The Trojan Family Celebrates the Inauguration of C. L. Max Nikias as USC’s 11th President!

On October 15, 2010, more than 10,000 faculty, students, parents, alumni, staff, and dignitaries – including many USC Associates – gathered in Alumni Park to celebrate an occasion that has happened only 10 other times in USC’s history: the inauguration of a new president. Vibrant flags from 120 nations represented the diversity of USC’s student body, or as Edward P. Roski, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Trustees said, “the vast spectrum of color between cardinal and gold.” On a day filled with pageantry, tradition, and special moments, it was the transfer of the University Medallion from President Emeritus Steven Sample to President C. L. Max Nikias that brought tears to the eyes of many.

In his inaugural speech, President Nikias announced his goal to move USC to undisputed elite status at the very epicenter of global influence.

Nikias observed that thanks to the involvement and generosity of countless Trojans and friends over the last 19 years under the leadership of President Sample, USC has made an extraordinary impact in academic and research fields. However, as we look ahead and see what remains to be done, Nikias asked the audience to join him in helping USC reach the next phase. “After all, the last part of the journey is often the most complex, the most costly, and the most difficult. And yet the greatest prize lies ahead,” he said.

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On the southwest-facing base of our statue of Tommy Trojan are some words from Virgil’s Aeneid. Consider those words: ‘There shall rise again the destined reign of Troy.’ Those words call us to work together to claim destiny’s promises, and to renew those promises within our individual lives and our collective lives.

-- President C. L. Max Nikias
A Message from Jane Popovich

It is a thrilling time to be a part of the Trojan Family! This past fall, USC admitted one of the most academically talented freshman classes to date and ranked among the top one percent in selectivity among all colleges and universities in the nation. The Trojan tradition of excellence is thriving.

It was also another exciting football picnic season for the Associates. We hosted four away game picnics in Hawaii, Minnesota, Stanford, and co-hosted with USC Athletics for the UCLA game in Pasadena. I had a fantastic time seeing everybody dressed in their cardinal and gold at the Associates pre-game picnics. Being with friends before a game is always a great way to spend a Saturday.

On October 15, USC formally welcomed C. L. Max Nikias and his wife, Niki, as the university’s new president and first lady. It was wonderful to celebrate this event with President Nikias and his family as they were embraced by the USC community. He has been USC’s provost since 2005 and helped accelerate the university’s recent academic momentum and strengthened the academic medical enterprise.

I would also like to welcome our new Senior Vice President of University Advancement, Albert Checcio. He has an impressive leadership background and will be a strong advocate for all Associates members. I look forward to working with him over his tenure.

I hope everybody had a great holiday season and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events this spring.

Jane Popovich
President, USC Associates

USC WELCOMES
Albert R. Checcio

Charged with leading USC’s efforts to organize and launch the largest fundraising campaign in USC history, Albert Checcio joins the Trojan Family after 35 years of fundraising at universities and other non-profits across the country.

When introducing Al Checcio to the community, President C. L. Max Nikias noted: “We were seeking a candidate with the right combination of experience, initiative and advancement knowledge to build on USC’s legacy of fundraising success, and we certainly found that with Al.”

Checcio is honored to become a member of the Trojan Family and to serve in the role at this exciting time in USC’s history: “I look forward to working closely with the USC Associates who have helped make USC such a great university. There is no question that USC is on the cusp of a new level of achievement, and I couldn’t be more excited about helping the university meet its boldest goals.”

USC Associates Trustee Scholarship Recipient
Tiffany Yang

Learning more about the world around her has always been a passion for senior and USC Trustee Scholar Tiffany Yang. While growing up in St. Louis, Missouri, Tiffany knew she wanted to attend a college that would help her learn more about different cultures, become proficient in other languages, and be involved in volunteer work. USC fit her interests perfectly.

The strong cultural outreach programs at USC have helped Tiffany work toward her degree in comparative literature and learn more about world cultures. This education enabled her to become proficient in both Spanish and French. In the spring of 2010, she had the opportunity to study abroad in Bilbao, Spain. This experience allowed Tiffany to open her horizons and work toward her goals. “Learning more about cultures and languages of the world has always been a great interest to me. Without the help of the Associates Trustee Scholarship, I wouldn’t have had the opportunity to study abroad or learn about my passion,” she said.

Tiffany is also very proud of her volunteer work at USC. One of the events she leads and organizes is the USC Dance Marathon which helps raise money for Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. “I found it inspirational how involved USC is in helping the community and I wanted to be a part of this. I enjoy having the chance to give back.”

After graduation, Tiffany plans on taking a few years to join the Peace Corps and teach English in other counties before entering law school where she hopes to work in the public interest sector. Tiffany looks forward to applying what she has learned through her USC education and volunteer experiences to help others.
CHAIRMAN SPOTLIGHT
Dr. and Mrs. Charles C. Manger III

CHAIRMAN LEVEL
Chairman Associates Dr. and Mrs. Charles C. Manger III have generously supported the Charles C. Manger Chair in Corneal Laser Surgery at the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

Giving back and continuing a strong connection with USC has always been important to Chairman Associate and alumnus Dr. Charles C. Manger III. The Trojan Spirit runs strong with the Manger family as Dr. Manger is a second-generation Trojan and met his wife Carol at a Keck School of Medicine dance. The couple has one daughter, Laurie, who is a third-generation Trojan, and two sons, Chris and Joey.

Dr. Manger endowed a chair at the Keck School of Medicine of USC to support cutting-edge corneal research and the continuing development of Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT). His leadership gift also provides vital resources for the Charles C. Manger Cataract Surgery Simulation Center at the Doheny Eye Institute on the Health Sciences Campus. This exciting new device allows USC residents and fellows to practice cataract surgery through a virtual cataract surgery simulation computer. These research efforts relate to Dr. Manger’s specialization in LASIK surgery at his well-known Saddleback Eye Center in Laguna Hills.

Their leadership gift to Keck allowed the Mangers to publically recognize the quality medical and ophthalmology preparation the school provided Dr. Manger, while also honoring Charles C. Manger I, who was a USC professor and chairman of the USC Department of Neurology from 1911-1918.

Being a member of the USC Associates over the past four years has been a great experience for Dr. Manger. He finds the connections through the Associates to be beneficial as “there are several chances each year to meet with the leaders of the USC community and I am also able to be kept informed about USC’s plans and strategies for continually improving USC’s campus and academic standing.”

The USC Associates would like to thank Dr. Manger and his family for their unwavering support through the years and for the friendship they share with the Trojan Family.

Welcome New & Upgraded USC Associates!

CHAIRMAN
Valerie and Bart Broadman* Marie and Edward Lewis
Claire Marie Cortney* Joan Payden*
Jeffrie and John Jenkins Tiffany and Andrew Wiederhorn*
Janet and Jeff Larson

PRESIDENTIAL
Melissa and Robert Alvarado* Kristen and Peter Y. S. Kim
Dianne and Lunny Jung Mary and Kevin White

PROVOST
Ali H. Alireza Sandra and Rex Johnston*
Enaam and Samir Batniji* Kimberly and Gary Palmer
Linda Burk Jack Knott and Cherry Short
Montana Coady Rebecca and Laird Malamed
Janie and James Crawford Stephanie Paggi*
Michael Curry* Jerrilyn and Michael Wilson

JUNIOR
Linda Cook Johnny Nguyen
Cameron Myronowicz

* Upgraded Membership 

As of 12.10.10

Giving Opportunities & Membership Upgrades

Your generosity has played a vital role in allowing USC to grow as a leading academic institution. If you would like to upgrade your membership or make a new gift and would like to find out about new giving opportunities, please contact:

Adam Bart
Executive Director
(213) 740-8722
abart@usc.edu

Membership Levels

CHAIRMAN: $300,000* plus $3,000 required annual gift
PRESIDENTIAL: $150,000* plus $1,500 required annual gift
PROVOST: $50,000* plus $500 required annual gift
JUNIOR: $2,500 annual gift (ages 35 and younger)

* All gifts are payable within 5 years
Keck School of Medicine of USC: A place for innovative research

Keck School of Medicine of USC Dean Carmen A. Puliafito (left) with (from left to right) Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Edythe and Eli Broad, CIRM Chairman Robert Klein and USC President C. L. Max Nikias at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

On Friday, October 29, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the state-of-the-art Eli and Edythe Broad CIRM Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at USC.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger joined President Nikias and Dean Puliafito, members of USC’s Board of Trustees, and elected public officials, as well as many scientists, post-doctoral researchers, and graduate students who will work inside the new facility.

The gleaming, LEED-certified, five-story Broad CIRM Center will house basic and clinical researchers working collaboratively on stem cell research in three categories: basic and discovery stem cell research, preclinical research and preclinical development, and clinical research.

Schwarzenegger noted, “This is an institute of hope – hope for millions of people who suffer from Alzheimer’s, from cancer, from AIDS, from Parkinson’s disease and many other diseases.”

To make the facility a reality, Eli and Edythe Broad gave an extraordinary $30 million, which stands as one of the largest gifts given to the Keck School.

“There’s no question that stem cell research has the potential to revolutionize medicine,” said Eli Broad at the event. “I truly believe that biotechnology is one of the areas that are the economic future of this city and this state.”

“As we work together, Los Angeles can be truly a world-class center for regenerative medicine,” said Martin Pera, founding director of the Broad Center.

“The definition of ‘possible’ has changed,” said Robert Klein, Independent Citizens’ Oversight Committee chairman and author of the California ballot initiative that launched CIRM in 2004.

Nikias characterized the day as one of the most momentous in the history of the Keck School. He said, “This new center carries out our promise to society. In the future historians will search for the turning point in the age of medicine and biology. And when they do, they will look to this place, to this time – they will look to this center and they will see that what we have done together, with the help of our great friends, Eli and Edythe Broad, has changed not only this university, but also the world.”
Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Ross Gunter

Setting an example for others, Provost Associate Dr. Jeffrey Ross Gunter (‘87) is passionate about his support for the Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research.

Giving back to his alma mater and others has always been a passion for USC Associate, Dr. Jeffrey Ross Gunter (‘87). He began his Associates membership as gratitude for his outstanding Keck School of Medicine of USC education and in the hopes that he would inspire others to give back to the university that has provided him with so much.

Dr. Gunter gives to the Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at USC. The center is leading the way in stem cell research. Dr. Gunter knows that supporting the center is important for the advancement of regenerative medicine and feels that it is important to participate in the vision set by this center. “Eli Broad, Dean Puliafito, and Dr. Pera have done an outstanding job of being leaders in the field of stem cell research. These three USC leaders are all visionaries, setting the standard for all of us in the Trojan Family,” commented Dr. Gunter. By supporting the research at USC, he hopes to raise the awareness of the center, set an example for others to give back, and, ultimately create medical breakthroughs unimaginable by today’s standard.

Dr. Gunter credits much of his success, as a physician and leader, to his years spent at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. “In all my years at USC, as a medical student, resident, chief resident, and clinical faculty member, I never cease to be amazed at the innovation, dedication and caring exhibited by all who tirelessly taught myself and fellow USC students,” added Dr. Gunter. “Johanna and I enjoyed coming back to the medical campus to witness the opening of Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research. The relentless pursuit of excellence, growth, and medical breakthroughs, led by Dean Puliafito, with his entire staff and faculty, is truly a testament to the Dean, the greatness of USC, the strength of the entire USC community, and the laser-like vision of our President, C. L. Max Nikias.”

Giving to the Stem Cell Research Center through the Associates has been a great experience. A couple of my friends recommended that I join and give through the USC Associates. Adam Bart, the Associates staff, along with Ted Wynn at the Keck School of Medicine, do an outstanding job of making the giving process smooth,” said Dr. Gunter. Along with his wife and two children, Dr. Gunter finds pride in supporting the Trojan Family and encourages others to do the same.

The USC Associates thanks Dr. Gunter for his support and leadership he shares with the Trojan Family.

What’s Up, Doc?

Interact with a distinguished panel of faculty physicians discussing the latest medical research and clinical updates.

Come join us!

Sunday, February 27, 2011
2:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Keck School of Medicine of USC
USC Health Sciences Campus
Los Angeles, California 90033

Space is limited, make your reservation today at www.usc.edu/esvp code: doc or by phone (213) 740-1744
$15 per person
A New Era in Health Care: Technology & Policy

On July 25, President and CEO of Scripps Health San Diego, Chris Van Gorder, spoke with USC Associates and their guests about the latest advances in wireless health care. He described the pioneering impact that cutting-edge technology, such as robotic surgery, has made in the field of medicine. Chairman Associate and Associate Board Member Mitchell Lew and his wife Deena graciously hosted the event at their home in Anaheim Hills.

Ronald Tutor Campus Center VIP Sneak Peek

On August 3, USC Associates and their guests enjoyed an opportunity to view the completed Ronald Tutor Campus Center during a VIP Sneak Peek Tour, three weeks before its grand opening. Touring places such as the Steven and Kathryn Sample Hall, the Grand Ballroom and the Trojan Family Room, Associates members were wowed by each exquisite area.

Hawaii Champagne Brunch

While in Hawaii, Associates enjoyed a wonderful post game day champagne brunch, generously hosted by Presidential Associates and USC parents Dean and Eliza Cash.

Away Game Football Picnics

The USC Associates away game football picnics made stops at Hawaii, Minnesota, and Stanford this year, attracting a record number of attendees. Our football events have continued to gain popularity thanks to outstanding support from Associates members.
Away Game Football Picnics Continued

Presidential Associates Sandy and Dan Bane (standing) enjoyed the Minnesota festivities with Presidential Associates Tony and Pam Turchi.

Left to right - Brooke Carroll, Chairman Associates Leah and Joseph Carroll, Joseph and Katherine Carroll, Daniel Holmes, and Taylor Carroll had a great time at the Stanford picnic.

Gathering in Minnesota (standing left to right) Dean Associate Herbert Weinberg, Polly Marks, Jonathan Wong, and Presidential Associates Mary Jo and Louis Wong, (seated left to right) Rini Kraus, Arthur Kraus, and Rick Riley.

Presidential Associates Sandy and Dan Bane (standing) enjoyed the Minnesota festivities with Presidential Associates Tony and Pam Turchi.

Dean Associates Michael and Susan Schroeder (left) enjoyed the Stanford away picnic with Carol and Steve Poizner.

Home Game Football Picnics

The 2010 home game picnics featuring the USC Spirit Leaders and performances by the USC Trojan Marching Band and Song Girls were a great success.

Dean of the USC Marshall School of Business and Presidential Associate Jim Ellis and his wife, Presidential Associate Gail Ellis (center right), show their Trojan pride at the home opener picnic with friends.

Provost Associates Bob and Anne Hopkins (front center) and their friends Mark and Peggi Cook share a beautiful Saturday at the Virginia picnic.
After more than 80 years of use, the Gwynn Wilson Student Union was updated as a part of the larger Ronald Tutor Campus Center project. This historic building was structurally modernized, given new windows and a beautiful, decorative arch over the door. As the eastern edge of USC’s new International Plaza, the building provides a stunning backdrop for live performances and formal events. In 1928, it was named for alumni and Life Trustee, Gwynn Wilson, who is best known for his success in persuading Notre Dame’s coach, Knute Rockne, to agree to the first USC-Notre Dame game in 1926 – thereby establishing one of our country’s most celebrated intersectional football rivalries. We think he would be extraordinarily pleased to see how far his beloved campus has come in the intervening years.

Class of 2014 Freshman Profile

This fall, only 24% of students were accepted from the nearly 36,000 freshman applications received, putting USC in the top 1% of all colleges and universities in terms of selectivity. This year’s new freshman class ranks among the strongest in the nation with average GPA and SAT scores higher than ever.

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USC Student Affairs