



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*USC Alumni Association to Honor USC School of Pharmacy Benefactors*

**Gale and Jane Bensussen to Receive Alumni Service Awards**

*April 13, 2010*

Los Angeles – Gale and Jane Bensussen, benefactors of the Bensussen Research Floor of the Pharmaceutical Sciences Center, are among the seven honorees at the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual USC Alumni Awards on April 24, 2010, at the Westin Bonaventure in downtown Los Angeles.

The Bensussens will receive an Alumni Service Award for “outstanding volunteer efforts on behalf of the university.” Both are longtime supporters of the USC School of Pharmacy’s research, particularly in the areas of cardiovascular health and neurodegeneration. In 2007, they contributed \$1.7 million to establish a floor dedicated to translational research, with a focus on therapeutic development and discovery.

Gale Bensussen ’70 (Marshall) served on the USC Board of Trustees from 2004-2009 and was president of the USC Alumni Association for the 2005-06 term. He is a past chairman and longtime member of the USC School of Pharmacy Board of Councilors. In 1999, he received the USC School of Pharmacy’s Honorary Alumnus Award.

Jane Bensussen MA ’69 (LAS) has been a member of the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology Board of Councilors since 1998. She has a long list of USC alumnae affiliations: Trojan Guild of Los Angeles (past president), Trojan League of Los Angeles, Town & Gown, Women of Troy, the Alumnae Coordinating Council and Association of Trojan Leagues. She recently co-chaired the 2010 USC Women’s Conference. In 2009, she received a USC Alumni Association President’s Award.

In addition to the Bensussens, the USC Alumni Association will also recognize five 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), USC trustee and Cogent, Inc. founder Ming Hsieh ’83, MS ’84 (Viterbi) and Captain Melissa Ward ’86 (Marshall), the first African-American woman to serve as a

commercial airline captain, will receive Alumni Merit Awards, recognizing “individuals whose remarkable accomplishments speak well for the range and quality of a USC education.” And 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 also receive an Alumni Service Award.

The 77<sup>th</sup> Annual 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 77<sup>th</sup> 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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