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A decision on the status of fall classes will be released by the end of June.

By SHAYLEE NAVARRO AND SARAH YACOUB

USC will not provide prorated tuition refunds for the spring semester or upcoming summer sessions. Provost Charles Zhang announced in a campuswide email Tuesday. He also announced that both summer sessions will be conducted online.

"While this is not the semester any of us envisioned, we are continuing to provide a high-quality education, ensure academic progress towards graduation, and provide a safe and constructive learning environment," he said.

USC President Carol L. Folt announced earlier this week that USC will not provide prorated tuition refunds for the spring semester or upcoming summer sessions. The university has also announced that all courses will continue online through the end of the Spring 2020 semester.

A decision on the status of fall classes will be released by the end of June. The university has also announced that all courses will continue online through the end of the Spring 2020 semester.

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School of Cinematic Arts
students have faced mental health difficulties in a demanding academic environment, prompting faculty to alter curriculums.

[SCA] is not an environment in which people feel necessarily safe to discuss the things that are plaguing them.

Dylan Mondschein
Senior, Cinematic Arts, Film and Television Production

SCA faces issue with drug use

comes with the class depends on the student and how weighty they place it on within their overall curriculum, he said.

"This is not that difficult of a course, and you have tons and tons of support," Yahraus said. "I don't really try to say to everybody, these [project] work are exercises, so... it's not designed to be that kind of a course. That doesn't mean that some students don't find it.

According to Yahraus, amid the pandemic, some work for the second films in 310 went online and has yet to be completed. Students will finish their third films next semester in "The Production and Post-Production Assistant" course, another required course. Other students such as Dylan Mondschein, a senior majoring in cinematic arts, film and television production, found that while 310 was tough due to its tight deadlines, she expected its level of rigor. She added that her friends in the program cautioned that she'd need to give up her social life for the course.

"That was a really daunting thing for me," Mondschein said. "But the amount I learned in that one semester is mind-boggling. I grew more in that semester than I have in any other semester in college, at least creatively."

Moore, who died in October 2019, was in Allanach's group but ultimately decided to take a leave of absence for health reasons before they started their second film. Allanach recalls one weekend shoot about two weeks before Moore's leave of absence where Moore took frequent trips to the bathroom because he was not feeling well. Allanach asked for Moore to leave and get some rest, reassuring him that he would not get in trouble, but Moore, who was the cinematographer, declined. Allanach told the faculty to prohibit students other than the cinematographer from touching the camera. When Moore later explained the circumstances to the professors, they told the group they should have stopped shooting until Moore was physically able.

"They kind of push this thing as you have to follow every rule, but then also the most important thing is that it gets made no matter what," Allanach said, adding that the short deadline frustrated him. "It's like, OK, we can either have one or the other. We can't be perfect to everyone, you can ignore the process, or you can emphasize the process and recognize that the finished product will not be what you want it to be."

While the group's professors made arrangements for them to work without Moore by letting them complete only one more film, the two were only allowed to work on their most film while other trios were completing their third films. Additionally, Allanach and his partner were instructed to split Moore's responsibilities rather than find someone else to help. To help lessen the workload, Allanach and his partner were asked to complete the SCA's responsibilities instead of the student. They then had to unofficially step in as the producer, but they got into trouble because the faculty wanted to take it very seriously.

"It was this whole mess of like, I don't know what you want from us," he said. "We're trying to do the best that we can in the circumstances that were given.

Dave O'Brien, Allanach's producing professor for 310, declined an interview with the Daily Trojan, but indicated that he and other 310 faculty had been in regular contact with the students to make arrangements that would guide them toward an agreeable outcome.

There is no way to completely buffer against the realities of a trio losing one of its members, but O'Brien told the Daily Trojan that he believes the faculty responded appropriately.

"There's just a big difference in what the faculty see and what the students see even if they try their best to communicate, unless they're really making an effort to be empathetic of the different circumstances," Allanach said.

After speaking at an SCA forum in 2018 regarding the school's structural issues, Allanach said he pulled into Anderson's office for a meeting. There, he was advised to consider dropping out of his major. Anderson said SCA would never
VALEDICTORIAN

Ceremony uncertain

The University does not plan to refund tuition for the spring semester, Provost Charles Zukoski announced in an email Tuesday.

Tuition | Online classes to continue for summer term

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When I was about 6 years old, my mom was diagnosed with cancer. I remember how scary that felt and how isolating it was for me,” Hauptman said. “I definitely wish [Camp Kesem] was something that I could have been a part of to know that I wasn’t alone and to see and hear the experiences of other kids.”

Much of Hauptman’s other free time has been spent in labs conducting research. She has been working at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles for the past two years in the Biochemical Pain Laboratory conducting research and has spent both summers after her sophomore and junior years looking into what virtual reality as a tool to help children undergoing operations manage pain.

“When I was in middle school, I was diagnosed with a rare pain disorder and I actually spent time at a children’s hospital up north seeking treatment,” Hauptman said. “This is also something that I remember how scary that felt and how isolating it was for me.”

For Kress, one of the two salutatorians, being involved with Camp Kesem, a camp for children whose parents have cancer, defined a large part of Hauptman’s time at USC. She joined as a freshman who saw herself among the campers.

“Very honestly, my first two years of USC, I [believed] college was just high school round two where you just get the highest grades, participate in extracurriculars, just build your resume,” Kim said. “But after that summer [between sophomore and junior year], college became more of, ‘This should be about building relationships and building those support networks.’ ”

For Kim, finding a place as tenor saxophone in the Trojan Marching Band and taking on leadership positions in international relations fraternity Delta Phi Epsilon have provided him a community in which to thrive. Finding a sense of family helped Kim succeed and he wants to provide a similar environment to others in the Trojan community.

“They are united in shared experiences and can tackle any trouble ahead.

The Class of 2020 is united in shared experiences and can tackle any trouble ahead.

The dean’s list will also be suspend for Spring 2020 to lessen pressure on students amid the transition to online classes and the adjusted grading policy, the email read.

The email also announced that the University has received $19 million in government funding through the CARES Act. Half of which is federally mandated to go toward students who are in need of emergency financial assistance. Students who are undocumented or international or who have not met academic progress requirements for the spring semester will be unable to access these funds and may apply to the USC Student Basic Needs Fund instead, Zukoski wrote.

“We are disappointed that our international and DACA students, as well as those enrolled in online-only programs, are not covered under the CARES Act,” the email read. “We are working to assist those students in myriad ways, including through the USC Student Basic Needs Fund.”

VALEDICTORIAN

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Tuition | Online classes to continue for summer term

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COPING | Students consider School’s failure to address mental health

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recommend that a student drop a program, but if a student is not happy with their major, he talks with them about whether or not they want to continue pursuing the field. With Anderson’s help, the student can then look into other programs within and outside of SCA they may be interested in transferring into, he said.

“Our primary concern is the mental health of our students,” Anderson said. “So it’s not a recommendation that they transfer over, it’s more of a sit-down discussion to make sure that the student is comfortable with the program and actually wants to continue it.”

But for some students these forums and talks are simply not enough. Mondschein said SCA should provide more of a nurturing environment where students can feel safe having important conversations with their teachers and build deep relationships with them.

“People are really afraid to criticize anything because these are people who hold a lot of power, who could change our lives or careers, and so this is not an environment in which people feel necessarily safe to discuss the things that are plaguing them,” Mondschein said. “And I think that’s its biggest downfall.”

The issue of drug use

When it was confirmed by the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner-Coroner that both Moore and Lynch died of accidental overdoses, Nancy Ponstein, head of the editing track in the production division, believed it was necessary to discuss with her students the issue of using drugs, namely fentanyl, of which traces were widespread in SCA’s building.

“I stopped and took time and I explained to them … there is a drug out there that you might not know about,” Forner said. “And I explained to them the dangers and I explained to them the laws.”

Mondschein said there needs to be more conversation surrounding addiction and mental health issues.

When Mondschein first got to college, she decided to take a break from going to therapy, as she had done in high school. But as her mental health steadily declined her sophomore year, Mondschein sought help from the Engemann Student Health Center, which referred her to an external psychiatrist who she said prescribed her medication that caused her to develop suicidal thoughts and a poor appetite.

As a result, Mondschein found herself drinking frequently. That year, Mondschein dealt with substance abuse and developed a dependent relationship with alcohol.

But when Martin passed away in April 2018, Mondschein, who was close with her, said her death was a wake-up call. She decided to go back to therapy.

“That was something that only therapy could really change for me, talking about my problems, working through them,” Mondschein said. “[Self-medication is] a valid way of protecting yourself, it’s not like coming from a place of, ‘I want to get addicted to drugs.’ It’s like ‘No, I want to take care of myself, and I don’t know how.’”

Mondschein found herself drinking frequently. That year, Mondschein dealt with substance abuse and developed a dependent relationship with alcohol.

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It was strange seeing my second home, usually with a line leading out the door, become a desolate quarantine zone.

BY TOMMY NGUYEN

Tommy Nguyen is a sophomore majoring in history and international relations. He writes from his backyard in Irvine, Calif.

My father was a little surprised seeing me up at 4 a.m. He seemed to forget how volatile a college education makes your sleep schedule. I wanted to join him for the first time in years on his daily trip to Saigon Bakery, one of our bakeries located in a Vietnamese neighborhood called Little Saigon in Orange County. I grew up going on these trips with my father, watching him prepare the dough that would become the heart and soul of the bakery as customers began to line up for baguettes early in the morning. This time the drive was different. It was the first day of California’s stay-at-home order and my first day back home since leaving USC due to the increasing spread of the coronavirus. Despite it being early morning, the usual traffic was gone, as was the line of early customers trying to get Vietnamese coffee and croissants before work. It was an eerie feeling all around the plaza where the bakery is located.

While my father began his daily bread-making ritual, I realized how much we take it for granted; to see the bakery become the next hotspot for an outbreak. Our small interior and open display bakeries coupled with a tight line of customers coming into the store made me realize the necessity for social distancing. So I taped the ground, pushed the spin rolls and straw ahead the glass displays and enforced the social distancing restrictions that many businesses were starting to implement in the neighborhood.

It was strange seeing my second home, usually with a line leading out the door, become a desolate quarantine zone.

Undoubtedly, our family business was hurt because of these regulations, as were many other restaurants and stores in the area. Soon masks became the common accessory for both customers and workers, all desperate for bread amid the pandemic. While our bakery did lose customers for the first days of the shelter-in-place order, other restaurants closed and were forced to take easy and takeout system made our bakery busier than ever.

But this short breath of relief did not stop all of my family’s worries. The conversation of whether or not we should stay open during the pandemic has shifted to whether or not we should stay open amid the growing worry that our workers or our parents may get sick. I quickly took up the role of the coronavi- rus pandemic by calculating social distancing measures and ensuring any point of contact between workers and our customers be mitigated to hopefully prevent any exposure. I used the general paranoia that many of us have over the pandemic to make sure every employee who entered the bakery was as safe as possible.

Coming back from these daily shifts by noon to start classes was definitely rough in the beginning — extremely tough. But with more time to spend with my reduced extracurricular responsibilities, the bakery has become my escape from the uncertainty of the world. I used to despise being stuck in the bakery for as a child when I was unable to properly work in the store, and the few trivial tasks I could complete were sweeping the floor or restocking the shelves of soft drinks and Vietnamese des- erts. Now, I am finally in a posi- tion to begin the sacred practice of dough making. When we were finally in a stable position, both financially and mentally, I was inspired by a post on NextShark, an Asian American news website, of a bakery in Minnesota donating banh mi sandwiches to local hospitals to do the same.

The donations from our bak- ery to a couple of local hospitals and Keck Hospital of USC have been one of the few ways my par- ents and I have tried to show our support to health care workers — people who are guaranteed to be exposed to the virus but still decide to go all in, putting their health and safety aside for others.

While the coronavirus has canceled my summer internship plans in Sacramento and Maymester in Rome, it has reinforced my desire to be a part of my childhood. I am lucky to have the opportunity to be able to work with my father again, reunited by our father and son business. Despite the razing pandemic in the United States and the world, our bakery continues to make sure every employee who entered the bakery was as safe as possible.

The presence of drunk and raucous college students at football games conflicted with the Sample administra- tion’s vision of a wholesome, family-friendly environment. Rather than risk the embarrassing possibility of offending potential boosters (or their children) by college students using alcohol, USC students may be more likely to purchase and use alcohol in the Coliseum’s gates — but only for the students and the general audience.

Unsurprisingly, the administra- tion’s own luxurious suites and private boxes have continued to be exempt from this policy. Tickets to the Coliseum’s variety of private lounges, suites and boxes include access to premium cocktails and other bever- ages as a part of the staggering price tag — an amount which frequently surpasses thousands of dol- lars.

Of course, there are no analogous accommodations in the student sec- tion, or for Coliseum events of any kind. USC students who pay to see their favorite teams compete on the field do not have the same privileges as those who escape from the anxieties of the current pandemic. It was and continues to be a focal point for the community, an avenue through which students could escape from the anxieties of their studies and support their school’s team. While this humble origin has ballooned into the lucrative spectacle that it is today, college football remains an essential part of everyday life on campus.

As the University continues to ascend in academic prestige and the curricula become increasingly rigorous, those select autumn Fridays and Saturdays are an ever-more insurmountable hurdle for students to unwind. At its core, college football — at USC and elsewhere — is played primarily for the enjoyment, entertainment and relaxation of students and fans. By allowing to students to drink alcohol as a part of this rite, University administrators continue to demonstrate the prioritization of outside parties — and of their pocketbooks in particular — at the expense of USC students.

Moreover, by exempting them- selves from the expectations for others, the administration continues to reinforce a culture of elitist hypoc- risy. As a result, the University deni- grants those same students whose interests it is supposed to serve.

Abolishing this policy and permit- ting the sale of alcohol to students and other common patrons of the Coliseum would drastically amelio- rate the perceived student body that has consistently been beleaguered.

Besides, it’s face it: After what could eventually amount to months of quarantine, we could all use a drink or two come football season.
There’s a delicate art to making the perfect playlist

Fiona Pestana
THE SCENE KID

I n a quarantine-fueled television binge, I recently finished HBO’s television adaptation of the movie and book “High Fidelity,” starring Zoe Kravitz as Rob. I’d give the show a solid seven out of 10, but Kravitz makes it worthwhile.

As shameful as it may be to admit this, I have not watched the movie from 2000 nor read the book. Yet, in the show, Rob explains the rules of making a perfect playlist, and when searching for the rules online after watching, I stumbled upon the clip from the film with the list.

"You gotta kick it off with a killer, to grab attention," John Cusack’s Rob said. "Then, you gotta take it up a notch. But, you don't want to blow your wad, so you gotta cool it off a notch."

In the show, Rob mentioned a few other rules, too. Make the last song the best one, since listeners will remember that the most. Don’t include multiple songs by the same artist, unless you’re looking to get inspired rather than entertained.

But what really brings me back to this movie is its emphasis on quality connection — a feeling I, and likely many others, associate managing editor by Natalie Oganesyan, associate managing editor

DEFIANT ONES
by Ellis Cilis, arts & entertainment editor

During my search for these rules, I came across a similar column titled "The Sexy Mixtape Is Dead and 'High Fidelity' Can't Bring It Back." The piece’s most memorable line punched me in the heart: "But texting a link to a drag-and-drop Spotify playlist (even one that follows all of Rob’s rules) is a gesture that reads more like self-promotional spam."

OK, I get it. "High Fidelity" poking fun at contemporaneous music snobs who show off their random cultural knowledge in regular conversation. Though, I think labeling all playlists made for others as self-indulgent, arrogant or even boring does playlist-making a serious injustice. If done right, playlists can be heartfelt and intimate just for that other person, not just a reflection of what the maker enjoys.

Personally, swapping playlists has been a hallmark activity in almost all of my close friendships. Throughout middle school and early high school, I included a burnt mix CD in every birthday gift I gave. I grew familiar with my college friends’ music taste by stalking their Spotify playlists. Often, I can pinpoint which songs in my music library I discovered from a specific friend in a playlist they gave me. These collections of songs have become the soundtracks of my adolescence and early adulthood.

Plus, since the current pandemic is keeping the world from going on dates and in-person hangouts, how else are we supposed to share music with those we love? Zooming while watching a favorite song I’ve been enamored concert? I don’t think it gets much better than a personalized playlist. So, with all this in mind, I’ve tried to put into words the playlist tips I silently follow while making my own.

First, pick a theme. Having some sort of focus helps narrow your search, so you avoid just adding random songs you like. Think about what the playlist recipient needs right now. Have they been stressed out lately? Make a calming compilation.

Have the two of you talked about each other's fears? Make a playlist with songs that remind you of the end of the world. Another fun theme I’ve followed in the past is using the order and titles of the songs included to tell a story. Try that out if you’re looking to get creative.

On a related note, details matter. Make the title and description witty, cute or whatever adjective fits the theme you chose. Listen to the transitions between each of the songs to make sure the playlist flows well for peak listenability. Think about its length and after it depending on the receivers’ quantities. Giving your listener a hodgepodge of recommendations will avoid pigeon-holing your playlist and increase the likelihood that you’ll give your listener at least one new piece of music you know, which makes you already love and ones you think they might like. Add music from different time periods as well. Try featuring a variety of genres, as well as artists with different races, genders and other identities. Giving your listener a hodgepodge of recommendations will avoid pigeon-holing your playlist and increase the likelihood that you’ll give your listener at least one new piece of music you know, which makes you seem extra cool.)

And, of course, have fun! Maybe you and your coronavirus pen pals can swap playlists and discover new tunes. When the world stops ending, those tracks will come in handy for the first post-coronavirus social gathering.

Fiona Pestana is a junior writing about Los Angeles’ local music scene. Her column, “The Scene Kid,” typically runs every other Thursday.
The 1975 is back, with its seventh single from the highly anticipated upcoming album, “Notes On A Conditional Form.” Filled with catchy lyrics and a lively saxophone, the track “If You’re Too Shy (Let Me Know)” is the type of serotonin boost that we all need right now.

The band also released a black and white music video the same day, last Thursday, to accompany the new single. In the video, the group plays side-by-side with frontman Matty Healy sporting a punk aesthetic and happily dancing along to the song.

“If You’re Too Shy” sounds straight out of a coming-of-age movie, right when the main character and their love interest suddenly fall for each other in a dreamy montage sequence. Although that sort of fan-ciful scene probably won’t happen while social distancing, the song still makes you want to joyfully dance in your bedroom.

The single begins with a soft instrumental, jumping into an upbeat track that is energetic, fun and easy to dance to. Healy goes on to describe his relationship with a mystery girl he met online. The lyrics are provocative and lustful, especially at the chorus when Healy sings, “She said, Maybe I would like you better if you took off your clothes / I wanna see and stop thinking / If you’re too shy then let me — too shy then let me know.”

The song could be interpreted in different ways, especially when its bold and merry tempo enhances the risqué lyrics. In an interview with Annie Mac from BBC Radio 1’s “Future Sounds,” Healy said “It’s about the idea of chasing connection, it’s about getting naked on FaceTime … It’s the lighter version of some of the observations of what we’re up to on the internet.”

Throughout the song, Healy sings about wanting to see the girl he saw on the screen, an allusion to either pornography or a girl he just met on the internet. Although he has feelings for her, she easily intimidates him: “But I see her online, and I don’t think that I should be calling / All the time, I just wanted a happy ending / And I’m pretending I don’t care ‘bout her stare / While she’s giving me a tough time.”

The band has tackled themes of love in the digital age since its third album “A Brief Inquiry Into Online Relationships.” The band’s forthcoming album is a continuation of these themes, and “If You’re Too Shy” plays as a perfect introspective social commentary.

The sound of “If You’re Too Shy” is reminiscent of the band’s alternative music that appeared in its debut self-titled album. With its ’80s-inspired synth pop sound and double entendres, “If You’re Too Shy” is similar to the band’s other songs “Chocolate” and “Girls.” It’ll most likely become a 1975 classic, combining the band’s take on online love with a pop-rock style and giving us a reason to smile and dance amid quarantine.

Although the song was formally released April 23, the band originally debuted the track during a February concert; from that moment, fans have eagerly anticipated the new single.

Along with Thursday’s release, the band has released the tracks “The Birthday Party” and “Jesus Christ 2005 God Bless America” as singles for its upcoming album. In comparison to these mellow tracks, “If You’re Too Shy” is more rose-tinted and tech-themed. An edit of “If You’re Too Shy” was also released with backup vocals from English singer and songwriter FKA Twigs.

The 1975’s fourth studio album “Notes On A Conditional Form” is set to release May 22.

After numerous delays, the 1975’s fourth album ‘Notes On A Conditional Form’ drops late next month.

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After numerous delays, the 1975’s fourth album ‘Notes On A Conditional Form’ drops late next month.
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[See the Classifieds page 11]
RESOURCES | School implements talks to discuss concerns

Since buoyed death, Mondshein sat on the board of directors for Mckenna’s Grace, a nonprofit or- ganization in honor of Martin that aims to eliminate suicide on college campuses. The nonprofit is current- ly developing the Gracie App, which will provide students a platform to “both give and receive support and affirmations, as well as access men- tal health resources,” according to its website.

“By being associated with Mckenna’s Grace, I think it also just kind of inspired me to be very open about my own issues and very candid about mental health,” Mondshein said.

Moving forward

As a 310 professor, Forner said faculty members have had a lot to dis- cuss mental health issues, with every meeting dedicated to brain- storming ways to make improvements to SCA’s curriculum while maintaining its rigor. Forner said it’s a difficult balance to achieve.

In Spring 2019, the 310 faculty implemented a change in the way they assign “dailies,” or raw foot- note students gathered from the pri- mary of shooting. Instead of handing students a rotation of each other’s dailies frequently, faculty now re- quires only the trio whose dailies are for them to go to class and get feedback. With this change, Forner said other students can take the time to catch up, sleep, or do other work.

Forner said she has been a “mother hawk” to her students, making sure to check in with them frequently. In her years teaching 310, she has had a handful of stu- dents who have come to her to talk about their stress and mental health. Forner said she would walk students over to Engmann to meet with counselors and then check in every week to make sure they were eat- ing and getting enough rest. In some cases, students opted to take a leave of absence as Moore did.

“We do this little thing un- til they’re past the hurdle, and I’ve suggested to other teachers, and other teachers do it — I know they do, I’m not the one,” Forner said. “The faculty really cares. I mean, we’re thinking of these students as our children, and I know that sounds corny... but it’s true.”

Looking ahead, Daley said the School is working with Campus Wellbeing and Education to re- purpose the “Reality Starts Here” course every SCA freshmen take to get introduced to the School’s resources into a “life’s skills” course focused on health and well-beh- ing, spearheaded by Anderson and Interim Assistant Dean of Diversity and Inclusion Evan Hughes. Additionally, the School will off- er a new research course on col- laboration for production MFA students titled “Collaboration and Creativity,” given the amount of teamwork that is required in SCA and beyond. These courses, which will be offered Feb 2020, will help students get a more realistic and ho- listic view of the entertainment in- dustry, Daley said.

“No one will ever be a filmmaker or a game or a television show on a team, so you want to get some deeper understanding of it, what people really want to do and what their skillset is.” Dady said.

Additionally, Anderson helped integrate new ways to support dis- cussions for students to drop in and discuss concerns. The sessions are held at different times and days

Anderson said the School is holding SCA Chat via Zoom.

Students have also been doing their part to bring more attention to the issues they see at SCA. After Lynch’s death in November, a pro-

“The faculty really cares. I mean, we think of these students as our children, and I know that sounds corny... but it’s true.”

Nancy Forner

Head of the editing track in the production division

of the week to accommodate stu- dents’ schedules. SCA ralates who is leading the sessions in case some students find more comfort- able speaking to a faculty member more than others, Anderson said. Due to coronavirus-related restrictions, a produc-
duction major published a letter in the Daily Trojan detailing her expe-

ries — and frustration — during her time at the School.

“We may be hurting right now, but this is an opportunity to make meaningful changes to a program that has lost too many students,” Alyssa Callahan, who graduated in Dec 2019 wrote. “Cultivating a more supportive culture where stu-
dents are to able to make mistakes and able to step back when necessary is what so many students not only want, but need — and we need it right now.”

That same month, Wuolijoki and a few other students surveyed production students on their men-
tal health. With the responses, Wuolijoki said they created a list of changes they want to see at SCA for Daley, including hiring full-time counselors on campus.

But due to the pandemic, Wuolijoki said the momentum they had achieved seems to have dimin-
ished. With graduation in a few weeks, she said she is afraid that fu-
ture classes are not going to be as proactive with demanding change because they are more removed from the deaths.

However, students like Lauren Rothman, a junior majoring in cin-
ematic arts, film and television pro-
duction, still plan on further mo-
bilizing the community. For her “Production III, Documentary” course this fall, Rothman is direct-
ing “Life on the Line,” a documenta-
y study investigating the students death at SCA. Although the coronavirus has brought some uncertainty to how production will move forward, Rothman said she and her crew are still motivated.

“We all had this sense of, ‘We can’t just let things move on after this,’” Rothman said. “The second things shifted (due to the coronavi-
rus)... we all kind of admitted that yeah, we’ve lost focus, and I think that kind of was the driving force that everybody needed to ramp it up and come at it even stronger than before.”

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Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0325

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Vernon Lee | Daily Trojan
BOHN | Athletic director leads USC with optimism during time of uncertainty

Mike Bohn was selected to be athletic director by a search committee that included student-athletes and members of University administration.

His ability to help the two schools recover from scandals of their own — Oregon State for Oregon and Colorado for Colorado in 2005 at times — had his eye set on USC's athletic director position for quite a while.

He handled fundraising and corporate sponsorships at the Air Force Academy, dealt with television rights for several collegiate conferences at the College Football Association, guided the University of Miami's football program to what is now the Football Bowl Subdivision, increased fan attendance at San Diego State University sporting events, moved the football team at Colorado into the Pac-12 Conference and improved multiple facets of the University of Cincinnati's athletic department.

Bohn stepped in as the athletic director for San Diego State in 2003 and for Colorado in 2005 at times when both universities were recovering from scandals of their own. His ability to help the two schools recover from those controversies was rumored to be a deciding factor in USC's hiring decision.

"I don't know why I seem to be drawn to big challenges and recognizing the optimistic piece of being able to make a difference and to improve the operation quickly with a lot of positivity and energy and experiences," Bohn said. "That's the business, though. The good jobs that are open are generally [open] because something happened, something went wrong." Since 1994, every USC athletic director before Bohn had a previous tie to the University. Despite this, Bohn had his eye set on USC's athletic director position for quite a while.

"I've had the USC fight song on my playlist since I was a kid and gave up loving following USC," Bohn said. "We have so many wonderful Trojans around us that support us and guide us and give us history and insights into things that happen and went on, so I never felt like an outsider, ever. I can guarantee you one thing: If you cut my arm, I guarantee cardinal and gold are coming out."

His tenure at USC thus far, however, has not occurred under ideal circumstances, as he's had to work through a series of issues since taking the job a year ago.

The coronavirus pandemic put the sports world to a screeching halt during an unprecedented time: circumstances, as he's had to work through a series of issues since taking the job a year ago.

The pandemic has led to concerns about the status of the upcoming college football season, but Bohn remains unfazed by the possibility of any sort of cancellation and optimism about USC's prospects.

"I just hope we have an opportunity to compete, but we're gonna have a good football team if we can stay healthy," Bohn said. "We have lofty goals for this year. Whether we can get into the [College Football Playoff], I don't know. Obviously, the goal is to get to the Rose Bowl or higher, and I know that's how our young men and coaches are thinking in that football program."

A Rose Bowl appearance would require a Pac-12 Championship win and has not historically been an unusual goal (USC has made 34 appearances in the bowl game, more than any other school). But the fact that Bohn — who has yet to go through a full football season as USC's athletic director — has already decided on an expectation shared by members of the football program despite two straight relatively underperforming seasons is indicative of the ambition he's shown since taking over the job.

"Mike has been ultra supportive from day one," head football coach Clay Helton said. "I've always thought that first impression is key, and when he walked in [to my office] and offered [his] support, it was a terrific first impression."

At the introductory press conference, Bohn responded to any potential football coaching changes by saying "Good programs finish strong." Of the four games he presided over as athletic director, USC won three, with the sole loss coming in the Holiday Bowl against Iowa.

Social media nonetheless went into a frenzy when Bohn tweeted 11 days after USC's win over UCLA that Helton would stay on as head coach of the program. While the decision was criticized by many, it was consistent with Bohn's words at the first press conference.

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Being the athletic director for any school in a Power Five conference is no easy task, especially with a bloodbath football program, a schedule with high expectations and a department previously embroiled in endless scandals. But for Mike Bohn, the ideal Trojan attributes are embodied in his approach to the position: resiliency, honesty and success.

"Anything's worth keeping score of, we want to be first," Bohn said. "Is that a lofty goal? You're darn right, it is a lofty goal. But if we're willing to keep score, we want to win."
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The new athletic director brings a fresh perspective to the helm of Heritage Hall.

By SHAWN FARHADIAN
Sports Editor

If you ask USC sports fans about the current state of the University's athletics programs, you are likely to get a range of answers from "never been better" to "never been worse." Some might point to USC's 19 national championships across seven different programs in the last decade as evidence of dominant success. Others might point to the 2019 cancellation of the sports world for the umpteenth time. After writing this recap for the umpteenth time, I'd like to write a spout off for the umpteenth time. Likely to be my last opportunity to intersect, I'd like to write a recap for the umpteenth time. Likely to be my last opportunity to

My two biggest takeaways from my time here are:

1. Sports are how we pass time.
2. We actually have quite a lot to learn from sports, more than even we realize.

For one, it's taught me that you, Steven — and it's also taught snowflakes that NFL fandom has it's taught me a lot.

So, considering that this will be my last go-around, I'm going to spout off for the umpteenth time. Likely to be my last opportunity to

Recapping the semester in sports, politics, and American society

Stuart Carson
THE STATE OF PLAY

My friends, the end is final. Basketball season is over for another year. For 16 weeks, I have put my blood, sweat and tears into "The State of Play." Unfortunately, all good things in life—and in the case of my role as a mediately mediocre things—must come to an end, and that is where we are today. So, considering that this will likely be my last opportunity to spout off for the umpteenth time about why politics and sports intersect, I'd like to write a recap of sorts. After writing this column, I can confidently say that all is well in the world.

For one, it's taught me that Chicago Bears fans are the biggest snowflakes that NFL fandom has to offer—I'm looking directly at you, Steven—and it's also taught me that a lot of the higher ups in professional sports are a bunch of feckless bastards, though I'll

for coaches, potential recruits and student-athletes on and off the field, and would be of national championship caliber, a sentiment he has stressed throughout his almost six-month tenure as athletic director. He attributes this win-first approach to his early upbringing in Boulder, Colo. and his passion for sports from a young age. The son of a single physical education teacher, his mother Marylin, has been surrounded by sports for as long as he can remember. His early reading content was likely sports-related — to the slight dismay of his teachers — and he and his two brothers would push furniture to the walls of their childhood living room to play tackle football when their mother was out of the house.

As the captain of three teams in high school, Bohn won multiple state championships and received the opportunity to further his career at the University of Kansas. "My high school coaches were really [formative]," Bohn said. "My favorite season was the season we were in. It was football season, it was basketball season, it was baseball season, it was basketball season, it was basketball season, it was baseball season."

Bohn claims to have hit .258 on the University's search committee for his new athletic director. They still care about winning, but should they? Should the hiring of someone who has proven experience, who had done this before at this level or a level for someone who was willing to listen and someone who was willing to be a team player because athletic departments are still part of the University.

Unfortunately, in American politics, the same principles of sports fans adhere to do not apply. Commit a crime against American democracy and your buddies in the Senate will sacrifice every shred of their dignity to make sure you make it through a trial scot-free. Tell Africans to inject themselves with disinfected and... well... it looks like Fox News is still working on cleaning that mess up.

What I'm saying is that in sports, unlike in politics, you can't pull a fast one over your fans. When you lose a football game on the court, failure and incompetence are on display for all to see, and no amount of spin can cover it up. In that reason alone, it looks like Americans still have a lot to learn from sports.

Stuart Carson is a junior writing about the intersection of sports, politics and American society. He is also a sports editor at the Daily Trojan. His column, "The State of Play," typically ran every other Wednesday.
A quarter of USC’s student population is international, and yet this community is often underrepresented in the stories that are told at the University. These students must adjust to American society and plan for their future at an accelerated pace, all while balancing the day-to-day responsibilities of being a college student. Not only do their voices and experiences deserve to be heard, but everyone at USC should learn more about a group that plays such a large role in shaping the identity of this school.

Just last month the coronavirus pandemic shut down much of the United States and sent many international students back home. And because of that, these stories feel even more pertinent. But, through this semester-long project, we wanted to make sure that we published stories detailing the international student experience independent of this unprecedented moment in modern history. International students’ perspectives shape a culture at USC that was important before the coronavirus and will continue to matter long after the pandemic is over.

Aidan Berg, Daniel Hahm and Amanda Sturges
Features Editors, Spring 2020
The college landscape is an uneven playing field. With nearly 100,000 undocumented high school graduates every year, the vast number of undocumented students preparing for college will have to transition without the same access to financial aid and scholarships as many other students. However, undocumented students are not entirely excluded from scholarships — the Undergraduate Student Government created a resource list for such students, which include scholarships for undocumented students such as the Los Hermanos de Stanford Scholarship and the La Unidad Latina Foundation Scholarship (specifically for Latinx students).

The guide also lists specific search engines for finding scholarships, including the Act on a Dream’s database of national scholarships for DACA students. The Salvadoran American Leadership and Educational Fund also provides scholarships for undocumented students, focusing on those with Central American and Latinx backgrounds.

Joining communities of students with similar experiences offers an intimate way to build a second home. The International Student Assembly is a group for students from all countries and backgrounds and hosts events such as Global Cultural Month, Globefest and other activities. Students can also join cultural assemblies with more specific demographics, such as the Asian Pacific American Student Assembly and Latinx Student Assembly.

On USC’s Career Center website, International Student Careers provides guidance to international students hoping to work in the United States. The site hosts similar resources on H-1B friendly companies to Interstride, including a tool that outlines the best global cities for tech jobs. For those frustrated with H-1B, ISC has a number of educational blog posts that explain the processes that help students get jobs step by step. One such post is a guide to finding jobs abroad, giving students a defined checklist of goals to accomplish on their search that will make them more attractive to potential employers. This checklist style is replicated in other posts that describe how to stand out at an international career fair, how to write an American CV and how to ace an informational interview.

In addition, students who subscribe to International Student Careers’ free newsletter receive the International Student Job Search Guide, a 33-page document that gives aspiring professionals a strong base for their job search, including two sections that explain H-1B in extensive detail.
Navigating which loans are available can be a daunting task for international students. The International Student Loan Finder on edupass.org, a site dedicated to informing international students in the United States about financial resources available to them, allows students to learn about a variety of educational loans. After the student inputs whether they are a U.S. citizen, have a U.S. cosigner and other information related to their degree, the International Student Loan Finder provides a list of loans the student qualifies for.

Attending universities in the United States can be very expensive — finding relevant scholarships can be crucial to affording higher education. Internationalscholarships.com provides a comprehensive list of scholarships international students can qualify for, in addition to grants and loans. Students can use the site to discover more than 1,600 scholarships, which can then be filtered to find major-specific scholarships.

The Institute of International Education is a multifunctional organization that finds many ways to accomplish its mission statement, which is “to help people and organizations leverage the power of international education to thrive in today’s interconnected world.” Its top service is managing global scholarship programs, but it also uses its vast network of 1,600 higher education institutions to connect members across the world.

The Institute of International Education’s website connects students to potential opportunities, including fellowships and internships in countries abroad. The website also publishes news and studies on developments that impact international students and launched a fund earlier this month to provide $1 million to aid international students affected by the coronavirus.

The National Association of Foreign Student Advisors’ sole mission isn’t focused on assisting international students, but its page for international student financial aid is useful. Financial aid is scarce for international students, so NAFSA designed a page that provides information on many common financial concerns and links to sites that specialize in those areas.

The site outlines many methods of funding one’s education, with links to pages that provide scholarships, grants and loans. There’s also a section on tax credit, providing students with the resources to find out when they are tax-exempt.

NAFSA also provides guides for international students to educate them about the costs of going to school in the United States and to help them organize their spending. The glossary of financial aid terms defines any potentially confusing wording that students may encounter on their paperwork, while the simple budget spreadsheet breaks down everything a student will need to spend money on.
By MARIA EBERHART AND SHAYLEE NAVARRO

**Daily Trojan**

**L**

living in his off-campus apartment in Los Angeles, Niramol Kadam has been spending most of his waking hours the last few weeks fervently searching and applying for job opportunities as the semester comes to a close.

Like other graduating international students, Kadam, a graduate student from India studying engineering management, is facing roadblocks navigating job prospects before graduation May 15. Compared to U.S. students, international students have to take extra steps each year to search for career opportunities. They must turn in forms to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services months in advance to renew or change their visa status and find a job before the three-month deadline to secure employment opportunities.

“Students from the United States don’t need to worry about whether they can be here legally or not,” said Hengen Ma, a graduate student from China studying applied behavioral analysis. “We also have very limited time to make our decisions and think about whether [we] can stay here after graduation. So, I feel, for international students, we have very limited options, so it can be really challenging.”

When international students graduate and stay in the United States to work, they have finite options for work visas. For short-term employment, international students have to take extra steps each year to search for work in the future and apply to a psychology doctorate program in the United States, a path that would be difficult to pursue if he returned to his home country after graduation, especially considering current coronavirus travel restrictions.

“I can graduate in May. I can either stay here or go back to China, but since I plan to apply for a PhD, I definitely had to make sure [that after graduation], I can stay here legally,” Ma said. “That’s why I [made the] decision to apply for the [H-1B] visa so I can be here for another one or two years. During time staying here, I can also probably look at another job and apply for a new OPT.”

The need to enroll in school to stay in the United States puts a financial burden on international students, who already feel they have to rack up more and higher degrees to fare better in the U.S. job market. H-1B lotteries favor those with master’s degrees, meaning that going through that extra phase of schooling doubles one’s chance of being selected.

Aramthanapon said that while she found help with interviewing and resume writing at the Office of International Services and the USC Career Center, she ultimately felt overwhelmed during the job search.

“I remember feeling really lost,” she said. “I knew there’s OIS and then there’s everything about OPT, visa applications, interviews to internation

process by submitting an I-20 request, time in the States,’ Lau said.

I feel a combination of anger and despair, he will have to pack up his apartment. But for international students across a software engineer at a payroll company. Benny Lau, a computer science and business administration major, found a job as a software engineer at a payroll company. But for international students af

_pending work assignments, from a rising number of employees.

An added challenge facing international students is the spread of coronavirus that has impeded job prospects. While the process for applying for OPT status remains the same despite the pandemic, the increased uncertainties make it difficult for students who have since returned home.

International students, graduate students, international students have also lost out on on-campus networking events and are finding that companies are reluctant to hire new employees amid the pandemic.

| see VISA, page 55 |
Kadam, who started his job search last semester, said he has actively been applying to as many job positions as he can find online and communicating with users on LinkedIn in an attempt to mimic the networking opportunities that would have been available on campus had the semester continued in person.

Even with these efforts, Kadam has had little luck securing a job after graduation.

"Initially, it was difficult to get a job for my major, but now with this pandemic it's gotten worse because now so many companies that have been hiring ... are currently laying off or holding up positions that were open," Kadam said.

Kadam said he believes OIS has been extremely helpful, providing timely updates on the process of I-20s. A large portion of the problem is USCIS itself. Many international students are still waiting for a reply informing them of when applications will be processed. Kadam, who has listed a June 10 work start date on his OPT application, is unsure of when he will receive approval.

"Companies are also asking me, [What is] the earliest start date you can give us?" and I'm like, 'I'm graduating in May, but I can't start until June 10,'" Kadam said. "But given this situation, I don't even know if I'll be able to start on June 10.

With classes moved to a remote format to enforce social distancing and quarantine guidelines, many students, including 2019 graduate Linda Chen, have noticed a backlog in receiving necessary forms from OIS to complete visa applications.

"I gave them the material I wanted them to sign and bring back to me, but it's taking over four weeks for them to get back to me," Chen said. "They reply by email pretty quickly [saying] 'We got your message ... we're processing based on the urgency of it.'"

With USCIS policies remaining unchanged, USC is also awaiting a statement from the immigration agency regarding whether there will be issues in processing visa forms during this time.

In the meantime, international students are forced to play the waiting game — as the pandemic-focused government hils in its response to student visas, students remain unsure of how their future will unfold.

"USC, along with other universities and major national associations, is asking USCIS and other government agencies for more flexible policies on OPT during this emergency," Tambascia said.

"If any changes are announced, we'll share this information with the international student community as soon as we have it."

RIO FUNAKI

Ryo Funaki, a senior majoring in linguistics, finds herself in a different situation compared to most international students because she already secured a job in Tokyo as an assistant associate at Bain & Company, a strategy consulting company, in September. Although she considered an offer from a Los Angeles company, the lottery visa process deterred her from considering the position since the company would have required her to work in their Japan office for one to two years before transferring to an office in the United States if she could not obtain the visa.

Having set her mind on her work in Japan, Funaki was initially nervous about whether her employer would terminate her upcoming position, but the company was quick to reassure her that she would still be employed.

"Even so, Funaki acknowledged that she will likely be working remotely from her home country of Singapore for the duration of her employment if social distancing guidelines continue. Although it may not affect her line of work, Funaki said she's concerned that the transition back into the office setting will be difficult after months of working online.

"I'm looking forward to being in the office, meeting [my coworkers], interacting with [them] casual and just being motivated by [them], but I feel like that's going to be a bit harder when we work remotely," Funaki said.

Although she hasn't personally experienced any discrimination from her peers at USC arising from pandemic fears, Funaki said she's concerned about whether her experience will change once she starts her job.

"I might feel a little bit more vulnerable, a little bit more conscious about my race and my backgrounds, but I want to take that as a learning opportunity to kind of grow," Funaki said.

YI YING

Yi Ying, a graduate student studying applied behavior analysis, is also facing an employment concern. An employee at Trojan with Autism, Ying will continue working at the company for three months before traveling overseas to pursue a doctoral program in education at the University of Edinburgh. With current delays in receiving Optional Practice Training documents from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, her current employment has been temporarily cut short.

[The company does] not have the ability to have me ... during this period of time because [they are] also suffering from financial problems," Ying said. "I have to temporarily resign from my company, until I get OPT approval from the government; then I will go back to work for the company again."

After submitting her I-20 request to USC in March and being asked to resubmit the request in early April because of missing documentation, Ying received her I-20 on mid-April and quickly mailed the form and required documents to USCIS for her OPT application. Still waiting for approval, Ying doesn't expect to receive the work visa until June.

Although Ying is not too worried about the financial loss from losing her job since her family in China is supporting her during this time, she said she believes that international students are not the only group vulnerable during this time, with economic insecurity occurring at a global scale.

"I think people all over the world would have problems finding jobs and have financial problems to some degree," Ying said. "I think we don't always have to think of our international students as a vulnerable part of this population."

BELLA MARTEN

Bella Marten, a second-year graduate student from Germany studying strategic public relations, said the coronavirus places added pressure on international students. Marten, who applied for her Optional Practice Training through the Office of International Services in February and who is graduating this year, said she hopes the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services will relax OPT regulations, which prohibit more than 90 days of unemployment, during the economic downturn.

"I think international students should have the same chance [in the job search] because we also now don't have the equal opportunity anymore to get our work visa or OPT," Marten said.

Marten is unsure if she will be able to remain in the U.S. post-OPT status. She said that it's difficult to accept that she may have to return home after living in the United States for seven years.

"I get one year to work in the U.S. and I likely nobody else will hire me after or sponsor my visa after," Marten said. "And then after my six years of work, I will have to go back to Germany and nothing applies really, anything (that I have worked for). It will have to be all translated."
By RACHEL MCKENZIE AND KATE SEQUEIRA
Daily Trojan

For junior Maddy Ledger, it was learning how to navigate the health care system and finding out that Target sold groceries in addition to furniture and clothing. For sophomore Julia Leb, it was adapting to the pressure of U.S. college culture and adjusting to the “stupid funny” humor that replaced the abrasive jokes she was accustomed to. For senior Tia Razafy, it was getting used to the lack of diversity among the student body and coming to terms with the idea of spending holidays alone on campus.

Ledger, Leb and Razafy, along with many other international students who made the decision to pursue their studies at USC, found the transition strange at some points and difficult at others. They’ve learned to adapt to new norms and a college culture distinct in its social and academic values, and that shared experience is something that has made the international community of the University tight-knit, despite the wide range of backgrounds.

USC prides itself on its global diversity. It is surpassed only by New York University in the 2019 Institute of International Education survey for the size of its international student population, which makes up nearly a quarter of the student body. The incoming freshman class hail from 96 countries, with large representation from China, India, South Korea, Canada and Mexico.

**BECOMING AN EXPAT**

For Razafy, who is majoring in global health and public health and hails from Madagascar, arriving at USC and living outside of the African continent for the first time was a massive culture shock.

Razafy encountered adjustments she didn’t expect, even though globe-trotting was nothing new for her since she grew up living in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Senegal and attended international schools since the second grade. She and her classmates were expected to go through American school and then attend a university in the United Kingdom, Canada or the United States, but the lack of a diverse student body and living so far from home made it difficult for Razafy to adjust to USC at first.

"Although I was surrounded by American teachers growing up, it was my first time being in such a homogenous environment," Razafy said.

Despite USC’s emphasis on supporting its international student population by tailoring specific orientations and programming to them, Leb said institutional help only goes so far when adjusting to a new environment.

As an international student and the first in her family to attend college, it was challenging for her to be in a new place away from her home in Canada during her first semester. Moving into her dorm in August 2018 was Leb’s first taste of Los Angeles and her first time witnessing college life.

"I think part of that is that I didn’t have anyone telling me, you know, ‘This might be really hard at first, but then it’s gonna get really fun,’ or ‘You might experience culture shock, even in America, even though America and Canada seem to be so similar,’” said Leb, who is majoring in philosophy, politics and law.

"Honestly, I don’t know what I was expecting, but I wasn’t expecting it to be super rough, and it ended up being super rough.”

Though the language was the same, along with the clothing styles and media consumption, there were references Leb didn’t understand and a large divide in how students had grown up academically. While Leb didn’t feel strong university pressure from her school until she started taking government exams in the 10th grade, many of her American peers at USC had been planning for college their whole lives.

“All these Americans came to college, hit the ground running on a mission to accomplish what they knew to be what you’re going to college for,” Leb said. "Like, what is the college experience? What friends do you have to make? What things do you have to do? What are the brick-and-mortar list things of college freshman year?”

For Ledger, who is from Australia, having an international roommate her freshman year helped smoothen the transition. With her British roommate, Ledger navigated U.S. college culture as she rushed Greek life in Fall 2017 and

**JOURNEY TO TROY**

International students adjust to U.S. college culture after arriving at USC.

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USC students hail from across the globe. The Daily Trojan spoke to six students from different countries about their experience adapting to college life.
observed fellow U.S. classmates experience drinking for the first time, something they had already been through in their own countries, where the legal drinking age is 18.

"Honestly, I don't know what I was expecting, but I wasn't expecting it to be so rough, and it ended up being super rough."

JULIA LEB
Sophomore, Philosophy, Politics and Law

"By the time you get to college, you've kind of had your crazy times," said Ledger, who is majoring in architectural studies. "We definitely noticed there was a disconnect between a lot of the other kids that were in that, especially because we just kind of had each other, and I'm really glad that we did because it made our adjustments much easier.

However, some international students encounter the transition period earlier.

Ready stability

Tia Razafy and sophomore Priya Koll both attended boarding high school in the United States; because they primarily dealt with adjusting to U.S. culture then, the transition to USC was much smoother.

Lyu, a junior majoring in public relations, moved to Ohio from China when she was 15, driven to take advantage of educational resources unavailable in her hometown such as robust SAT preparation and a wide range of AP classes. But new resources were accompanied by new challenges.

"When I was in high school, I had a lot of trouble making friends because ... I wasn't able to have a proper conversation with anyone," Lyu said.

Socializing looks very different from culture to culture, and people who have their first experience abroad at USC often encounter sociolinguistic barriers that prevent them from feeling at home, Lyu said.

"That's how Koll first felt when she started high school. She was thrown off by the individualistic nature of her new environment, accustomed to the collectivist culture in her home country of Japan.

"Whether it's in the classroom or I don't know, with my society or whatever it is, I feel like I always just try and stay conscious of that," Ledger said. "I know my people's feelings. I just don't feel like I can in order to not only benefit me but benefit the people around me." Koll said. "I feel like I just noticed that a lot. I don't know, just the West in general is just very one-track minded, [the] one goal is to benefit myself."

While some international students already felt at home in America when they arrived at USC, for others, a wave of culture shock accompanied their transition to college. Some said they identified exclusively with those from the same country or background, while others felt a sense of community with the international student population at large.

"When I got to USC, it was like not necessarily even being from the same country, but from not being from America," Ledger said.

OVERCOMING

Under immigration law, some international students are citizens, while others are permanent residents or temporary residents with student visas. According to the Office of Admission, an international student is any noncitizen who applies to USC. However, this narrow definition does not capture the full scope of international identity and how that might differ from one student to the next.

Ledger, who is a U.S. citizen because her mother is American, was born in the U.S. and grew up in Australia. She has family in the United States and has visited numerous times on vacation but has never lived or spent an extended amount of time here.

"Going on holiday and spending a month there is very different than living there and getting your everyday life sorted out," Ledger said. "It was a huge adjustment, just little things like how do I go to the doctor — tiny things that you're so used to at home, but it's just different."

Though being an international student never explicitly defined her college experience, Razafy said her exact status feels more salient as a senior. While American peers are easing through the transition from graduation work-life, international students are confronted with a litany of bureaucratic and immigration-related obstacles if they want to work in the country.

Because of high costs, distance from home and the possibility of having to reapply for a student visa if she leaves, Razafy elected to stay in the United States until she graduates. While her parents have come to see her in California, she explained it can be tough to watch her friends visit their loved ones as frequently.

"Holidays [make you realize] you're an international student, when everyone leaves and then you just end up being the only one on campus," Razafy said.

Razafy is not the only international student dealing with the stress brought on by the process of acquiring and maintaining a student visa. Depending on the region from which one applies, one's student visa might be usable for multiple entries while others may require the student to reapply for a visa in their home country after a single entry.

Of the three different visas available to international students entering the U.S., the F-1 visa is by far the most ubiquitous and popular, as it provides students with the opportunity to work while they study. Depending on the immigration laws at play, students may elect to remain in the U.S. throughout their undergraduate education or to travel back and forth.

Outside of differences in the education system and navigating the visa process, international students are also left to manage the costs of USC’s private education, which exceeds $77,000 in estimated cost of attendance following years of steady increases.

Need-based financial aid doesn’t apply to international students, meaning they must navigate the price of higher education largely on their own.

FINDING COMMUNITY

The Office of Admission typically points students to merit scholarships, Undergraduate Admission director Lisa Rhone said.

International students are eligible for USC’s merit scholarships along with some scholarship providers by individual departments that are given directly to students in the form of monthly stipends.

Through the Office of International Services, University programming and student- and alumni-led organizations, USC works to guide its international student community through life on campus and beyond, Rhone said.

"Students go to OIS when they have visa- or work-related inquiries. The office is also a key player in international recruitment and the architect of events and programs designed to strengthen the sense of community among the international student body. While some international students may be more or less involved with the office depending on their specific needs, every international student interacts with OIS over the course of their studies."

Aloud, USC Global Offices and local alumni associations keep the Trojan family strong, Rhone said. The University opened its ninth office in London in 2018, but before then the region’s alumni club had been active, hosting workshops and meetup events to build the USC community.

"Just as individuals differ in the extent to which they identify as an international student, they also differ in readiness of and aptitude for adjusting to life at USC," Rhone said.

"Holidays [make you realize] you're an international student, when everyone leaves and then you just end up being the only one on campus."

TIA RAZAFY
Senior, Global Health and Public Health

USC harbors myriad clubs and organizations tailored to bring students of similar backgrounds together, including the Armenian Students’ Association, the Italian Club and the Korean Business Student Organization.

Under the Undergraduate Student Government, the International Student Assembly hosts career workshops and international sessions to teach students how to navigate feasts such as getting a U.S. driver’s license and understanding the rules of football. The organization also hosts the annual Globefest, which is open to the entire USC community and showcases food, music and performances from different countries.

Ryu said strong connections like these are what has made the international community at USC feel like home.

"I feel like it’s easier to find your place here," she said. "Like, no matter if you want to be more ‘Americanized’ or if you just want to stay within your culture, there’s always a group here."

MADDIE LEDGER
Junior, Architectural Studies

"It was a huge adjustment, just little things like how do I go to the doctor — tiny things that you’re so used to at home, but it’s just different."

"I feel like it’s easier to find your place here," she said. "Like, no matter if you want to be more ‘Americanized’ or if you just want to stay within your culture, there’s always a group here."
The former USC water polo player stayed with the program to coach young talent from around the world.

**BEEN THERE, DONE THAT:**

Marko Pintaric uses his years of experience to mentor international players.
By LAUREN MATTICE
Digital Managing Editor

B efore assuming the po-

A LONG WAY
e from home

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sition of head coach last year, Marko Pintaric had already spent 18 years dedicated to the development of USC's water polo program. While his transition from asso-

sociate to head coach brought the stability and guidance the men and women's teams needed in the sudden shift of leadership following the in-

volvement of former coach Jovan Vavic in the college ad-

missions scandal, Pintaric had always provided that sort of direction and mentorship to his international athletes.

Pintaric made the choice to stay with the program after his successful stint as a stu-

dent-athlete. He transferred to USC from the University of Zagreb, located in the heart of Croatia's capital, after play-

ing for the Croatian National Team from 1989 to 1994. Leaving his home — which has an extensive ap-

preciation for water polo and encourages talented young players to skip college to go pro — was not the easiest transition, but it paid off, he said.

"I liked my story, I loved my experience," Pintaric said. "I did have a culture shock at first, but my team helped me greatly and I tried to turn those positive experiences and kind of touch the incoming freshmen, especially interna-
tional students, what I went through. You know, bad expe-

riences [and], in my case, more good experiences, hardships and all that.”

Pintaric was in a good po-

sition to be getting the time with the recruiting efforts of Vavic, who became an assis-
tant coach at USC in 1992 and took over the program from John Williams in 1999. After compet-
ing on the interna-
tional stage as a member of a four-time national champion-

ship-winning club in the for-
mmer Yugoslavia, Vavic was pre-
pared to start building up the international talent that USC is now known for.

In two seasons as a starter, Pintaric racked up four career goals, with 59 in his 1997 season alone. He then earned National Player of the Year in 1998 for his part on the NCAA National Team. Pintaric credits the success of his team and the generations of USC teams to follow — to the different kinds of talent that are welcomed at University, both international and domestic.

"It's about creating a good team atmosphere and for ev-

erybody to go out there and that's what we're trying to provide: trying to treat ev-

ey player the same," Pintaric said. "My experience as being a foreign student-athlete and competing [at], in my opinion, very valuable because I can re-

late first to them because I know what they went through.”

While Pintaric has com-
piled game plans and tech-

niques he learned from play-

ing in Croatia for his players at USC (to incorporate, both he and associate head coach Casey Moon recognize the di-

verse playing styles that have come from different interna-
tional players on the roster.

"In regards to water polo, just their international experi-

ence, they get to play top-notch water polo against the best in the world," Moon said of the unique contribu-
tion international players make when deciding to play at USC. "Especially in three of the coun-

tries — in Holland, in Spain, in Australia — water polo is so up-and-coming, and they have such a big, big pool of athletes that they are obviously compet-

ing against. This is [an] invaluable ex-

perience that they get to bring and show.”

Senior utility Maud Megens, who Pintaric made the choice to stay with the program after his successful stint as a student-athlete, is now known for drawing.

"You always feel that you have to give something back to these men and women because they’re trying so hard to compete not only for this University, but for their own countries as well.”

CASSEY MOON
Associate Head Coach

sophomore driver Alejandra Aznar and sophomore 2-me-

ter Tilly Kearns represent the water polo culture of the coun-

tries listed by Moon, re-

spectively. They attempted to make their run for the 2020 Summer Olympics before the Games were postponed be-

cause of the coronavirus pan-

demic.

Despite the Games being moved back, Aznar was more than appreciative of the sup-

port that Pintaric and Moon provided for her to get the training experience necessary to compete for Spain at the highest level.

"It’s hard but I’m very grate-

ful to be here,” Aznar said in an email to the Daily Trojan. "It will be a lifetime learning experience and will teach me [a] lot one of the rea-

sons that makes it attractive, being able to combine both and having people around helping to achieve academic and sports goals.”

Kearns also said Pintaric’s coaching has allowed her to develop a more refined game style that has given her an ad-

vantage when playing with the American national team.

"It’s a lot more structured in the U.S. — I had never been ex-

posed to the amount of think-

ing and studying required for
each and every game,” Kearns stated in an email to the Daily Trojan. "Back home we would just go out to train in Belgrade, not in a college or tournament, and in the collegiate system you need to have ev-

ey team and its players’ ten-

dencies memorized to be suc-

cessful.”

On the men’s side, last sea-

son boasted the talents of redshirt junior utility Luka Karaman, junior driver Jacob Mesev and senior driver Marin Dasic, the latter two of whom were members of the Croatian Junior National Team and made appearanc-

es at the FINA Junior World Championships.

Dasic said the internation-

al experience both Pintaric and former head coach Vavic: displayed was what solidi-

fied his decision to attend the University.

"I think it was the coaches — I would say I knew I wanted to play for [USC] someone who has a similar background [in] water polo as me,” Dasic said. “And I think there was no bet-

ter combination than Jovan and Moon said. "It's much bigger than water polo her. We truly have a family sense and relationship building, and those are their sisters that [are] gone for a whole year.”

"Now obviously, they com-

municate with them,” he add-

ed. “But for them to be back here on campus and be with us every day, I think it'll just change the dynamic of our team for the better.”

That team dynamic and the ultimate goal of getting a championship ring doesn’t disappear as the players prepare to head home in from outside the U.S. Even so, just to know there are girls who aren’t cov-

eted Southern California water polo region are trained and play differently from those in USC’s immediate vi-

sionary, Pintaric’s experience helps consolidate these styles to create the Trojans’ near un-

stoppable level of play.

"Like I always, always said, we are getting so many differ-

ent players from so many dif-

ferent places, and in terms of water polo, in terms of lan-

guage, everybody speaks their own foreign water polo lan-

guage,” he said.

Moon and Pintaric, who have faced more than half his life in the U.S., recognize that there is a certain draw to USC that allows it to take hold in the minds of burgeoning play-

eys when they make the life-al-

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COMFORT IN COMMONALITY:
HOW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FIND COMMUNITY IN GREEK LIFE

By AARON SHETH
Staff Writer

When people think of Greek life, the first things that come to mind are often humilitating stories about hazing and12 pledging rituals, hard partying and superficiality. While some or all of these may be present in different organizations, students have said Greek life also provides college students, especially international students, an opportunity to feel at home and find community.

Students often struggle as they’re thrust into new routines in a new city, state or country and have to navigate their academic and social lives in an unfamiliar context. It can be particularly challenging for international students, who are not only arriving in a different country but are often met with cultural differences and new traditions. To find a sense of belonging, many international students look toward Greek life.

Carlota Rodriguez-Benito, a 2019 USC alumni, moved every two or three years throughout her childhood, growing up in North America, Europe and South America. After finishing high school in Mexico City, Rodriguez-Benito attended USC, where she graduated with bachelor’s degrees in Russian, French and international relations.

Although moving around made it quite the opposite. For Kasvi Malhotra, a sophomore from Black Mountain, North Carolina, the same kind of bonding and comfort that Rodriguez-Benito experienced. She met people from different cultures, shared similar values and lifestyles that made them feel like family.

After participating in the various rituals that come with rushing and pledging, Rodriguez-Benito bonded with other students she met and created memories that have lasted beyond her time at USC.

“Most of my memories at USC — studying in the library, going on trips, having social events and just going through life and through big changes — have been with these girls... [You] meet a ton of people that can then in the future be your business partners, your best friends, your bridesmaids or your child’s godmother.”

CARLOTA RODRIGUEZ-BENITO
2019 USC alumni

Rodriguez-Benito got to know her freshman year and eventually became the director of recruitment and an adviser to the strategy team. Expat Society has grown in the past few years, with an emphasis on providing many international students in different locations around the globe with an opportunity to get involved in more social events and volunteer work, by fundraising for charities such as the Ronald McDonald House by selling pizza or clothes and hosting soccer tournaments.

Despite its flaws, Greek life has guided many international students in discovering new sources of comfort and security. “I remember some days just being sad and missing my family, and one of my [sorority sisters], came back home and brought me kombucha and cookies,” Suero said. “She sat down with me, listened to me and comforted me, and it felt like I was with my family. Every time I’m with them, it feels like I’m with my family.”

That sense of community and belonging is something Suero expects to hold on to for a long time. For international students, Greek life has the potential to provide a chosen family and support away from home.

For students who have familiar people in their lives, like Kasvi Malhotra, there’s no way for you to actively participate in my opinion.”

Although Malhotra’s experience in Greek life fell flat after her first semester, some international students have been able to find a lifelong family through their organization, like Rodriguez-Benito.

Luciana Suero, a junior from Peru majoring in communication, transferred from USC to Santa Monica College in the spring semester of her sophomore year. She decided to join the Alpha Delta Pi sorority and the Delta Kappa Alpha film fraternity, which brought her closer to students with various cinematic interests.

As an international student, Suero said she felt behind in terms of finding friends. “I felt a bit superficial because I didn’t spend time with those friends outside of class, so I was turned to Greek life as an alternative method of feeling connected to people at school.”

While she felt a bit out of place navigating the Greek life culture at first, she eventually adapted and was able to find her people. “I came here alone,” Suero said. “I don’t have my family members here in the States, so these girls, the sisters that I have now, are literally my family, and that’s something that I don’t think I could find a student without joining AEPi or Delta Kappa.”

In AEPi, Suero was able to meet people who shared her passion for film while at USC, she had the opportunity to be involved in more social events and fundraisers for charities such as the Ronald McDonald House by selling pizza or clothes and holding soccer tournaments.

Most of my memories at USC — studying in the library, going on trips, having social events and just going through life and through big changes — have been with these girls... [You] meet a ton of people that can then in the future be your business partners, your best friends, your bridesmaids or your child’s godmother.”