

# USC

*Trojan Family Magazine*

## The Science of Hope

**STEM CELL RESEARCH**  
Martin Pera has the  
clout and connections  
to create a world-class  
program at USC

**PLUS**

»USC Marshall's  
global ambitions

»Big Daddy:  
an excerpt from  
Bill Boyarsky's  
new book



# What's New

NEWS & NOTES ON ALL THINGS TROJAN

## On the Rhodes Again

Scholar-athlete Reed Doucette scores academic fame, becoming USC's ninth Rhodes Scholar.

**A 6'5" ENGINEERING HONORS** student who joined the Trojan men's basketball team as a freshman walk-on and played small forward for the next four years has become USC's ninth Rhodes Scholar – one of only 32 Americans to be awarded this prestigious scholarship for 2008.

Reed T. Doucette will join his fellow scholars in study at the University of Oxford in England next year, pursuing a master's degree in engineering science.

Doucette, from Acampo, Calif., is majoring in aerospace and mechanical engineering at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering and has a minor in business at the USC Marshall School of Business.

"Reed excels at everything he does and has been a joy to work with," says USC Viterbi School dean Yannis C. Yortsos. "We

are very proud of his accomplishments in engineering and on the basketball court."

Michael Kassner, chair of the school's aerospace and mechanical engineering department, calls Doucette "a truly remarkable individual" working in the area of nanoporous materials that have mechanical engineering applications.

"He's got that team spirit and he's intellectually gifted," adds Andrea Hodge, a USC Viterbi School assistant professor who was Doucette's mentor at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in the summers of 2005 and 2006, working on methods to improve the efficiency of catalytic converters and the effectiveness of medical implants.

"I've always had great educational ambitions and am proud to accept such a prestigious scholarship," says the 22-year-old

Doucette. "It's a great honor to represent USC and the basketball team in particular. Playing sports is something the Rhodes Scholarship committee values and my Trojan athletic career will serve me well at Oxford."

**IN HIS STUDIES AT USC**, Doucette has been a Presidential Scholar, achieving a grade point average of 3.97. He is currently conducting research involving chemistry, physics, engineering and biology to optimize the efficiency of solar cells.

As part of his USC Marshall School activities, he co-founded Los Angeles Community Impact, an organization that has provided consulting services to more than 30 community projects.

In late November, he and biomedical engineering major Althea Lyman were selected as "Mr. and Ms. USC" from the undergraduate student body's highly selective Order of the Torch, recognizing accomplishment in academics, athletics, Trojan spirit and leadership.

As Mr. and Ms. USC, Doucette and Lyman will participate in a variety of activities throughout the year, including a community service project and service as counselors or facilitators at a newly created Emerging Leader Program and as coordinators of a senior class project.

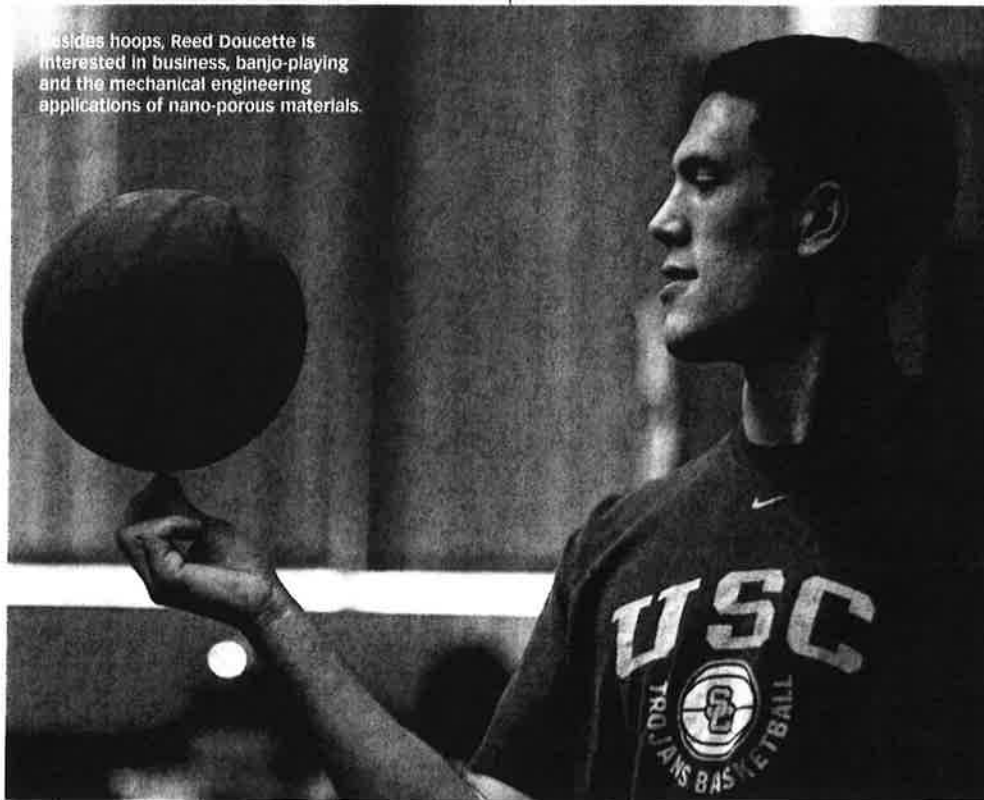
Doucette is the son of Tom and Barbara Doucette; his sister, Lauren, is a junior majoring in business at USC. He says he chose USC not for athletics – "I wasn't recruited and I had no definite way of knowing if I would make the team" – but for its blend of academics and extracurricular activities.

"I also really liked USC's emphasis on pursuing several fields of study," he says. "I don't know if other schools would have been as willing to work with me on my academic goals."

A fifth-year senior, he has never visited England; in fact, his first exposure to Europe was last summer, on a family trip to Italy and France.

He plans to pack his basketball shoes and tennis racquet in his bags for Oxford, as well as the banjo he recently acquired. Inspired by comedian Steve Martin, he's teaching himself to play "as a fun way to relax."

Besides hoops, Reed Doucette is interested in business, banjo-playing and the mechanical engineering applications of nano-porous materials.



**USC HAS DONE WELL** in highly competitive scholarships in recent years. Five USC students have won Marshall Scholarships since 2000, and there have been 38 USC student Fulbright Scholars during that time, including a record nine last year.

The Rhodes Scholarships were established in 1903 by Cecil Rhodes, a British-born South African businessman, mining magnate and politician who founded the diamond company De Beers. Rhodes hoped

that bringing students to study at Oxford would promote international understanding and peace.

The California competition for a Rhodes Scholarship is considered to be one of the most difficult, due to the size of the state and the number of top universities here. California's other Rhodes Scholar this year is Asya J. Passinsky from UC Berkeley.

A complete list of this year's Rhodes Scholars is at [www.rhodesscholar.org](http://www.rhodesscholar.org). •

#### A TUTOR IN PHILANTHROPY

## A New Campus Center in Sight

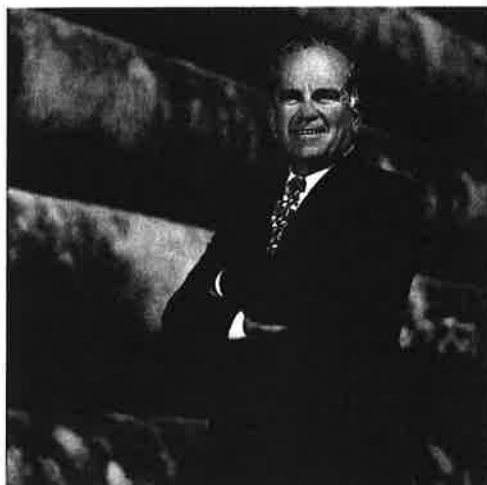
A \$30 million lead gift by trustee Ronald Tutor jumpstarts a long-awaited building project to transform USC life.

"I'VE ALWAYS HAD a soft spot for USC," says construction mogul Ronald Tutor '63 – which explains in some small way why the USC trustee, having fallen in love with Trojan football at the age of 11 and continued his involvement ever since, recently pledged \$30 million as the lead gift toward USC's new campus center.

"I'm proud to be a part of USC," Tutor elaborates, "and honored to contribute to this magnificent enterprise. It is a project that will make a real difference in the quality of student life, and it will transform the center of campus."

In recognition of his generosity, the new center will bear Tutor's name.

Located at the heart of the University Park campus, the Ronald Tutor Campus Center will rise between the Gwynn Wilson Student Union and the Trojan Bookstore. The current Commons and Topping Student Center buildings are slated for demolition this spring. Replacing them will be a pair of four-story structures to house major new university centers, including a new



Admission Center and an Alumni Center, along with student offices and work spaces, collaborative project and group-study areas, a ballroom for large events and gatherings, meeting and boardrooms for student organizations, study lounges, cafés, a full-service restaurant, a convenience store, technology resources and game and entertainment areas. Outside the complex, a central plaza will serve as a new hub for students, faculty, alumni and family members – all just a stone's throw from Tommy Trojan.

Tutor is president and CEO of Tutor-Saliba Corp., one of the largest general contractors in the United States. He also serves as chairman and CEO of Perini Corp., a publicly traded construction firm based in Framingham, Mass. He earned his bachelor's degree in finance from the USC Marshall School of Business in 1963 and has been a member of the USC Board of Trustees since 1998. A prior \$10 million pledge was the lead gift for Ronald Tutor Hall – the six-story, state-of-

**OVERHEARD** » "I've lost track of how many times the sleeping giant was supposed to be waking up. In fact, this election is as much a test as an opportunity, and the outcome is in doubt."

— Roberto Suro of USC Annenberg in The Washington Post on the political power of the Latino voting bloc.

## Capital CONNECTIONS

» **DIZZY DIPLOMACY** The USC Center on Public Diplomacy co-sponsored "Duke, Dizzy and Diplomacy," a fall event at George Washington University exploring the U.S. State Department's use of jazz musicians as diplomats. Organized by former Dizzy Gillespie band manager Charlie Fishman and moderated by USC Annenberg's **Nick Cull**, the day featured a panel discussion followed by a jazz concert at Voice of America headquarters.

» **CANCER CONFAB** Keck School chief of surgical pathology and cytopathology **Juan Felix** spoke at the First Annual Cervical Cancer/Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Conference in Washington, D.C. Nearly 100 cervical cancer survivors met for the three-day conference in September to learn more about their disease – the second leading cause of cancer in women under the age of 45. Felix, an expert in diagnostic ob-gyn pathology, spoke on preventative HPV vaccines and therapies for cervical cancer.

» **HIGH WATER MARKS** Doctoral students **David Ginsburg** and **August Vogel** of USC College were among 43 Knauss Marine Policy Fellows for 2007 selected to spend a year in Washington, D.C., through the National Sea Grant program of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. Ginsburg, a student of USC bioscientist **Donal Manahan**, went to the oceanographic administration's office of education. Vogel, who studied in the marine population genetics lab of **Suzanne Edmonds**, worked on international fisheries issues with the Oceanographer of the Navy.

» **CLASSTIME FOR CONGRESS** **Karen Symms Gallagher**, dean of the USC Rossier School of Education, joined her peers in the Learning and Education Academic Research Network for a Congressional briefing this fall on innovative research in science, technology, engineering and mathematics underway at leading universities. A coalition of 17 education deans from top research universities, the network informs policymakers about new research and the importance of graduate programs. "Telling our story to Congress – as a school of education dedicated to urban education – can make a difference in legislation," Gallagher said. •

For more Capital Connections, visit [www.usc.edu/uscnews/features/capital\\_connections](http://www.usc.edu/uscnews/features/capital_connections)