February 2, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that USC’s eminent trustee, Dr. Verna B. Dauterive, has committed $30 million to name the new Verna and Peter Dauterive Hall. This building will serve as a vibrant center for interdisciplinary social science research and teaching, led by transformative faculty and outstanding students of the social science departments in the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences and of USC’s professional schools. This building will fully embrace the university’s classically elegant architectural style, and will be constructed on the University Park Campus in the location currently occupied by the University Club.

Dr. Dauterive committed this gift in memory of her late husband, Peter W. Dauterive. Peter received his bachelor’s degree from our Marshall School of Business, and rose to the position of executive vice president and managing officer of the Broadway Federal Savings and Loan Association. Ultimately, he became the founding president and CEO of Founders Savings & Loan Association. Verna received her master’s and doctoral degrees from our Rossier School of Education, and embarked on what would become a 62-year career with the Los Angeles Unified School District. During this time, she served as a teacher, superintendent’s coordinator of integration programs, administrator of university relations, and principal.

Additionally, Verna held a faculty position in the Rossier School of Education. Governor Pete Wilson appointed her to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, and she was elected its chair for two terms. Prior to that, Governor George Deukmejian appointed her to the California Commission on the Status of Women, and she was elected its chair for two consecutive terms. As the first woman president of the USC School of Education’s Educare Support group, Dr. Dauterive conducted a special study in Europe on the feasibility of expanding USC’s oversees programs in administration, teacher training, and counseling. She set up fundraising chapters abroad for Educare, and taught classes for USC in Germany and Spain.

The Dauterives met as students in Doheny Library, and maintained strong lifelong ties with the university. Time and again, they demonstrated their commitment to helping others. Verna was one of a small group of alumni who formed the nucleus of the USC Black Alumni Association, and Peter was its first major donor. The Dauterives created the first major endowed scholarship in the USC Rossier School of Education to attract meritorious black students to pursue doctoral studies in education. They also provided financial support to USC Norris Cancer Center, USC Marshall School of Business, USC Rossier School of Education, and USC School of Theatre.
Dauterive Hall will stand in a prominent, central location on Childs Way at the main entrance to the University Park Campus, and will become an active resource for scholars in all social science fields, fostering fresh connections between the traditional disciplines in the social sciences and those of business, law, public policy, and other professional studies. As the physical link among these disciplines, the building will become the heart of their interdisciplinary collaborations, a place where our insightful social scientists can study and work to solve today's most pressing social problems. In this way, it will support scholarship with consequence—a cornerstone of our new strategic vision—and advance the university's efforts to address challenges affecting cities, our country, and the global community.

Dauterive Hall will consist of six stories with teaching spaces for undergraduates and graduate students on the first floor, as well as behavioral laboratories in the lower floor, and research laboratories and other facilities for transformational faculty and various social science institutes on the upper floors. With graceful arches—offset in places by Gothic flourishes—it will evoke the dignified feel of USC's most beloved buildings, including those as venerable as Bovard Administration Building and Mudd Hall of Philosophy. This structure will forever stand in testament to Dr. Dauterive's visionary philanthropy, as well as the longstanding dedication of her and her late husband to the university and its mission to educate the leaders of the future and produce work that will change the world.

I hope you will join me in warmly recognizing Dr. Dauterive. For more than 60 years, she has been a passionate ambassador for her alma mater, and we should all be extremely grateful for her exceptional support. Through her generosity, she creates a singular legacy, one that will benefit the Trojan Family—and our society—for generations to come. We anticipate having a groundbreaking ceremony at the beginning of the fall 2012 semester, during which we will formally celebrate this generous naming gift.

Yours truly,

C. L. Max Nikias
President