By Ramona Schindelheim, Fox News

**Back in the ‘40s, Verna Dauterive** met her husband-to-be, Peter, in the library on the campus of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. She fondly recalls how, because they didn’t have much money at the time, they shared sandwiches in the stacks as they searched out good books to read together. 70 years later, just a few yards from that same library, USC celebrated Verna and Peter Dauterive by naming a new building for the couple. That honor was made possible by a $30 million donation from Verna herself, one of the largest gifts ever given by an African-American to an American university.

You could call her a pioneer. Verna Dauterive first stepped onto the USC campus in 1943 when she started work on her Master’s Degree. At the time she attended the university, the city was still somewhat segregated. But, according to Dr. Dauterive, “the professors were all very caring … and opened doors for me that I could never imagine.” She says she’s always felt welcome on the campus, returning in 1966 to get her doctorate. She devoted 62 years of her life to educating the children of Los Angeles, first in the classroom and later as a principal. Her late husband Peter went on to be the founding president and CEO of the Founders Savings and Loan Association in the West Adams District and he always treasured getting his education at USC. Dr. Dauterive, now in her 90s and a trustee at USC, calls the building that bears their names her love letter to him. “I wanted his love of education to be remembered.”

The Verna and Peter Dauterive Hall is described by USC as the first “interdisciplinary social sciences building on campus.” It’s 98,000 square feet and will house the USC Leonard S. Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics, the USC Schwarzenegger Institute for State and Global Policy, and several other departments.
1. USC President C. L. Max Nikias and USC Trustee Dr. Verna Dauterive

2. Arnold Schwarzenegger and USC First Lady Niki C. Nikias

3. Nearly 500 guests gathered outside of Dauterive Hall for the dedication ceremony.

4. (from left) City Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas; USC Trustee Harlyne Norris; Mary Lane, spouse of the late Bob Lane, former General Counsel of USC; and USC Trustee Lorna Reed

5. President Nikias addresses the crowd. Among the other speakers for the ceremony were USC Trustee Leonard Schaeffer and USC Provost Elizabeth Garrett, both of whom appear on stage here.

6. President Nikias, Dr. Dauterive, Provost Garrett, and Mr. Schaeffer

7. Mrs. Norris and Dr. Dauterive

8. Pam Schaeffer and her husband, Mr. Schaeffer, with USC Trustee Robert Padgett.

9. Dr. Dauterive shows her Trojan pride in front of Dauterive Hall.

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