Shiba ___ (dog breed)
37 *Number of Supreme Court justices
41 Ethane or methane
42 Belittle
43 Conscious of systemic societal problems
44 Big inits. in frozen desserts
45 They're adjusted when truing a bicycle wheel
47 *Guns N' Roses guitarist
52 Beauty supply chain
53 "Swell!"
54 Under the weather
57 Jackal-headed Egyptian deity
60 What you'd need to press to make the starred clues and their answers match
- DOWN**
- 1 Array behind the counter at a tavern
2 Wheel assembly component
3 Strike from a list
4 Important contacts
5 Many fast pitches
6 Majestic
7 Stark daughter played by Sophie Turner on "Game of Thrones"
8 Fuel economy org.
9 Tattletale
10 Imagined while sleeping
11 Toothbrush handle?
12 Cranberry-tinged cocktail
13 Criminally good deal
18 "Quit it!"
22 Its fur might trim a royal robe
24 College faculty head
25 Email status
26 Opposite of "nah"
27 Real grind

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PUZZLE BY BRIAN KELLER

- 28 Seville snack
29 Holiday precursors
32 Handout with a kids' menu
33 Bulls and bucks
34 Avoids injury, say
35 Personification of victory
36 Wields
38 Formal accord
39 Actress Jacobson of "Broad City"
40 Furry "Star Wars" creature
- 44 Container at an airport checkpoint, for short
45 Smooth and glossy
46 Seminar head, informally
47 Ice cream purchase
48 Forearm-related, in a way
49 Practice piece
50 Tree "houses"
51 Palace, in Hindi
- 54 Retail outlet with a store map at its entrance
55 Garlic relative
56 Strings of yore
58 T-shaped birth control insert
59 Texting inits.
61 Fixtures at sports bars

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AID | Graduate and professional students will see changes to loan caps



Graduate student borrowers not enrolled in their program before June 30, 2026, are subject to new loan caps, but those already who already have taken out a loan by July 1, 2026, are exempt. Jordan Renville / Daily Trojan file photo

I continued from page 3 |
office clarified that undergraduate students may also be affected. “Graduate and professional students face the most significant changes, but the bill touches undergraduate families (via Parent PLUS caps), repayment options for all borrowers, and loan eligibility for part-time students at every level,” the statement read. Along with changes to graduate student caps, the bill will also place a \$257,000 total lifetime limit across all loans for all students. This

includes the combined borrowing cost of the loans taken out for undergraduate and graduate school.
University assistance
The University launched an OBBBA information page in January 2026 with updated information about the changes before they took effect. The University shared this website with schools and academic advisors, according to a statement from the financial aid office. The information page outlines how students may be affected and answers frequently asked questions.

Along with the website, the University published a preferred lenders list to support students who may need to take out private loans. The list compiled lenders based on competitive interest rates, repayment fees and flexibility, cosigner release options, and customer service to help students find their best options. “The University has been clear that additional U.S. Department of Education guidance is still forthcoming, and students are encouraged to check the OBBBA page regularly for updates and to reach

out directly with questions specific to their program or situation,” the financial aid office wrote in a statement to the *Daily Trojan*.
Progressive degree plans
Currently, Progressive Degree Program students who have completed less than 144 units are considered undergraduate students, allowing them to earn a master’s degree while finishing their undergraduate degree, allowing them to receive undergraduate financial aid. Some PDP students told the *Daily Trojan* that the University

had plans to require students to be enrolled in at least 12 units of undergraduate coursework to maintain undergraduate status and continue receiving undergraduate financial aid, as a result of federal aid changes caused by the OBBBA. In a statement to the *Daily Trojan*, the University denied these claims. “There are currently no plans to change unit enrollment requirements on July 1st. Future changes, if any, will be communicated to impacted students first and explained on the PDP website once effective,” the statement read.

PROVOST

I continued from page 3 |
“It’s challenging to make decisions when you don’t know what’s coming later, but you also can’t wait, and that’s part of why I’m glad I was part of that process, even though it was difficult, because it required us as a team to confront difficult realities,” Guzman said. “That included regularly talking with the deans who themselves had to make decisions within their own schools [and] talking with the [Academic] Senate.”
Guzman credited the trust between the provost’s office and USC’s deans to how much he felt they were able to accomplish. He specifically pointed to projects including starting the Stevens School of Advanced Computing and the Student Success Initiative — an initiative focused on graduation rates, student retention and post-graduate employment — as well as getting the new Capital Campus “up and running and thriving.”
While the search for a new provost is underway, with President Beong-Soo Kim recently announcing the committee in charge of appointing a successor, Guzman is intent on maintaining momentum on active projects — namely, institutionalizing incentives and support for summer academic programming — and ensuring a smooth transition.
“Nobody knows how long it’ll be until the new person is named ... so it’s important that I keep doing what I’m doing,” he said. “I do my job to continue working on [active projects] with only small adjustments to make sure that the transition doesn’t cause them to somehow collapse or fail.”
Guzman said his time as provost has been “an incredible learning experience.” From interacting with those in disparate fields and with varied connections to the University, he has felt his horizons expand. Still, he looks forward to returning as part of Gould’s faculty.
“I’ve taught a little bit since I came to USC, but not a lot, so [I] definitely missed that,” Guzman said. “[I’ll] get a chance to get back to the scholarship that I was doing, which really wasn’t possible as either dean or provost, so I’m looking forward to that. It’s kind of a ‘Back to the Future’ [(1985)] opportunity to get back to the things that made me get into the business in the first place.”

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USC Office of Religious and Spiritual Life

FOOTBALL

| continued from page 12 |
perimeter, which will be key against elite secondaries this season.

Jontez Williams Transfer Cornerback

Redshirt senior Jontez Williams hails from Iowa State and is expected to immediately fill the hole at right cornerback. Williams notched 67 total tackles and five interceptions across his three seasons with the Cyclones and is ranked as a four-star transfer.

After his breakout sophomore season in 2024 that featured four interceptions and five passes defended, Williams' 2025 campaign was cut short due to a knee injury suffered in the team's fifth matchup against Arizona.

If the athletic defensive back can stay healthy for the entirety of 2026 with the Trojans, his presence will be a major weapon for new defensive coordinator Gary Patterson.

Zuriah Fisher Transfer Defensive End

Another four-star addition for the Trojans is 6-foot-2 edge Zuriah Fisher, who transferred from Big Ten foe Penn State. He is likely to compete for snaps with experienced edge rushers junior Kameryn Crawford and senior Braylan Shelby.

Across his past two seasons with the Nittany Lions, the redshirt senior recorded 36 total tackles, 5.5 sacks and one forced fumble.

Fisher had been with Penn State for the past six seasons, but due to COVID-19 eligibility rules, his redshirt in 2022 and missing the 2024 season due to injury, he has been granted a seventh year of eligibility.

Fisher came back strong in 2025, totaling 30 quarterback pressures across 11 games while only being penalized five times.

Mark Bowman Recruit Tight End

Ranked as the No. 2 tight end in the class of 2026, Mark Bowman is expected to take over the starting role at the position for the Trojans following the departure of Walker Lyons to BYU and Lake McRee to the NFL.

According to scouting director Andrew Ivins, the 6-foot-4 product showed versatility in high school playing out wide and in the slot, with the ability to frequently shake defenders and capitalize on catch-and-run opportunities. Bowman's entrance to the offense should make him an immediate focal point on the interior for Maiava.

Bowman caught 62 passes for 797 total yards and 10 touchdowns across his 2024 and 2025 high school seasons at Mater Dei High School, which included being awarded the MaxPreps Sophomore All-American Award and leading his squad to the MaxPreps National Championship in 2024.

Keenyi Pepe Recruit Offensive Tackle

Entering as USC's top overall recruit in the class of 2026, five-star offensive tackle Keenyi Pepe is ranked as the No. 5 recruit nationally and the No. 1 offensive tackle, according to 247 Sports.

Standing at 6-foot-7 and 330 pounds, the prospect is expected to get the majority of his snaps at right tackle alongside redshirt sophomore Justin Tauanuu.

Marked with high praise as a potential first-round draft pick, Pepe utilizes an impressive leg drive and smooth kick slide with excellent balance and posture against the defensive line, according to scouting director Andrew Ivins.

Pepe held his own across four dominant seasons at IMG Academy, being named a MaxPreps All-American in each season. He also participated in the Polynesian Bowl and Under Armour All-American game as a junior.

The Trojans will kick off their season on Aug. 29 against San Jose State University at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.



Edmund Wu / Daily Trojan file photo

USC baseball will lose a notable bat in sophomore catcher Augie Lopez but will look to rebound from it. The team is pictured here on March 6.

CHRISTOFFERSON | '27 squad should see success

| continued from page 12 |
Edwards is certainly headed to the MLB Draft as well, dealing a major blow to a pitching staff that was USC's strong suit all year.

To be honest, though, I'm not particularly worried. Head Coach Andy Stankiewicz has made it clear that this is just the beginning of the program's return to greatness, so I wouldn't be surprised if he's extra active in the portal this offseason. Plus, given how the Trojans fared over the past few months, I imagine

more players will want to join the team rather than leave.

I'll go so far as to make an official prediction: One year from right now, USC will be playing in the College World Series. Book it.

Wait a minute ... that sounds like hope. Have I learned nothing?

Bennett Christofferson is a rising senior writing about baseball's biggest stories and controversies in his column, "Dugout Diaries." He is also the managing editor at the Daily Trojan.

OUTDOOR | Men placed tenth to wrap up season

Lampinen brothers, Nketia lead men

| continued from page 12 |
The men started their NCAA Outdoor Championships run on Wednesday in hopes of scoring higher than the 30th place they placed during the Indoor Championships in March. Despite a slow start, USC had multiple athletes score points and advance to the final day of competition on Friday.

The Lampinen brothers finished a magical first season together at USC, each earning First Team All-American honors. On Wednesday, thrower Max Lampinen threw a personal best in the hammer throw at 71.64 meters, earning seventh. His brother, thrower Mico Lampinen, also threw a personal best in discus throw, throwing 61.89 meters and earning eighth place.

The track portion was headed by junior sprinter Eddie Nketia, who represented USC in the 100 and 200-meter dashes on Friday after qualifying during the preliminary round on the first day. The sprinter finished fifth in the 100-meter and sixth in the 200-meter, recording a personal best of 20.19 seconds in the

latter, and earned First Team All-American honors in the process.

As for program records, graduate thrower Vincent Ugwoke shattered USC's shot put record, originally set by junior thrower Racquill Broderick in June 2025. On the final day, Ugwoke broke the record again before Broderick threw once more and reclaimed the title. Broderick and Ugwoke placed second and third, respectively, as USC's shot put record now stands at 64.15 meters by Broderick's final throw. The pair also earned First Team All-American honors.

Senior jumper Elias Gerald was the last Trojan man to earn First Team All-American honors after a strong performance in the high jump. Gerald jumped over 2.22 meters to place sixth in the final meet of his college career, helping close out a solid season for him and USC men's track and field.

Coming off an immensely successful season last year and during the indoor season in March, the Trojans still found a way to finish the outdoor season on a high note and will look to return to the podium once again next year.

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SPORTS

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Track and field ends season at Outdoor Championships

The women finished fifth while the men placed tenth to end the outdoor season.

By **DILLON ZAMPERIN**
Sports Editor

After a highly successful outdoor season for USC track and field in 2025, the Trojans followed it up with another dominant showing during the 2026 NCAA Outdoor Championships from June 10 to 13, setting several new records and defending others.

Across four days at Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon, the women defended their title in the 4x100-meter relay and broke multiple school records on Thursday and Saturday, while the men fought back after being down early on Wednesday.

Overall, the women took fifth on Saturday, scoring 32 points — less than the 47 points they totaled last year when they placed second. Georgia won for the women, scoring 50 points, edging out Florida for the top spot.

Meanwhile, the men took 10th place on Friday, scoring 27 points, well shy of the 41 points they won with in

2025. Arkansas took the competition this year, scoring 56 points.

Women's runners secure top-five finish

Sophomore thrower Ashley Erasmus and a large group of sprinters headlined a second straight year with a top-five finish in the NCAA Outdoor Championships for the women.

On Thursday, Erasmus secured the runner-up spot in shot put after throwing 18.14 meters, putting the first points on the board for USC. Erasmus finished the day earning First Team All-American honors in an impressive end to her sophomore season that saw her break her own shot put record and set a new one for the Trojans.

Other than Erasmus, it was the sprinters who excelled, both individually and in the relays, helping USC score double digits while breaking school records and defending a title in the 4x100-meter relay.

After setting a program record for the 4x100-meter dash on Thursday, the Trojans followed it up by defending their national title and breaking that record again on Saturday.

This race marks the second straight national title for the women's relay team and sets a program record of 41.58 seconds. The sprinters were sophomores Mia Brahe-Pedersen and Brianna Selby, junior Madison Whyte, and senior Dajaz DeFrاند, all of whom earned First-Team All-American honors.

Whyte also ran the 400-meter dash, where she was the runner-up and set a school record of 48.97 seconds. Additionally, Whyte was part of the 4x400-meter relay along with seniors Takiya Cenci and Christine Mallard as well as freshman Joelle Trepagnier; they placed seventh as a unit and all secured First-Team All-American honors.

DeFrاند and Mallard also ran in the 200-meter race, where they placed sixth and ninth, respectively. The two seniors finished their collegiate careers strong, with each contributing to records set by the Trojans.

In total, women's track and field set five new program records during the Championships, won one race and were runners-up in three others in a very successful two days.

| see **OUTDOOR**, page 11 |



Matthew Diederich / Daily Trojan file photo

Rising redshirt sophomore King Miller is a returning Trojan who will look to have an increased role next season. He is pictured here on Nov. 7.

Offseason additions to watch for USC football in 2026 season

USC touts the top-ranked recruiting class, as well as several impactful transfers.

By **BLAKE FALLON**
Football Beat Writer

Following a positive 2025 campaign in Head Coach Lincoln Riley's fourth year at the helm that touted a 9-4 record and an undefeated 7-0 record at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, football sets its sights on a run to the 12-team College Football Playoff in 2026.

As pressure ramps up on the Trojans to make strides toward a national championship in the upcoming season, Riley has brought in the No. 1 recruiting class in the nation, according to 247 Sports, which includes a total of three five-stars and 19 four-star recruits. USC has done all of this despite losing more than 40 players to the transfer portal this past offseason.

Here's a look at some of the most notable additions to the Trojans' roster in 2026, both transfers and recruits, who are set to make a major impact on the team this season.

Terrell Anderson Transfer Wide Receiver

In recent years, the Trojans' coaching staff has repeatedly developed wide receivers at an elite level, with five being drafted from the position over the past four seasons. Most notably, 2025 offensive leaders Makai Lemon and Ja'Kobi Lane were both drafted in the first three rounds of the 2026 NFL Draft.

Ranked as a four-star transfer by 247 Sports and recently as a top-50 newcomer for the 2026 season by ESPN, junior wide receiver Terrell Anderson came over from North Carolina State and will be in a strong position to succeed alongside Heisman-hopeful redshirt senior quarterback Jayden Maiava.

A top-100 prospect from the Class of 2024, Anderson posted an impressive 39 receptions for 629 yards and five touchdowns with the Wolfpack in 2025. In his freshman season, he contributed 14 receptions for 158 yards and a touchdown.

According to national recruiting analyst Cooper Petagna, Anderson utilizes a unique package of size and speed, both in the slot and on the

| see **FOOTBALL**, page 11 |



Adrian Jao / Daily Trojan file photo

Track and field had a strong end to its season during the NCAA Outdoor Championships in Oregon. Rising sophomore Gus Armstrong is pictured here at the Ron and Sharlene Allice Trojan Invitational on March 28.

The agony of defeat

DUGOUT
DIARIES

**Bennett
Christofferson**



"I'm sorry for introducing either of you to sports," my dad wrote in a text to my brother and me. "Please forgive me."

Moments before receiving this text, I watched helplessly as USC baseball suffered a walk-off Super Regional defeat to North Carolina, shattering the Trojans' College World Series dreams at the last possible moment. I sat stunned, head in my hands, in utter disbelief.

This one hurt, man.

It's bad enough that they were up 3-2 heading into the bottom of the ninth. It's bad enough that, with a win, they would've made it to Omaha for the first time since 2001. What made this particular loss even worse was that I genuinely believed they were going to pull it off.

As a lifelong Mizzou basketball fan, I've learned over the years that "hope" is nothing more than disappointment just waiting to happen. It doesn't matter how far ahead your team is or how much is

left in the game; sooner or later, it's all going to come crashing down.

So, how did I manage to have hope in this baseball team? The short answer: I mean, how could you not?

As early as February, I was already making wild claims about USC being "something special" after it won its first seven games — a streak that eventually reached 19 wins in a row as baseball rapidly became the talk of the town. Even as the Trojans began to face tougher competition, they never truly fell back to Earth, ending with their highest win total since 1998.

If you'll recall, quite a few of those wins came at home, where USC finally got to play after waiting out the construction at Dedeaux Field for the past two years. The Trojans wound up going 32-1 in front of their home fans, a staggering statistic that I cannot imagine anyone could have predicted.

And, while the roster was far from being a bunch of nobodies — junior pitcher Mason Edwards and sophomore pitcher Grant Govel were both just named All-Americans — it's not like USC came into this season with the type of buzz UCLA was getting over in Westwood. How'd that No.

1 ranking pan out for you in the tournament, fellas?

The resulting package appeared to be a team of destiny. They had the narrative of coming back home after years away; they had the underdog mentality, hiding in the shadow of their biggest rival; and, most importantly, they had the wins to back it up. By the time the Trojans won back-to-back win-or-go-home games over Texas A&M to reach the Super Regional, I was convinced: Nothing was capable of stopping this team.

Alas — my hubris. My poor wax wings.

A truly heartbreaking loss like this one makes me reconsider why I watch sports in the first place. Why do I invest so much time and emotion into a group of men playing a game when I know I'm just going to end up sad because of it? Why even bother?

Then I remember: There is no destination without the journey. There is no thrill of victory without the agony of defeat.

If I didn't await each pitch with bated breath, I wouldn't erupt in joy during the final out. If I didn't mope around campus after a loss to UCLA, I wouldn't scream the fight song with a sea of people after a win.



Henry Kofman / Daily Trojan file photo

Rising senior infielder Abbrie Covarrubias helped USC baseball go 32-1 at Dedeaux Field this season. He is pictured here on Feb. 22.

Unless you're a Los Angeles Dodgers fan who hopped on the bandwagon after Shohei Ohtani signed, losing is just a part of the process. It isn't a very fun part, to be sure, but it means that the eventual taste of victory will be all the sweeter.

Okay, enough high-school-vaedictorian-speech mumbo jumbo. I'm still sad about USC losing. So what's next?

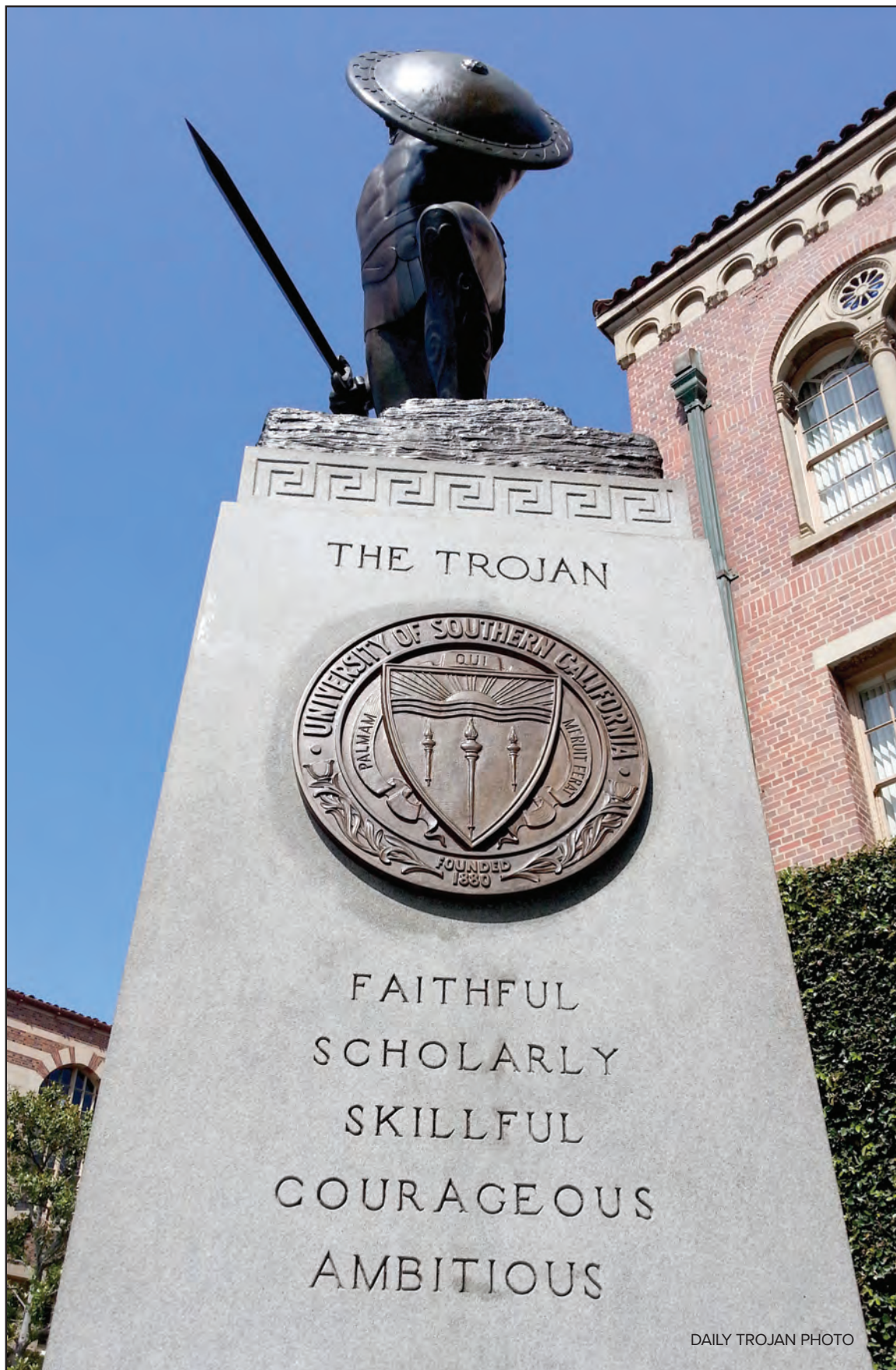
Well, almost all of the key pieces from this year's squad still have at least one more year of eligibility; however, that doesn't mean they'll be staying with the Trojans.

Sophomore catcher Augie Lopez, the team's leader in home runs, is already reportedly entering the portal, and I'm sure he'll be far from the only one.

| see **CHRISTOFFERSON**, page 11 |

SUMMER ORIENTATION

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2026 | USC SUMMER TROJAN



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Fall Welcome 2026 Dates to Know

**Move-In
Week**
Aug. 19-24

**New Student
Convocation**
Aug. 20

**Fall Classes
Start**
Aug. 24

**Trojan
Family
Weekend**
Oct. 29-Nov. 1

**Daily Trojan
Fall Move-In Issue**
Aug. 19

**Football
Home Opener
vs. San Jose St.**
Aug. 29

Fall Break
Oct. 8-11

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DAILY TROJAN

Wherever you may be in the world start your day with the Daily Trojan

Since 1912, the student-run Daily Trojan has served as the primary source of news for the USC community. Each Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning during the fall and spring semesters, the latest issue can be found at more than 70 distribution points around the University Park campus, as well as the Health Sciences campus.

The “DT,” as the newspaper is known among the Trojan Family, is also available online (dailytrojan.com) along with companion sites in the growing social networking world that includes Instagram, X, and Facebook.

For Trojan alumni and parents scattered from Pasadena to Phuket, a great way to keep up with campus news is the Daily Trojan’s free email subscription, which delivers headlines to your inbox each morning even before the print edition hits the news racks. It takes less than a minute

to sign up at the Daily Trojan website: dailytrojan.com/email-headlines/ (or, from the home page, click on “Subscribe to our Newsletter”).

Once you have registered, you’ll receive the daily email blast each day the newspaper is published, beginning with the fall semester Move-In Issue in mid-August. It’s the easiest and fastest way to stay on top of all the most important campus news, opinion columns, lifestyle features and Trojan sports stories.

Background and Editorial Policy

The Daily Trojan is the student newspaper of the University of Southern California. It is a forum for student expression and is written, edited and managed by University students.

The first edition of this newspaper was published in 1912, and in the century since it has been recognized for

continuously and consistently providing an atmosphere of free and responsible discussion and intellectual exploration of USC, which has helped to both inform and entertain the University community.

While the University is the publisher of the Daily Trojan, all day-to-day operations are handled by the student editors and staff. The Daily Trojan also maintains strict editorial independence from the University.

Opinion section articles are exclusively the opinions of their authors, including letters, editorial columns and cartoons, and are not necessarily those of the newspaper, the student body and/or the University.

Participating on the Daily Trojan Staff

The Daily Trojan hires student writers, photographers, artists and editors each semester. Actively enrolled USC

students of all majors are welcome to apply. The Daily Trojan operates its programs in accordance with USC’s Notice of Non-Discrimination. Applications are made available in Student Union 402 each semester after the selection of the

following semester’s editor in chief, and are generally available through the first two to three weeks of the new semester.

For more information on positions available and how to apply, go to dailytrojan.com/apply.



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No myth: No. 7 Spartans fall in Trojan war



By HENRY MODE

Just a week ago, USC men’s basketball reached a low point in its first season under Head Coach Eric Musselman. The Trojans collapsed under pressure against bitter rival UCLA, missing crucial late-game free throws to lose 82-76 at home and fall to 4-5 in Big Ten play.

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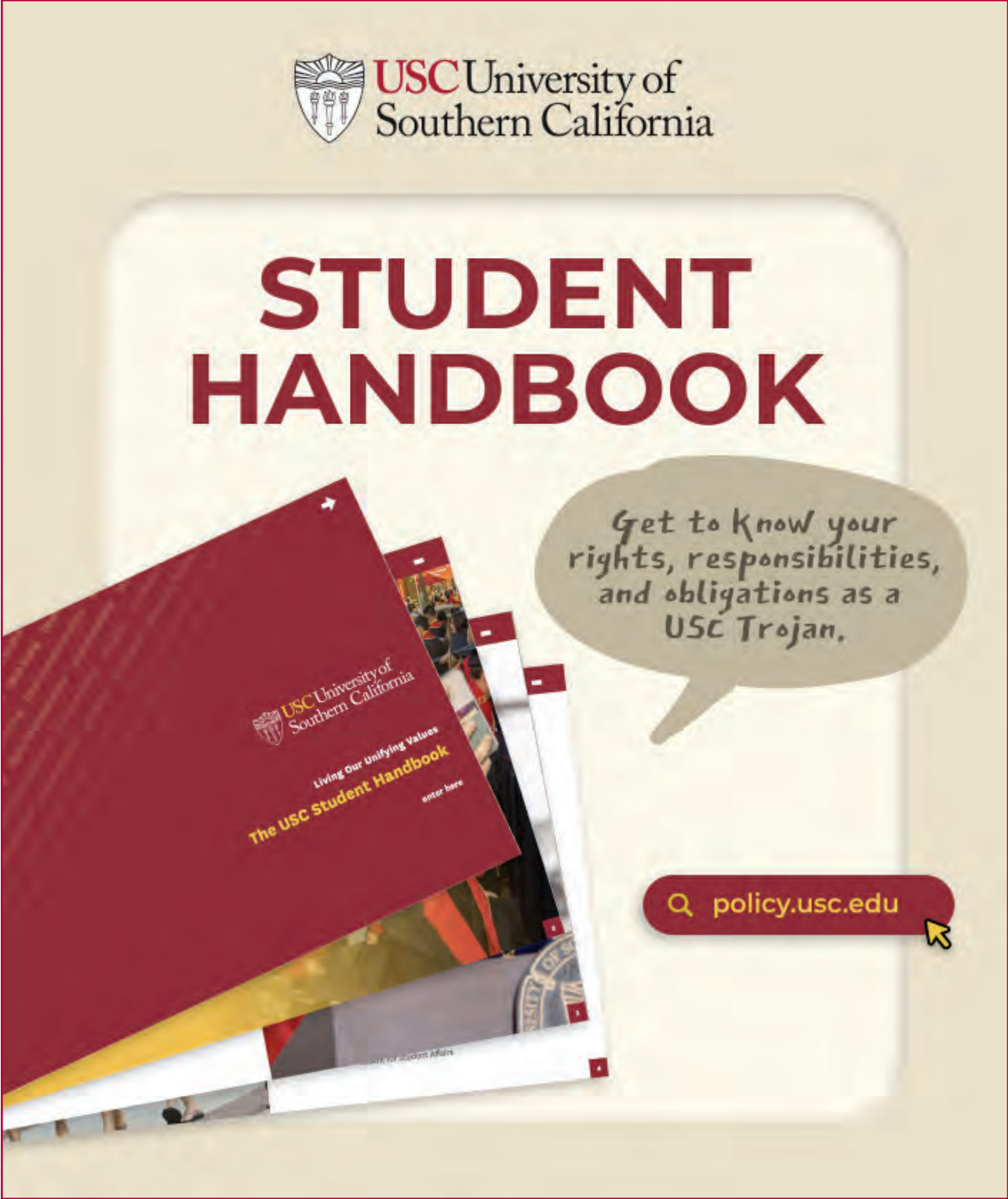


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STUDENT WELLBEING: How families and loved ones can help students thrive at USC

The role of a supportive family is invaluable as students attempt to leverage their talents, strengths, and cultivate their best self

College is an exciting time for students, with many opportunities to learn and grow - personally, emotionally, and academically. Students want to feel excited, have a sense of belonging and meaning, and accomplish their goals. To truly “thrive” is to experience meaningful growth in all areas of life and to emerge as not just a smarter, but better, more compassionate citizen of the world. This means that beyond strengthening academic intelligence, students cultivate strong relationships, connect with their campus community, and are in tune with their emotions in a healthy way. Students come to USC with many strengths and talents, and this is the time for students to leverage those strengths, define who they

are, and cultivate their best self.

As much as success is expected, there will also naturally be times of disappointment, challenge, and difficulties. What matters is how a student anticipates and responds to those times of struggle. Students and families can thrive amidst adversity. Students and families who can anticipate experiencing a range of successes and challenges are better able to remain resilient together.

The role of a supportive family is invaluable to a student's ability to thrive. It is important that students and their families have conversations about anticipating successes and challenges before they come to campus. Such discussions can focus on how they will adjust to life in college including managing finances, navigating challenges of expectation and pressure, how to make friends, and how they will seek a work-life balance that allows them to achieve their goals while cultivating a strong character. Having these discussions now helps the student be better prepared once they arrive. Some additional ways to support your student include the following:

Encourage excellent self-care and the pursuit of well-being

Students who adapt and succeed at college adopt a mindset in which persistence, curiosity,



Daily Trojan

Journey Begins • There are a variety of resources and services to support and assist students as they navigate the excitement and challenges of college life at USC.

self-compassion, and hard work are valued. Research supports that academic success and taking care of oneself go hand in hand; you cannot thrive academically if you are not taking care of mind, body, and spirit. Support wellness practices such as a healthy sleep schedule, a balanced diet, adequate physical activity, and an appropriate amount of time to socialize. Students should create healthy routines and habits which help them feel good, stay healthy, and be their most productive selves. Lifestyle Design sessions can help assess and develop such healthy life habits (chan.usc.edu/patient-care/faculty-practice/about).

Encourage participation in self-care

Campus activities like Mindful USC (mindful.usc.edu) which helps students be aware of their emotions and make informed decisions; or take classes offered by Physical Ed. Department (dornsife.usc.edu/phed), or Rec Sports (recsports.usc.edu). Make sure that students also experience enjoyment daily; “authentic happiness” creates physical and mental resilience.

Understand that not everything has to be done “perfectly”

Some things will be important and should be done to the best of one's abilities; others things just need to get done. Remember that stress is part of life and is motivating; model and reinforce healthy coping strategies such as talking to others about one's problems, avoiding alcohol and drugs, and taking a break to rejuvenate oneself. Student Health offers various workshops and groups that can help develop these skills: studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling/.

Help students recognize their strengths and goals

Teach your student that “failure” and disappointments are part of life; it is how we self-reflect, learn, regroup and improve that allows us to remain resilient in the face of adversity. It is important to learn from what did not go as expected. Set a tone of forgiving oneself, adapting, and carrying on.

Help students identify their priorities and actively allocate their time to match those priorities. It may be better to do a few things well rather than spread themselves thin. Emphasize the importance of focusing on one thing at a time. Research suggests that we are much more productive and creative when we don't multitask. If your student is feeling overwhelmed with all they have to do, suggest learning time management strategies such as better organization, weekly schedules, and time management logs. Occupational Therapy offers individual coaching for students on these issues (chan.usc.edu/patient-care/faculty-practice/college-students).



Celebrate academic and personal accomplishments

Students thrive when they are recognized for all they do and how they are growing. Compliment them when they have done something well to build confidence. Point out the accomplishments they overlook or ignore. If a student is not reaching their academic goals, recommend speaking with their professors, advisors, or the Kortschak Center for Learning and Creativity if they have learning differences (Kortschakcenter@usc.edu).

Promote Healthy Relationships and a Sense of Belonging

It takes time to make close friends and develop a sense of belonging when first coming to college. Students may forget to see that their close relationships with friends in high school may have taken years to form. Encourage your student to take appropriate social risks such as asking an acquaintance to meet up or joining a student organization. Recommend that your student put energy in forming several social groups over time. Students should take “social media breaks” and have face-to-face contact on a regular basis.

Healthy relationships are those that bring out

our best selves. It is important to identify when relationships and friendships may be more harmful than helpful. Encourage students to find support around managing those relationships. Expressing these concerns, talking to trusted significant others, or getting professional help at Student Counseling Services are all excellent coping strategies that should be encouraged. It is important to be empathetic, make no judgements, and refer students to the proper resources.

Your student has worked incredibly hard to get to USC, and you have worked hard to support them in their journey. As we work together, there are many resources on campus to assist your student and you as we help your student thrive on campus. USC Support and Advocacy in the Provost Office of Campus Wellness and Crisis Intervention is available to assist students and families in resolving concerns and questions to help your student thrive (uscsupport@usc.edu; 213-821-4710).

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Week 1	7/6-7/10	6/28	\$350.00 with \$25.00 non-refundable registration fee
Week 2	7/13-7/17	7/5	\$350.00 with \$25.00 non-refundable registration fee
Week 3	7/20-7/24	7/12	\$350.00 with \$25.00 non-refundable registration fee
Week 3	7/27-7/31	7/19	\$350.00 with \$25.00 non-refundable registration fee

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact: Cynthia Brass
(213)740-9252
brass@usc.edu

Registration:


Website:
recsports.usc.edu

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Trojan Family Weekend set for Oct. 29 - Nov. 1

USC families are invited to celebrate and enjoy the university experience at Trojan Family Weekend, Thursday, Oct. 29 through Sunday, Nov. 1

What is Trojan Family Weekend?
This annual celebration is an opportunity for families to visit their students and get an up-close look at how the campus community achieves excellence in teaching, research, academics, athletics, the arts, and public service.

With over 200 unique programs ranging from lectures given by award-winning faculty, open houses showcasing outstanding USC resources, to a pre-game pep rally with the Spirit of Troy Marching Band, Trojan Family Weekend offers something special for every family member to explore.

The event kicks off on Thursday, Oct. 29 with an Opening Ceremony. Activities, programs, tours, workshops, lectures and events continue throughout the weekend. The weekend culminates with the Trojan Family Weekend tailgate on Saturday, October 31 before the USC football game against the Ohio State Buckeyes. Event sessions and programs conclude on Sunday.

The Trojan Family Weekend event experience presents an invaluable opportunity to form lifelong memories with your student and the Trojan Family.

What to Expect
Trojan Family Weekend offers a glimpse into how the university continues to achieve excellence in teaching, research and public service.

- Attend classes with your student



- Meet other Trojan families at social events
- Choose from more than 200 unique sessions and activities, including lectures by award-winning faculty and open houses showcasing some of the resources USC has to offer
- Participate in a pre-game pep rally with the Spirit of Troy Marching Band
- Attend the Trojan Family Weekend Tailgate (separate reservation required)
- Watch the Trojans battle against Ohio State, in the Buckeyes' first visit to the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum since USC joined the Big Ten conference.

Who should attend Trojan Family Weekend 2026?
Bring everyone in your family - parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, cousins, friends, or anyone who feels like family to you. There's something for every family member! Wherever you come from, this weekend presents an opportunity to share experiences and make new memories with your student while also connecting with the rest of the Trojan Family. We hope you and your family can join us.

Is registration required?
Yes, registration is required to attend this event. If you do not want to attend Trojan Family Weekend programs, you do not need to register for

the Trojan Family Weekend event. Current and admitted students are not required to register for Trojan Family Weekend.

Refunds on Event Registrations are available. Deadlines for full and partial refunds will be listed on the 'Pricing' page once registration opens. Tailgate tickets are non-refundable.

What does registration include?
The Trojan Family Weekend registration fee includes entry to over two hundred sessions including Deans receptions, faculty lectures, panel discussions, Q&A sessions, performances, open houses, exhibits and tours.

Sessions are first-come first-serve and do not require any additional registration. Any exceptions will be noted in session descriptions. Tickets to the USC football game are not included in the Trojan Family Weekend registration fee, but a link to discounted tickets will be provided in your confirmation email after registering.

Reservations for the Trojan Family Weekend Tailgate are not included in the Trojan Family Weekend registration fee. These can be added on during the registration process.

For more information visit: familyweekend.usc.edu



USC PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

There are many ways for parents to get involved at USC, including organizations affiliated with various schools, groups and activities:

Catholic Parents Association
catholictrojan.org/Parent_Association
Members of the USC Caruso Catholic Center parent association have a voice and a hand in the planning and production of ministry programs.

Dornsife Parents
dornsife.usc.edu/giving/parents/
The USC Dornsife Parent Program provides resources and opportunities for parents to connect and engage with the USC Dornsife community.

Hillel Parents
uschillel.org/parents
The association plays a vital role in maintaining a strong and vibrant Jewish campus community.

Fraternity and Sorority Parents / Families
greeklife.usc.edu
The Trojan Greek community has special opportunities for parents and families to be involved. Parents and families with students currently in a sorority or fraternity or have a student who is interested in joining, are welcome to attend future family events and programs.

Keck Parents
<https://keck.usc.edu/giving/alumni/salerni-collegium-alumni-association/scaa-associations/>
Group provides opportunities that allow families to get a

better understanding of the Keck School students' experience in the classroom, in the research lab, in patient care and in the hospital.

Parent Leadership Circle
giving.usc.edu/donor-relations/usc-parent-leadership-circle/
USC Parent Leadership Circle serves to engage and recognize parents who support the university.

School of Cinematic Arts Parent Partners
cinema.usc.edu/development/parentProject.cfm/
SCA Parent Partners join a long tradition of nurturing the next generation of talented scholars and storytellers.

School of Dramatic Arts Parents
dramaticarts.usc.edu/parents/
A great way to meet other SDA parents, faculty and students, and attend SDA events throughout the year.

Spirit of Troy Marching Band Parents
<https://uscband.usc.edu/parents-association/>
A proud group of parents that have a blast supporting the Trojan Marching Band.

Viterbi Parents
viterbischool.usc.edu/parents/
The USC Viterbi School of Engineering is enriched by the involvement of both parent and student.

USC Parent Information Families.usc.edu/
General information for USC parents and families.



Fall Orientation Issue 2026 A special welcome-back edition that kicks off USC's 2026-27 school year!

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2026 FOOTBALL EXTRAS

September 4	Fresno St. (Friday Night)
September 11	Louisiana (9/12)
September 25	Oregon (9/25)
October 2	Washington (10/3) Homecoming
October 30	Ohio St. (10/31) Trojan Family Weekend
November 20	Maryland (11/21)

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Transfer Student Resources

Whether you are new to USC (in which case, congratulations!) or have been on campus for a while, The First Generation Plus Success Center is here to support your intellectual and personal development:
firstgenplussc.usc.edu/who-we-serve/transfer-students

As transfer students, you are coming to USC with a diversity of experiences – whether coming from another 2-year or 4-year institution, or you’re returning to school after time away, or you’re coming from out of state or abroad, all these experiences will enrich your time as a Trojan and enhance the experiences of others around you.

At this time, transfer students at USC come from from:

- 50% California community colleges
- 27% Out-of-state colleges
- 10% Cal State or UC campus
- 7% California private colleges
- 6% International colleges or universities

Tips for Staying on the Path to Success

Utilize resources: There are a multitude of support services on our campus designed to promote and guide student success. Before the school year begins, we encourage you to explore these services’ websites to better understand the resources provided.

Visit your professors during office hours: This is a great opportunity to ask for help on course materials, or simply to get to know your professors better. Check your professors’ course syllabi for the times they are available to meet with students outside of class.

Make appointments with your academic advisor: Academic advisors are USC staff members who help students select their courses and navigate their undergraduate academic experience. Not only do advisors make sure students stay on track for graduation, but they are able to connect students to a variety of campus opportunities.

Use a planner, phone calendar or paper calendar to stay organized: A college schedule is very different from what you might have been used to in high school. Use a paper or digital calendar to keep track of your class schedule, assignments due and any other responsibilities, such as club meetings or part-time work.

Get involved in student organizations: USC has more than 1,000 student clubs and organizations. Although this may seem overwhelming, this wide variety means that most students will find their niche on campus. We encourage you to check out the Involvement Fair, which happens during the first week of each semester. This is a great opportunity to learn about the various organizations at USC and to join the ones that interest you. You can always start with one or two organizations, and then add more as you progress through your studies at USC.

Transfer Student Assembly (TSA)

Transfer Student Assembly (formerly Transfer Student Community) is a student organization founded by students in 2015. It emerged out of a need to provide community and resources for transfer students, and helping them adjust, navigate and meet challenges when starting at a new school, especially because there was no Transfer Center on campus.

— First Generation Plus Success Center



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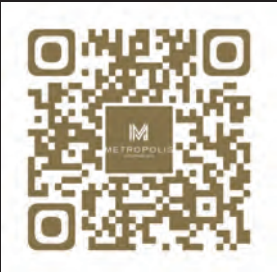
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