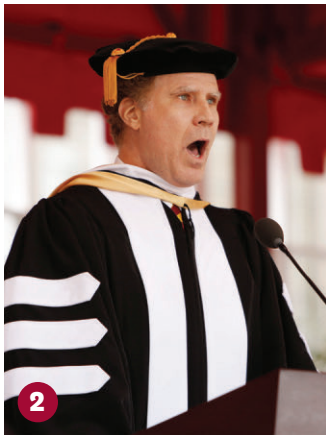


Commencement 2017



At USC's 134th commencement ceremony, the Trojan Family celebrated more than 15,000 graduates and their families. The events inspired cheerful tears and warm hugs, as new alumni were encouraged to Fight On!



1. Students proudly raise heraldic flags representing each school at the university.
2. Commencement speaker Will Ferrell delivered an engaging and comedic speech. He serenaded the crowd with "I Will Always Love You," a song popularized by Whitney Houston.

3. Honorary degree recipients join President C. L. Max Nikias (*fifth from left*) and the chairman of the USC Board of Trustees, John Mork (*far right*). This year's class featured (*from left*) Mark Ridley-Thomas, Suzanne Dworak-Peck, Gary Michelson, Helen Mirren, David Ho, and Will Ferrell.

4. Half-century Trojans returned to USC, bringing their lifelong Trojan spirit.
5. (*from right*) USC trustees Shelly Nemirovsky, Mitchell Lew, Kathy Leventhal, and John Kusmiersky
Photos 1-3, 5, Steve Cohn; photo 4, Gus Ruelas

2017 Honorary Degree Recipients



Two-time USC alumna and renowned philanthropist, **Suzanne Dworak-Peck**—a true pioneer in social work—provided the historic naming gift for the USC Dworak-Peck School of Social Work in 2016.



USC alumnus **Will Ferrell** is a renowned actor and comedian, known for his roles in *Elf* and *Anchorman*, as well as his work on *Saturday Night Live*.



Time magazine's Man of the Year in 1996, **David Ho** is an acclaimed scientist and medical researcher, known for standing at the fore of HIV/AIDS research.

1. Valedictorian Cooper Nelson
2. A dove release signaled a new beginning for graduates.
3. Graduates drew inspiration and laughter from Ferrell's humorous speech.
4. Honorary degree recipient Will Ferrell pictured with his wife, Viveca, and their three children: Magnus, Mattias, and Axel
- 5-7. Congratulations to USC's class of 2017!

*Photos 1, 2, 4, Steve Cohn;
photos 3, 5, 7, David Sprague;
photo 6, Gus Ruelas*





Gary Michelson is a groundbreaking orthopaedic spinal surgeon and inventor whose patents outpace Thomas Edison's.



Dame **Helen Mirren** won an Oscar for her work in *The Queen*, and two Emmys for her portrayal of the steel-nerved police detective on *Prime Suspect*.



Trojan alumnus **Mark Ridley-Thomas** chairs the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and stands as a passionate advocate for neighborhood-based civic engagement.

Photos by Steve Cohn



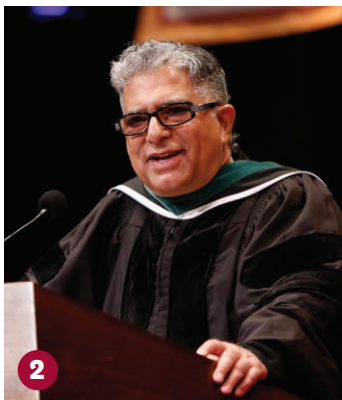
Also of Note...

Bryan "Dexter" Holland of the band, The Offspring, received his Ph.D. from USC Dornsife! "He graduated from the University of Southern California with a dissertation in molecular biology, completing the degree he'd put on hold when his Offspring career took off," *The Washington Post* reported. "Holland studies the genetic material of HIV, with an eye to viral destruction."

Photo by Amy Harris/Invision/AP



USC's baccalaureate and satellite ceremonies welcome distinguished leaders.



1. Varun Soni, dean of religious life, speaks at the annual baccalaureate ceremony.

2. Deepak Chopra, a wellness advocate and spiritual counselor, delivered the evening's keynote.

3. Angie Mendoza was the student speaker.

4. Honorary degree recipients with President Nikias

5. (from left) Dornsife Dean Amber Miller, Gary Michelson, President Nikias, and Trustee David Dornsife

6. Olympian Allyson Felix addressed graduates at her *alma mater*, the USC Rossier School of Education.

7. San Antonio mayor Julian Castro addressed students at the Price School of Public Policy.

Photos 1-5, Steve Cohn; photo 6, Brian Morri/211 Photography; photo 7, Tom Qually