

News Release



Michele Dedeaux Engemann Elected to USC Board of Trustees

OCTOBER 3, 2012 – Philanthropist, actor and businesswoman Michele Dedeaux Engemann '68 was elected to the USC Board of Trustees on Oct. 3, 2012.

“Michele Engemann is a Trojan through and through,” said USC President C. L. Max Nikias. “She is also a visionary philanthropist who is committed to enriching all aspects of our students’ academic experience, from their physical well-being to their intellectual and cultural development. I know we will benefit greatly from her passion, creativity, insights and expertise.”

Engemann and her husband, Roger, are longtime supporters of USC. In 2011, they donated \$15 million to create a state-of-the-art health center on the University Park Campus. The five-story, 101,000-square-foot Roger and Michele Dedeaux Engemann Student Health Center will provide a central place for serving students’ health needs, housing primary and acute care clinics, counseling services, the faculty-staff practice, the oral health clinic, physical therapy services, the USC Office for Wellness and Health Promotion, and the university’s health insurance office. Ground was broken for the new facility on April 4, 2011, with completion expected in spring 2013.



Part of a three-generation Trojan family — both of her parents graduated from USC, as did her sister, two brothers, a daughter and a son — Michele Engemann is the daughter of legendary Trojan baseball coach Rod Dedeaux. During his 45-year career at USC, Dedeaux led the Trojans to a record 11 national championships, 28 conference championships and countless coaching awards, including being named Coach of the Century by the NCAA. The site of the new Engemann Student Health Center — along Jefferson Boulevard in close proximity to several student residence halls — is not far from USC’s storied baseball stadium, which is named Dedeaux Field in his honor.

The Engemanns’ previous gifts to the university include \$500,000 from their family foundation to establish the a building fund for the USC School of Dramatic Arts, and \$500,000 to establish the USC Baseball Hall of Fame at Dedeaux Field.

In addition to providing financial support, Michele Engemann has been a dedicated volunteer leader at the university. She was president of the USC Alumni Association Board of Governors for 2007-08 and, in that capacity, previously served on the USC Board of Trustees from 2006 to 2011.

Her other leadership roles at USC include terms as president of the Trojan League of Los Angeles; chair of the USC Alumnae Coordinating Council, where she remains a lifetime board member and adviser; and founding chair of the USC School of Dramatic Arts' Board of Councilors, where she also remains actively involved. A presidential-level member of the USC Associates, Engemann sits on the board of the Friends of the USC Libraries and is a life member of Town and Gown of USC, Skull and Dagger, the Keck Hospital of USC Guild, the Trojan Guild of Los Angeles and the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Engemann is also an accomplished actor. After earning her bachelor's degree in drama from USC in 1968, she went on to perform at the Nine O'Clock Players Theatre for Children, a nonprofit auxiliary of the Assistance League of Southern California that offers opportunities for children who have disabilities or who come from disadvantaged families to experience live theater free of charge. It was there that she met the University of Oregon graduate who would become not only her husband but also a dedicated Trojan fan. Michele Engemann has performed with the Nine O'Clock Players for more than four decades.

In the business realm, Engemann helped her husband build his money-management firm, Roger Engemann and Associates, which was formed in 1969 and sold to Phoenix Investment Partners in 1997. She currently serves on the board of directors of Dart Entities, a family-run transportation and warehousing corporation established by her father in 1938, and is CEO of the Engemann Family Foundation, which focuses on education, medical research and human services.

Additional board memberships, past and present, include the Chandler School in Pasadena, the Assistance League of Southern California, the Nine O'Clock Players Theatre for Children and the Pasadena Playhouse, where she served as chair from 2008 to 2012. Engemann also is an honorary member of the Altadena Guild, which supports the Huntington Medical Research Institutes, and, along with her husband, has served on the Board of Overseers of the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens.

At her alma mater, Engemann was honored with the USC Alumni Association's Alumni Service Award in 2001 and was recognized as one of USC's Women of Distinction in 2008.

In the broader community, she received the Assistance League of Southern California's Golden Eve Award in 2009, the Pasadena Arts Council's Gold Crown award in 2010, and a "Woman of Distinction" Award from the Pasadena Star-News and Rose magazine in 2011.

The Engemanns reside in Pasadena, where they support the Pasadena Symphony, Hillsides (a private, nonprofit foster care and treatment center), the Boys and Girls Club and Chandler School, among others. The couple has four children: Suzanne '03 is an alumna of the USC Rossier School of Education; Susan and Carrie graduated from Scripps College, where Roger Engemann serves on the Board of Trustees; and Alex '09 earned a bachelor's degree from the USC School of Cinematic Arts.

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