

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
and USC STUDENT LIFE

• PRESENT •

Student Recognition

• 2024 •



MAY 9, 2024

BOVARD AUDITORIUM



STUDENT RECOGNITION

• UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA •

• 2024 •

THURSDAY, MAY 9

1:00 PM

INTRODUCTION

Andrew McConnell Stott

Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Dean of the Graduate School

THE ORDER OF THE LAUREL AND THE PALM

THE ORDER OF ARÊTE

THE ORDER OF TROY

USC ACADEMIC HONORS

Valedictorian

Salutatorians

Steven and Kathryn Sample Renaissance Scholars

Discovery Scholars

Global Scholars

COMPETITIVE FELLOWSHIPS

David L. Boren Scholarship for International Study

Barry Goldwater Scholarship

Luce Scholarship

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program

Schwarzman Scholarship

Truman Scholarship

Fulbright U.S. Student Program

CLOSING

Laura Denbow

Interim Executive Director for Career Services

HARPIST: Kaitlin Miller



T H E O R D E R O F

T H E *Laurel* &
T H E *Palm*

• HIGHEST HONOR BESTOWED ON GRADUATING STUDENTS •

The highest honor given to students completing their degrees, the Order of the Laurel and the Palm is awarded to students who display exceptional leadership and service that makes a lasting impact on the university community and/or the world at large. These students embody the university's Unifying Values. Less than one percent of undergraduates and graduates earning their degrees are selected to receive the Order of the Laurel and the Palm.

The University and USC Student Life proudly congratulate these inspirational leaders and scholars for their transformative work— the recipients of the Order of the Laurel and the Palm.

• BIOGRAPHIES •
BACHELOR CANDIDATES

Melissa Ayala

Melissa Ayala will earn a bachelor of science in public policy. Melissa's commitment to improving the learning community, the institution, and society is evident in her leadership roles on campus and throughout the community. She served as the president's sustainability intern at the USC Office of Sustainability and as a summer legislative intern at Mayor Garcetti's Office. As the programming Chair for the USC First-Generation Student Assembly, Melissa was instrumental in creating and executing a range of events specifically designed to meet the unique needs of first-generation college students. As the assistant director for the Latine Student Assembly, she pioneered several events and led general meetings to engage and create space for Latinx students on campus and foster an inclusive environment where students could celebrate and engage with Latinx heritage and issues. Melissa was nominated and selected for Excellence and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Esha Azad

Esha Azad will earn a bachelor of science in accounting from the Leventhal School. Esha has consistently helped others reach for excellence. As the chair of Beta Alpha Psi, Esha organized events with public accounting firms that focused on the professional development of members from underrepresented groups and established, organized, and hosted a case competition centered around DEI issues. As an intern at the National Steinbeck Center, she provided feedback as a writing coach to middle school students to help improve their Steinbeck-inspired short stories for the Day-of-Writing competition. As a volunteer for the Violence Intervention program, she tutored elementary and middle school children who were victims of abuse or from families needing assistance. She also managed a childcare center to provide support for guardians who were receiving consultation at a mental health center. Esha was nominated and selected for her commitment to Excellence and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Amber Birdwell

Amber Birdwell will earn a bachelor of science in global geodesign and a master of science in geographic information science and technology. Amber is an excellent example of one who has made a positive impact in grassroots ways. She hosted "Tech Talk" workshops with Francisco Homes, a local organization that provides transitional support and housing for men who had been sentenced to life in prison but were recently released, where she taught them how to use computers or phones. As the president of Reformed University Fellowship (RUF), she organized RUF for a Friends and Neighbors Day event to weed a community garden in Compton. As a leader in Gamma Phi Beta, she worked with the organization Girls on the Run, building social and behavioral skills for girls in 3rd-8th grade, and raised money for them throughout the year. Amber was nominated and selected for her commitment to Excellence, Open Communication, and Well-being.

Rachel.Amir Chatman

Rachel.Amir Chatman will earn a bachelor and master of science in biomedical engineering. Rachel.Amir works to build connections and support the development of other students in all her extracurricular experiences. She served as the president of the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) and nearly doubled membership during her tenure. It is now one of the largest NPHC chapters on the west coast. Rachel.Amir co-founded and served as co-president of Shift SC, a student organization promoting socially responsible technology. She also served as a mentor for the Trojan Scholars Society, offering her assistance to first and second year Trojans. Rachel.Amir was nominated and selected for her commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Well-being.

Bachelor Candidates

- Melissa Ayala**
- Esha Azad**
- Amber Birdwell**
- Rachel.Amir Chatman**
- Gaveen Godage**
- Fiona Goh**
- Thordar Han**
- Kelly Kwok**
- Miko Mariscal**
- Kathryn McCabe**
- Asna Tabassum**
- Crystal Thai**
- Cindy Thai**

Master & Doctoral Candidates

- Jennifer Ahumada**
- Claire Arata**
- Yridia Ayvar**
- Matt Bauer**
- Justine Buenaventura**
- Serena Chen**
- Jazlin Gibson**
- Olivia Heffernan**
- Miguel Lima**
- Gilberto Pena**
- Emily Pham**
- Maya Yanez**

T H E O R D E R O F

T H E *Laurel* & T H E *Palm*

• B I O G R A P H I E S •
B A C H E L O R C A N D I D A T E S

Gaveen Godage

Gaveen Godage will earn a bachelor of science in human biology. Gaveen's merit shines through his longstanding commitment to service and efforts to empower others. Gaveen served as the founding vice president for the non-profit Blueprints for Pangaea, an organization that donates medical supplies to local and international communities in need. As a session lead for the Prison Education Project, he taught 10 courses in facilities across the California State system and provided manuscript editing services for incarcerated authors. He also served as a resident assistant and a one-on-one pre-health advisor. Gaveen was nominated and selected for his commitment to Excellence and Open Communication.

Fiona Goh

Fiona Goh will earn a doctor of pharmacy degree from the Alfred E. Mann School of Pharmacy. Fiona's strong leadership skills and commitment to mentorship highlight her commitment to the success of those around her. Fiona served as the USC Mann Skull and Mortar president, organizing health fairs and planning events with elementary schools to raise awareness about the role of pharmacists. She also served as a lead facilitator for the USC Compassions program, helping to develop undergraduate pre-pharmacy students communications skills and understanding of older adult health and wellness. Fiona was nominated and selected for her commitment to Excellence and Well-being.

Thordar Han

Thordar Han will earn a bachelor of science in computational neuroscience. Throughout her time at USC, Thordar has not only excelled in academics but has wholeheartedly committed to serving the university and neighboring communities through her volunteer work, leadership, and research roles. She contributed to the work of the USC Schweighofer Lab and the USC Hackman Lab. As the vice president for USC's Blueprints for Pangea, she re-envisioned the workflow within the internal IT infrastructure to improve the delivery and implementation of essential medical supplies for local and international populations in need. Thordar also spent three years volunteering weekly in Los Angeles County fostering the community by promoting well-being within local hospitals through her role with Blueprints for Pangea and the ICU of Keck Medical Center. Thordar was nominated and selected for her commitment to Excellence and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Kelly Kwok

Kelly Kwok will earn a bachelor of science in geodesign. Kelly volunteered to mentor students from LAUSD in the Dornsife Joint Educational Program. She has provided free tutoring to bridge the education gap. As a Dornsife Transfer Ambassador, she educated community college advisors about resources for potential transfer students, conducted numerous informational panels and one-on-one sessions with prospective students, and fostered a welcoming community for transfer students. As a program assistant in the Asian Pacific American Student Services center, she developed educational resources on Asian American history and hosted cultural events to foster meaningful dialogue around Asian American women's identity and experience. Kelly was nominated and selected for her commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Well-being.

Miko Mariscal

Miko Mariscal will earn a bachelor of arts in sociology and a minor in public relations. Miko's experiences, both professionally and within the university community, underscore her belief that everyone belongs. As president of Society 53, she hosted unique programming for professional development, mentorship, and community building and maintained strong connections with a vast alumni network. As an Admissions Center student ambassador and a justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion peer educator, Miko has designed training programs, delivered campus tours in English and Spanish, and facilitated conversations on diversity and equity for various student organizations. She has also actively contributed to the development and execution of programs at Universal Studios, including the Universal Writers Program, Universal Animation Writers Program, Universal Directors Initiative, and Universal Composers Initiative, to increase awareness and access for underrepresented talent across the studio. Miko was nominated and selected for her commitment to Excellence, Integrity, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Kathryn McCabe

Kathryn McCabe will earn a bachelor of arts in environmental studies and non-governmental organizations and social change. Kathryn is an excellent student who couples her academic prowess with a commitment to assist others in pursuit of a healthy and rewarding life. She served as a coordinator for the USC Intersectional Feminism Club and volunteered for Friends-of-the-LA River. In her research, Kathryn served on a collaborative team of undergraduates focused on analyzing climate response financing and highlighting marginalized voices. In another project, she worked with a team to create a high-quality podcast segment that provided comparative analyses of aquaculture regulation and development for the United States and China. Kathryn was nominated and selected for her commitment to Excellence and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Asna Tabassum

Asna Tabassum will earn a bachelor of science in biomedical engineering. Asna cares deeply about others as evidenced by her multiple extracurricular activities that value and support students and the community. She served as the President of Blueprints for Pangea and as the Director of Projects for Los Angeles Community Impact. She also worked as an intern with the university's Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention office, noticing a need for tailored sexual violence prevention programs for international students. Asna was nominated and selected for her commitment to Excellence and Well-being.

Crystal Thai

Crystal Thai will earn a bachelor of science in lifespan health. Crystal is a remarkable student with a clear ambition to become an influential leader in the field of gerontology and law. Crystal actively participated in USC Madhatter Knits for the past 4 years, where she and her club knitted and donated over 100 hats for babies in local NICUs around Los Angeles. As the vice president of membership for Alpha Phi Omega, she oversaw more than 100 student volunteers and developed various initiatives to promote a welcoming and inclusive community. Crystal also interned at the National Center on Elder Abuse to gain a deeper understanding of the social challenges surrounding elder mistreatment and how to advocate for the elder population. Crystal was nominated and selected for her commitment to Accountability and Excellence.

Cindy Thai

Cindy Thai will earn a bachelor of science accounting degree from the Leventhal School. As a U.S. Army Veteran, she has tirelessly assisted friends, classmates, and student veterans and extended her support network to ensure their success within the university community. In serving as vice president of the Student Veterans Association, Cindy has exhibited strong leadership qualities, in advocating for the needs of her peers and championing inclusivity within the organization. Her efforts to recruit student veterans from East Los Angeles College to USC has extended opportunities for underrepresented groups to thrive in higher education. Her volunteer work at the Veterans Resource Center and Trojan Food Pantry underscores her dedication to serving the broader USC community, particularly those facing socio-economic challenges. Cindy was nominated and selected for her commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Well-being.

T H E *Laurel* & T H E *Palm*

• B I O G R A P H I E S •
M A S T E R & D O C T O R A L C A N D I D A T E S

Jennifer Ahumada

Jennifer Ahumada will earn a bachelor of science in health promotion and disease prevention and a master of science in applied biostatistics and epidemiology. Jennifer has demonstrated a deep commitment to advancing health equity among lower income communities of color. She has served as president of the Health Sciences Educational Program, Director of Community Outreach for the Community Health Involvement project, and an EHMATTERS fellow in the USC Environmental Health Centers Environmental Justice Research Lab. As a first-generation Latina student, she has implemented a culturally appropriate curriculum to create workshops, infographics, and social media graphics that have increased environmental health literacy among Spanish speaking communities. She was nominated and selected for her commitment to Excellence and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Claire Arata

Claire Arata will earn a PhD from the Keck School in developmental, stem cell, and regenerative medicine. Claire has shown true leadership qualities for the betterment of fellow graduate students from the local to the international level. She served as secretary and treasurer of the School of Medicine Graduate Student Association. She partnered with two other graduate students to launch a “Health Science Mentors” initiative at juvenile hall in 2018, obtaining USC Good Neighbors campaign funding. Claire was also elected by her peer scientists to serve as chair of the Gordon Research Seminar on Bones and Teeth in 2022. Claire was nominated and selected for her commitment to Excellence and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Yridia Ayvar

Yridia Ayvar will earn a masters in educational counseling from the Rossier School of Education. Yridia is among the most dedicated, caring, and engaged students at USC. She has collaborated with the Rossier administration to establish a scholarship fund in support of the undocumented student population within the educational counseling program. Yridia also created and developed an UndocuAlly workshop series for professionals who work with undocumented and DACA students in hopes of not only creating awareness but also giving professionals the tools needed to better support the vulnerable student population. She is a Norman Topping Student Aid Fund graduate scholar and a Latino Alumni Association scholarship recipient. Yridia was nominated and selected for her commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Well-being.

Matt Bauer

Matthew Bauer will earn a master of science in geographic information science and technology. A Marine Corps Veteran, Matthew demonstrates a core commitment to being an agent of positive change. He has applied his data science background to creating a tool that will help researchers and community workers in the information and agency industries improve the lives of those experiencing food insecurity. He has concentrated on characterizing data on food insecurity, independently developing a website for wildlife protection plans, and providing data science support for the fighters on the ground in the Ukraine war. Matthew has also developed a website that hosts data from the United States’ most extensive collection of Community Wildlife Protection Plans. His efforts in creating the most comprehensive repository of CWPPs data has significantly improved strategies to mitigate wildfires. Matthew was nominated and selected due to his commitment to Excellence and Well-being.

Justine Buenaventura

Justine Buenaventura will earn a doctorate of physical therapy. She has embraced innovation and collaboration in the pursuit of goals that have strengthened the university’s culture and has empowered her fellow Trojans to be their best selves. Justine served as class president of the graduating physical therapy class of 2024. As a research assistant in the Motor Behavior and Neurorehabilitation laboratory, she assisted in stroke research. She also volunteered in group fitness classes with individuals with Parkinson’s Disease, engaging and highly motivating the patients. Justine was nominated and selected for her commitment to Excellence and Open Communication.

Serena Chen

Serena Chen will earn a bachelor of science in accounting and a master of business taxation in data and analytics. Serena has contributed immensely to the overall value of student life through numerous varied interests and commitments. She served as the senior student advisor for the university’s volunteer income tax assistance program, preparing hundreds of tax returns for low-income households and international students. As vice president of community service for Beta Alpha Psi, she mentored members in weekly interviews, networking, and resume building. She also served as the co-editor of ElRodeo yearbook, contributing feature articles and providing coverage of major university events. Serena was nominated and selected for her commitment to Excellence and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Jazlin Gibson

Jazlin Gibson will earn a doctorate in physical therapy. Jazlin has generated positive visibility as an ambassador for the university. As the event developer and coordinator for an annual Christmas Toy Drive, Jazlin implemented procedures for processing donations via email or online platforms and organized donor recognition activities. Jazlin also built community and connection through her involvement in the People’s Free Food Drive. As a sales brand ambassador for Cause International, she engaged in a worldwide community with a focus on giving back to those in need. Especially noteworthy was her extensive involvement in the “Black Women Deserve Better Scholarship Campaign.” Jazlin was nominated and selected for her commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Well-being.

Olivia Heffernan

Olivia Heffernan will earn a bachelor of science and master of arts in environmental science. Olivia is a true leader in the area of sustainability at USC and in the local community. Olivia co-chaired the student committee for the presidential working group on sustainability. Through her internship with the Garden Club President and Presidential Sustainability Internship Program Peace Garden, Olivia has helped develop and care for two different garden spaces on and near campus, taught many volunteers how to garden, and advocated for the continued support of these spaces for students, faculty, and the community. She was chosen as one of only 15 young people to serve on the LA Mayor’s Youth Council on Climate Change, a group that raises awareness of and pushes for climate adaptation and action in the city of LA. Olivia was nominated and selected for her commitment to Accountability, Excellence, and Well-being.

Miguel Lima

Miguel Lima will earn a master of science in human resource management. He has demonstrated outstanding qualities as an active contributor and a diversity champion during his time at the university. He worked with the Graduate Student Government Grants Committee to review and authorize funds to help those in need and volunteered with the GSG Sustainability Committee. He supports the local neighborhood mom’s club of West Adams, strengthening local families with opportunities for fathers’ camaraderie, mothers’ wellness, and childrens’ learning. As the diversity, equity, and inclusion parent liaison for his children’s school, he champions creative observances of cultural events and advises on how to enhance DEI efforts. Miguel was nominated and selected for his commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Well-being.

T H E O R D E R O F

T H E *Laurel* & T H E *Palm*

• B I O G R A P H I E S •

M A S T E R S & D O C T O R A L C A N D I D A T E S

Gilberto Pena

Gilberto Peña will earn his doctor of pharmacy from the Alfred E. Mann School of Pharmacy. Gilberto is passionate about providing a holistic level of patient care. He founded the National Hispanic Pharmacist Association, helping to bridge the gap in patient care for underrepresented communities in Los Angeles by extending opportunities for minority students to serve patient populations from similar backgrounds. He also created a partnership with Healthcare in Action, a medical group that provides care to individuals who are experiencing homelessness. He was nominated and selected for his commitment to Excellence and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Emily Pham

Emily Pham will earn a master of science in global medicine from the Keck School of Medicine. Emily immigrated to the US from Vietnam while in high school and is a devoted life-long student with a very bright future. Emily serves as the treasurer of the Executive Board of WorldMED. She is a remote teaching assistant for a basic medical English course at Wynn Medical Center's Prehealth Club hosted by VietMD. She also interns with the Charles R. Drew University Community Health Worker Academy. Emily was nominated and selected for her commitment to Excellence and Open Communication.

Maya Yanez

Maya Yanez will earn a PhD in geobiology. Maya has brought about an enormous positive impact on the lives of graduate students at USC, particularly within the earth sciences department. As a Joint Education Project STEM fellow, she translated her research into elementary school lesson plans that were taught in virtual and in-person programs for low-income students of color in the neighborhood and hosted a professional development workshop to instruct teachers on how to incorporate the lessons into their curricula and classrooms. As a board member for the Young Researchers Program, she proposed and received funding from the American Astronomical Society's Division of Planetary Sciences Education & Outreach grants. She also presented a summary of the program and a framework to apply YRP to other institutions at the 54th DPS Meeting in Ontario, Canada. Maya was nominated and selected for her commitment to Excellence and Integrity.



T H E O R D E R O F *Arête*

Arête, taken from the Greek, means virtue or excellence in attaining one's utmost human potential. Graduate students who have distinguished themselves above their peers through university or community leadership beyond those required for their programs of study and through impactful and exemplary service to the university community or the world at large. These students demonstrate significant depth and scope of responsibility and embody the university's Unifying Values.

This year, 75 students are bestowed the honor of the Order of Arête. The University and USC Student Life are proud to recognize each of these students for their outstanding leadership and dedicated service to the university community.

Summer Abou-Rass
Meagan Adams
Michael Arias
Simone Augustine
Win Aung
Dan Balaszek
Jose Bermejo
Benjamin Brewer
Dhruv Chakraverti
Nathaniel Chard
Alison Chen
Nubes Chen
Madelene Dailey
Valerie Dao
Gourav Datta
Arianna Deans
Aayushi Dedakia
Subhajit Dutta Chowdhury
Taona Elchibegashvili
Theresa Exum Lucas
Diba Farokh Hamedani
Daniel Fernandez
Kari Fukumoto
Raymiro Gomez-Galiano
Carlos Gonzalez
Alma Gonzalez
Angelica Guiao
Jorge Hernandez
Nathalie Iribe
Miles Jackson
Samantha Johnson
Sandeep Kahlon
Anisha Kakarlamudi
Kyla Kelly
Nadia Khan
Jin Kyung Kim
Kevin Minwoo Lee

Paul Lee
Kevin Lee
Sidney Lim
Alexis Linares-Sierra
Austin Merchant
Juliet Moore
Kaili Morikawa
Kathryn Morris
Sheba Naderzad
Hafiza Nofitariani
Charles Ohaeri Jr.
Chinyere Okeke
Diana Palacios
Kathryn Perkins
Jessica Portillo Cuellar
Gasia Pushian
KJ Queen
Lucy Rinard
Naomi Rodgers
Tarinee Sawatyanon
Alison Scott
Pooja Singh
Caitlin Song
Merry Ann Sta Maria
Elisa Stephens
Jazmin Thomas
Tong Tong
Laurie Ugalde
Kim Vasadre
Marisa Vasquez
Vaidehi Vatsaraj
Haoyue Wang
Gavin Wei
Yude Wei
Marya Wright
Ruochen Yang
Heather Yen



T H E O R D E R O F

Troy

Students who receive the Order of Troy have made notable contributions to their peers within Student Life, the USC community, and the world at large through exemplary service or active leadership. While these students have pursued academic excellence, they have also devoted extensive time and energy in service outside the classroom and their other commitments..

This year, 112 students are bestowed the honor of the Order of Troy. The University and USC Student Life are proud to recognize each of these students for their outstanding leadership in the USC community.

Elias Abadi
Cristina Acuna
Isabela Alameda
Sara Alvarado
Amir Arya
Cicero Aschieris
Cecilly Ball
Faris Banihani
Fitz Cain
Connor Castillo
Giancarlo Ceja
Matt Chen
Lindsey Crowe
Jaden Dangtran
Celine De Villa
Enid Elizalde
Ali Elmashat
Olivia Eskenazi
Sophie Eves
Allison Fiedler
Shanna Finnigan
Allison Flores

Avery Fratto
Joyce Gao
Jaime Gomez
Kevin Gomez
Jillian Gorman
Riley Gould
Gabriel Griswold
Mariam Hagopian
Grace Harrington
Noah Hernandez
Sophia Hernandez
William Higbie
Levana Hoang
Candace House
David Martinez Ibarra
Joy Jaensubhakij
Radhika Jain
Divya Jakatdar
Flora Jia
Bo Kim
Nivea Krishnan
Tim Labounko

Valorie Lam
Isaac Le
Jeremiah Lee
Richard Lee
Nicole Liu
Diego Lopez
Hannah Makkai
Claudette Maloles
Tj Martynowicz
Savannah Masters
Callie McAdams
Sean McCalla
Jasmine Moore
Anthony Mouchawar
Alyssa Ng
Thien Nguyen
Adebamike Ogunade
Chika Ojukwu
Maria Oorloff
Dominic Pak
Skyler Pak
Chaeyeon Park
Anjali Patel
Sophia Perez
Isabelle Perez
Jenna Peterson
George Phillips
Hudi Potash
Angelique Prater
Victoria Quon-Chow
Hayden Rivas
Amy Roach
Jennifer Romero
Nicolas Ruesga

Cinthia Sanchez Alvarado
Belis Michelle Saran
Samyak Shamkuwar
Anna Shaposhnik
Christopher Smith
Alisha Soni
Sammie Sorsby-Jones
Jake Stemmons
Kaleb Stephens
Courtney Sullivan
Divya Suresh
Cora Sverdrup
Aaliyah Thomas
Natasha Tieu
Chamine Tran
Kara Ushijima
Adriana Vazquez
Celine Vazquez
Kimberly Villard
Kai Vincent
Tammy Vu
Sage Wheeler
Juan Wilson
Kao Wongbusarakum
Yunan Wu
Serena Xiao
Athena Xue
Aisha Yamamoto
Daphne Yaman
Vivienne Yang
Haoming Yang
Emi Yoshino
Kevin Yu
Amanda Zabaneh



Academic Honors

Class of 2024 Valedictorian

Asna Tabassum

Biomedical Engineering (Molecular and Cellular Engineering) / Resistance to Genocide

Class of 2024 Salutatorians

James Douglas McColl III, *Computer Science / Entrepreneurship*

Elizabeth Tchitchkan, *Neuroscience & Spanish*

Steven and Kathryn Sample Renaissance Scholars

USC Steven and Kathryn Sample Renaissance Scholars are students who graduate in two or more widely separated fields of study with both a major and minor, or two baccalaureate degrees. Renaissance Scholars must meet requirements for superior academic performance, including no less than a 3.5 overall grade point average, and no less than a 3.5 grade point average in their respective programs of study.

This year, the University recognizes 274 graduating seniors as USC Steven and Kathryn Sample Renaissance Scholar Candidates. Of this group, 66 scholars applied for the prize competition, and 10 have been selected to receive a \$10,000 prize toward graduate study.

Laura Rose Jean Findlay, *Archaeology (BA) / Cinematic Arts*

Mythili Iyer, *Cognitive Science (BA) & Health and Human Sciences (BA) /
Gender and Social Justice & Mind Body Studies*

Aditi Anusri Jagannathan, *Computational Neuroscience (BS) /
Artificial Intelligence Applications & Gender and Social Justice*

Kaitlyn Alaya Kumar, *Mechanical Engineering (BS) / Dance*

Kasope Elizabeth Olumide-Fusika, *Business Administration (BS)
& Health and Human Sciences (BA) / Cinema-Television for the Health Professions*

Cora Marie Sverdrup, *Anthropology (BA) & Environmental Studies (BA)*

Asna Tabassum, *Biomedical Engineering (Molecular and Cellular Engineering) / Resistance to Genocide*

Elizabeth Tchitchkan, *Neuroscience (BS) & Spanish (BA)*

Samantha Tomi Wu, *Chemistry (Chemical Biology) (BS) / Musical Studies & Psychology*

Sibo Zhou, *Applied and Computational Mathematics (BS) & Economics and Data Science (BS)
& Global Studies (BA) & Religion (BA)*

Discovery Scholars

USC Discovery Scholars are students who have produced exceptional original scholarship or creative work at USC while compiling a distinguished overall academic record, including no less than a 3.5 overall grade point average.

This year, the university recognizes 83 Discovery Scholars. Of this group, 29 scholars were nominated as prize finalists and 10 have been selected to receive a \$10,000 prize toward graduate study.

Jordan Li Cahoon, *Computer Science (BS) / Computational Biology and Bioinformatics*

For, "Imputation Accuracy Across Global Human Populations"

Bryneé Angelique Evans, *Psychology (BA) / Sociology*

*For, "Mental Health and Well-Being Among Religious Black LGBTQ+ College Students:
Data from the Healthy Minds Study"*

Robert Huang, *Economics and Data Science (BS) & Applied and Computational Mathematics (BA)*

For, "Between Darkness and Flames:

Battery Storage Adoption in Response to Pre-Emptive Power Shutoffs"

Maria Elena Oorloff, *Human Development and Aging (BS)*

*For, "Mechanical stress through growth on stiffer substrates
has mild impacts on animal health and longevity in C. elegans."*

Brett Park, *Art (BA) & Communication (BA)*

For, "Today I Eat You, Solo Art Exhibition at Helen Lindhurst Gallery"

Estuardo José Pivaral Gray, *Architecture (BARCH) / Real Estate Development*

For, "Landslide Communities"

Erika Poh, *Composition (BM)*

For, "Have You Seen Her"

Divya Suresh, *Biological Sciences (BS) / Business*

*For, "Determining the efficacy of ExThera Seraph100 filtration
in patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer through the liquid biopsy"*

Katharine Eliza Wrenn Sweetland,

Biomedical Engineering (Molecular and Cellular Engineering) (BS)

*For, "International Biomarker Standardization Initiative
Compliant Radiomic Feature Calculation in MATLAB and Octave"*

Shawn Yang, *Biological Sciences (BA)*

For, "Building chromosome regions to study genetics between genera"

Global Scholars

The Global Scholars program recognizes undergraduates who have excelled in their studies both at home and abroad, spending at least 10 weeks outside of the U.S. as part of their undergraduate experience, and achieving no less than a 3.5 overall grade point average.

This year, the University recognizes 34 seniors as USC Global Scholars. Of this group, 14 graduating scholars were nominated as prize finalists by their schools, and 10 have been selected to receive a \$10,000 prize toward graduate study.

Daniel Joseph Accordino,

Architecture (BARCH) / Real Estate Development & Computer Programming

For, "Housing and Displacement in Hong Kong"

Arun Ahuja, *Neuroscience (BS)*

For, "Integrating Traditional and Osteopathic Interventions

for Non-Specific Lower Back Pain: An Entangled Approach"

Gabriel Jon Griswold, *Composition (BM) / Linguistics*

For, "Paris Dances"

Kaitelyn Jihan Haynes, *Architecture (BARCH) / Urban Sustainable Planning*

For, "Colonia Roma"

Yi-Ann Li, *English (BA) & Psychology (BA)*

For, "Dutch Delftware and Max Havelaar:

Dehumanization and Commodification of the Asian Aesthetic"

Kira L'Isere Liljegren, *International Relations (BA) / German & Theatre*

For, "The State of Women's Rights / Politics in Kyrgyzstan and the EU"

Kennis-Grace Mrotek, *Global Health (BS)*

For, "Political Extremism and the Public Health Threat it Poses

to Fundamental Human Rights"

Christian Nieto, *English (BA) / Cinematic Arts*

For, "Yokai Street: the Commercial Transformation of Traditional Japanese Folklore"

Isabella Giovanna Trinity O'Brien, *Political Science (BA)*

For, "Electoral Systems and Their Impact on Democracy"

Maya Livingston Thamer-Nall, *Psychology (BA) / East Asian Languages and Cultures*

*For, "Student Engagement: An Examination of Cross-Cultural Differences
at the University of Southern California"*



Competitive Fellowships

David L. Boren Scholarship for International Study

Boren Scholarships provide funding for U.S. undergraduate students studying in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East. Boren Scholarships require rigorous language study and the majority of awardees spend a full academic year overseas. In exchange for funding, Boren Scholarship recipients commit to working in the federal government for at least one year after graduation.

Thomas (TJ) Joseph Martynowicz

Studies in Law (MSLW) & Business Law (GCRT), International Relations / Consumer Behavior

Barry Goldwater Scholarship

The Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation provides scholarships to college sophomores and juniors who intend to pursue research careers in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering. The scholarship aims to ensure that the U.S. is producing the high number of highly qualified professionals the Nation needs in these critical fields.

Jordan Li Cahoon, *Computer Science / Computational Biology and Bioinformatics*

Allen Chang, *Computer Science & Applied and Computational Mathematics*

Luce Scholarship

The Luce Scholars Program is a nationally competitive fellowship that offers early-career leaders immersive, professional experiences in Asia for 18 scholars. The Program aims to forge stronger relationships across geographic borders by creating opportunities for young Americans to deepen their ties and understanding of the countries, cultures, and people of Asia.

Giancarlo Ceja

International Relations & Environmental Studies / Web Technologies and Applications

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program

The NSF GRFP recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees at accredited United States institutions.

Allen Chang, *Computer Science & Applied and Computational Mathematics*

Schwarzman Scholarship

Schwarzman Scholars supports up to 200 Scholars annually from the U.S., China, and around the world for a one-year master's in global affairs at Beijing's Tsinghua University — ranked first in Asia as an indispensable base for China's political, business, and technological leadership.

Amina Shafeek-Horton, *Business Administration (World)*

Truman Scholarship

The Truman Scholarship is the premier graduate scholarship for students interested in public service. The scholarship provides \$30,000 for the graduate school of the Scholar's choice, extensive programming and mentorship opportunities, a direct hiring authority with the federal government and the ability to apply for additional matching funds with our graduate school partners.

Michael Thomas Solomon, *History / International Relations*

Fulbright U.S. Student Program

Since 1946, the Fulbright U.S. Student Program has provided emerging American leaders with an unparalleled opportunity to study, conduct research, and serve as English teaching assistants abroad in order to build lasting connections between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The Fulbright U.S. Student Program currently awards over 2,100 grants annually and operates in more than 140 countries worldwide.

Eric Bui

Philosophy, Politics and Law/Legal Studies

Vian Bui

Business Administration (Finance)

Giancarlo Ceja

International Relations & Environmental Studies / Web Technologies and Applications

Samantha Betsy Mathiri Chacko

Philosophy, Politics and Law / Law and Public Policy & Musical Studies

Kristin Nguyen Dickson

Philosophy, Politics and Law / Theatre & Spanish

Phong Doozy

Health Administration (MHA), Health and the Human Sciences / Psychology and Law & Comedy (Performance)

Gemma Megumi Fa-Kaji

Multiple Subject Teaching (MAT)

Gaveen Godage

Human Biology

Aditi Anusri Jagannathan

Computational Neuroscience/Artificial Intelligence Applications & Gender and Social Justice

Nivea Krishnan

Public Policy & Economics

Kira L'Isere Liljegren

International Relations / German & Theatre

Liliana Cristina Ruvalcaba

Medical Gerontology (MA), Health and the Human Sciences / Health Care Studies & Natural Science

Shourav Saha

Chemistry (Chemical Biology)

Nicole Pei-Ting Song

Digital Social Media (MS)

Hanna Sun Teerman

International Relations / Business Law



Student Recognition Committee

Hannah Burnham, *chair*

Elizabeth Bluth
James Burford
Terry David Church
Mona Cravens
Ellen Evaristo
Beau Foley
Quanda Graves
Randa Issa
Dieuwertje Jasmijn Kast
Samuel King
Paul Lu
Judy Klee Mar
Llanet Martin
Tara Mastro
Leah Rousseau

Jerome Rucker
Emily Therese Sandoval
Catie Saralegui
Matt Scott
Maria Shanks
Eric Shen
Emma Katharine Singer
Sabrina Skacan
Debra Solorzano-Madrid
Cynthia Tucker
Jeff Tylicki
Suzanne Wali
Stephanie Westmyer
Jim Yoder

Academic Honors and Fellowships

Katie Capra Lisseth Murillo

The History of Student Recognition

The Order of the Laurel and the Order of the Palm awards originated at USC in 1960. The Order of the Laurel was presented to outstanding senior women; the Order of the Palm was presented to outstanding senior men. Several years later, the Orders of the Laurel and the Palm were combined and redefined as the highest honor bestowed on graduating seniors. In 2024, Order of the Laurel and the Palm recognition was extended to outstanding graduate students. Distinguished leadership, volunteer work, and community engagement in multiple facets of university life and/or the community were key descriptors along with a commitment to the university's Unifying Values.

The Order of Troy award originated in 1977 to recognize students who were excellent scholars and leaders, who had attained a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher. In 2005, the Order of Arête was established to recognize graduate students who have demonstrated significant depth and scope of responsibility in a campus or community leadership role.

Reflective of university growth, the formal recognition program has expanded to honor a larger number of remarkable outstanding scholars and leaders deserving of recognition and formal expression of gratitude for their contributions to student life. In addition, the program also recognizes Academic Honors, Renaissance Scholars, Discovery Scholars, Global Scholars, and competitive fellowships.



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