

VITERBI ALUMNI RELATIONS

Your membership in the Trojan Family does not end at graduation. The Viterbi School's Office of Alumni Relations is here to build and sustain your connection to USC, to the Viterbi School and to your fellow Trojan Engineers—a connection that is truly lifelong and worldwide.

You are part of a distinguished group of more than 55,000 Viterbi School alumni. We hope you take advantage of the many opportunities to build connections with this group through volunteering, guest lecturing, career mentoring and supporting the school.

Alumni also stay connected to the engineering community through our online database, lifetime email forwarding, networking and attendance at annual events such as Homecoming and the Viterbi Awards.

Stay Connected

We rely on your accurate mailing and email addresses to ensure you receive our many publications and invitations to special events. Please update your information online at viterbi.usc.edu/alumni or by contacting the VSoE Office of Alumni Relations at 213.821.2424.

Widening the STEM Pipeline

INSPIRING SCIENTIFIC CURIOSITY IN DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES



Her students know her as Ms. C, but local communities from Los Angeles to New York call her Wonder Woman.

Tara Chklovski noted that science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) get scant attention in the American classroom.

Four years ago, Chklovski set out to fix this problem—and head off the long-term decline in the number of American students studying science and engineering—by launching Iridescent Studios while juggling doctoral studies in aerodynamics at the Viterbi School.

The chain of science learning and discovery community centers targets the K-12 set, particularly in underserved minority communities.

The aim? To provide a place for students and their parents to engineer and imagine with interactive and hands-on learning activities.

"Iridescent Studios are about the love of learning," says Chklovski, 32, who was once a principal of a 300-student K-6 school in India.

Parental involvement and mentorship is also a key strategy, says Chklovski, and the studio has taught more than 300 engineers how to effectively mentor 5,000 students.



Most students are from inner-city schools, and many of the Iridescent staff are Viterbi student volunteers.

Funding from the Office of Naval Research and other partners has allowed her to scale up; Iridescent has launched in L.A. and New York City, and will open in the Bay Area in 2013.

Viterbi Dean Yannis Yortsos notes that K-12 outreach is an essential part of the mission of engineering schools in the country. “Armed with new educational vehicles such as Ms. Chklovski’s science studios,” Yortsos said, “we can focus precisely and relentlessly on STEM challenges.” //

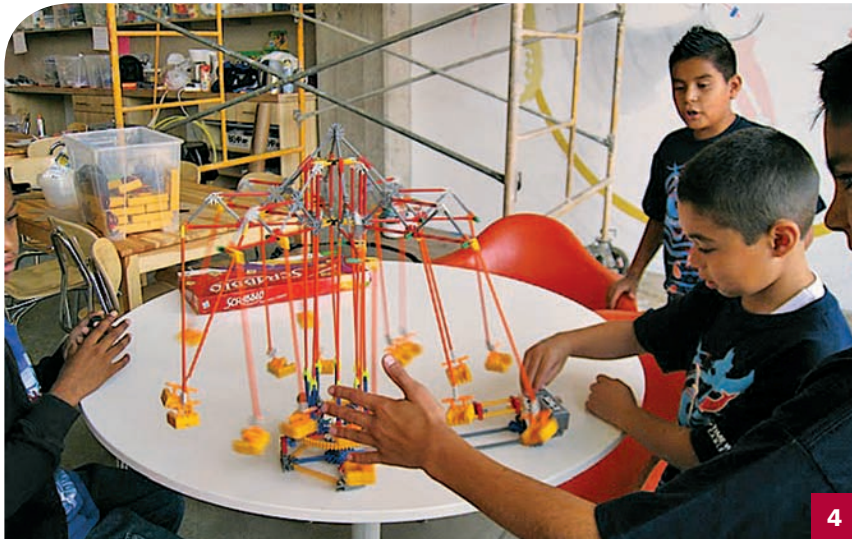


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“Iridescent Studios are about the love of learning.”



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PHOTO CAPTIONS: 1. Iridescent founder and Viterbi School doctoral candidate Tara Chklovski 2. Middle school students learning about kinetic and potential energy with roller coasters 3. Testing “Good Vibrations” at the Los Angeles studio 4. Building K-nex creations at the Iridescent summer engineering boot camp 5. Exploring the physics of roller coasters 6. Learning about squid at the Iridescent Science Festival



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