



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*USC Alumni Association to Honor “Swim with Mike” Founder and USC Alumnus Ron Orr*

**Orr and Seven Other Prominent USC Alumni Will Be Feted at 76<sup>th</sup> Annual USC Alumni Awards Gala**

*April 9, 2009*

Los Angeles – Ron Orr, a founder of the annual “Swim with Mike” fundraiser benefitting the Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund, will receive the Fred B. Olds Award from his alma mater, University of Southern California, at the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual USC Alumni Awards Gala on May 2, 2009, at the Westin Bonaventure in downtown Los Angeles.

The university’s Fred B. Olds Award “is presented on special occasion to USC alumni for their extraordinary and unparalleled service to the university over a long period of time.” Orr, a six-time USC All-American swimmer who received his B.S. in business administration from the USC Marshall School of Business in 1979, helped organize the first “Swim with Mike” in 1981. The inaugural “swim-a-thon” was founded on behalf of Mike Nyeholt, a three-time USC All-American swimmer paralyzed following a motorcycle accident. To date, “Swim with Mike” has raised \$8.7 million for the Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund and provided more than 77 scholarships to physically challenged athletes at universities throughout the country.

Currently the USC associate athletic director, overseeing USC Athletics’ annual giving operations, Orr previously received a USC President’s Award for staff achievement in 1992. He is also a noted national speaker on the topic of alcohol and drug abuse among college students.

In addition to Orr, the USC Alumni Association will recognize seven other distinguished alumni for their achievements and contributions. Ronnie C. Chan MBA ’76, chairman of the Hang Lung Group Limited in Hong Kong, will receive the Asa V. Call Achievement Award. Mark A. Stevens ’81, MS ’84, managing partner of Sequoia Capital, and Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Frances C. Wilson EdD’80 will receive Alumni Merit Awards. Dr. David M. Breslow PharmD ’71, CEO of United Pharmacists Network, Inc.; Alexander L. Cappello ’77, chairman/CEO of Cappello Group, Inc.; and James A. Eddy ’52 and Dr. Janet Eddy ’54, MS ’78, PhD ’91, of the Half Century Trojans will receive Alumni Service Awards.

“Through their many accomplishments and acts of service, these eight alumni have proven themselves to be exemplary members of the Trojan Family,” says Scott Mory, associate senior vice president for alumni relations. “We look forward to welcoming them, and our guests, to the 76<sup>th</sup> annual gala.”

Every year since 1932, the USC Alumni Association has paid tribute to distinguished members of the Trojan Family. The annual Alumni Awards Gala is the premier event sponsored by the Alumni Association. All proceeds from the event support the Alumni Association’s programs, services and scholarships. Past honorees include Grammy-winning trumpeter Herb Alpert, former Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher, architect Frank O. Gehry, opera great Marilyn Horne, WNBA star Lisa Leslie and screen legend John Wayne. For more information, please visit <http://alumni.usc.edu/awards>.

#### **ABOUT THE USC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Founded in 1923, the University of Southern California Alumni Association honors through its many events and programs the university’s rich history and the intellectual, cultural and economic contributions of the Trojan Family. A full-time staff headed by the associate senior vice president for alumni relations helps 300,000+ USC alumni worldwide build and maintain lifelong connections to their alma mater and one another. For more information, call (213) 740-2300 or visit <http://alumni.usc.edu>.

Contact: Tim Knight at (213) 740-5948 or [timothy.knight@usc.edu](mailto:timothy.knight@usc.edu)