



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

USC Alumni Association to Honor Two USC Marshall School of Business Graduates at 77th Annual Alumni Awards

Captain Melissa Ward and Gale Bensussen To Receive USC Alumni Awards

April 1, 2010

Los Angeles – Two USC Marshall School of Business graduates are among the seven honorees at the 77th Annual USC Alumni Awards on April 24, 2010, at the Westin Bonaventure in downtown Los Angeles.

Captain Melissa Ward '86 will receive the Alumni Merit Award, recognizing “individuals whose remarkable accomplishments speak well for the range and quality of a USC education.” The first African American woman to serve as a U.S. Air Force flight instructor, Captain Ward made history in 1998, when she became the first African American woman captain of a commercial airline (United). Captain Ward flew United’s B737-300 for 11 years, holding the elite positions of standards captain and fleet technical captain. She is currently a captain on United’s Airbus 319 and 320 aircraft.

Gale Bensussen '70, CEO of Coral Street Partners, LLC, an advisory and product development firm focused on healthy living and aging, will receive an Alumni Service Award for “outstanding volunteer efforts on behalf of the university.” The former USC trustee and past president of the USC Alumni Association will share the honor with his wife, Jane Bensussen MA'69 (LAS), a former president of the Trojan Guild of Los Angeles who recently co-chaired the 2010 USC Women’s Conference. The Bensussens are benefactors of the Bensussen Research Floor of the USC School of Pharmacy.

The USC Alumni Association will also recognize four other outstanding members of the Trojan Family for their achievements and contributions. Academy Award-winning filmmaker Taylor Hackford '67 (LAS) will receive the Asa V. Call Alumni Achievement Award, the university’s highest alumni honor. Five-time Olympic medalist Janet Evans '95 (Annenberg) and USC trustee and Cogent, Inc. co-founder Ming Hsieh '83, MS '84 (Viterbi) will receive Alumni Merit Awards, while Roger W. Rossier MS '62, EdD '72 (Rossier), benefactor of the USC Rossier

School of Education and chair of the USC Orange County President's Council, will receive an Alumni Service Award.

The 2010 USC Alumni awards will also feature a special alumni tribute to retiring USC President Steven B. Sample and his wife Kathryn, commemorating their 19 years of service to the university.

"This year's honorees represent the very best of the Trojan Family," said Scott Mory, USC Alumni Association CEO. "We look forward to welcoming them, and our guests, to the 77th Annual Alumni Awards."

Every year since 1932, the USC Alumni Association has paid tribute to distinguished members of the Trojan Family. The annual Alumni Awards 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 alumni association CEO 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>.

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