Our Proud Name

In 2004, Erna and Andrew J. Viterbi donated $52 million to the University of Southern California and bestowed their name on its school of engineering. Their record-setting gift accelerated the School’s momentum on all fronts. Its more subtle impact—on the School’s character, identity, and purpose—has been immeasurable.

On September 29, 2008, Dr. Viterbi, who holds the USC Presidential Chair of Engineering, received the National Medal of Science, the nation’s highest honor for science and engineering, “for fundamental contributions to wireless technology.”

“My wife and I believe our contribution here will do more to further engineering and engineering education—goals we have supported through our entire 45-year marriage—than anywhere else. We are impressed by the extraordinary strides the School has taken and want that progress to continue and accelerate.”

—ANDREW J. VITERBI, NAMING CEREMONY, MARCH 2, 2004
Message From the Dean

I invite you to see how our fundraising initiative, "Destination: The Future,” succeeded, and how that success has helped the Viterbi School reach greater heights.

This ambitious initiative was launched seven years ago by my predecessor, C. L. Max Nikias, and co-chaired by two distinguished Viterbi alumni, Daniel Epstein and Mark Stevens.

Thanks to the generosity of a great number of Viterbi constituencies, and the efforts of our external relations team headed by Christopher J. Stoy, we reached the ambitious $300 million, seven-year target well ahead of schedule. This brief report provides a snapshot of the fundraising accomplishments and how they have contributed to raising the academic and research excellence of the School.

Yannis C. Yortsos
Dean, USC Viterbi School of Engineering

Viterbi School at a Glance
Founded: USC engineering began in 1905
Student population: Approximately 1,800 undergraduate students and 3,500 graduate students
International Students: 2,497 students from 110 countries
Faculty: 164 tenured and tenure-track faculty, with 49 endowed chairs and professorships
Academic departments: 8
Alumni: More than 30,000
Centers: Awarded two National Science Foundation (NSF) Engineering Research Centers (ERC); first University Center of Excellence funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; home to the Information Sciences Institute
Annual research volume: Approximately $168 million, with more than 45 research centers and institutes
Rankings: Consistently ranked among top 10 engineering programs
Distance Education Network: The nation’s largest e-learning professional engineering program

"Destination: The Future" Advanced Our Academic and Research Mission

FACULTY
- During the initiative the number of tenured and tenure-track Viterbi faculty grew from 115 to 164.
- In the same period, the number of women on the faculty quadrupled.
- Viterbi consistently ranks among the top in funded research per faculty member.
- New endowed chairs and professorships established:
  - Fred Champion Professorship in Civil and Environmental Engineering
  - Chong Hoon Cho Chair in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering
  - Chonette Chair in Biomedical Technology
  - Daniel J. Epstein Chair
  - Epstein Family Chair
  - Fluor Early Career Chair in Engineering
  - Fluor Professorship in Process Engineering
  - Ming Hsieh Chair in Electrical Engineering—Electrophysics
  - Ming Hsieh Chair in Electrical Engineering—Systems
  - Robert G. and Mary G. Lane Early Career Chair
  - Philip and Gayley MacDonald Early Career Chair
  - Gordon S. Marshall Early Career Chair
  - Gordon S. Marshall Professorship in Engineering Technology
  - Jack Munushian Early Career Chair
  - Leonard Silverman Chair
  - Viterbi Early Career Chair in Engineering
  - Viterbi Professorship in Engineering

STUDENTS
- During the initiative the average SAT scores of incoming freshmen rose 76 points.
- Student diversity increased: today one third of the 2008 entering freshmen are women and 15% of the 2008 entering freshmen are underrepresented minority students.
- The Klein Institute for Undergraduate Engineering Life (KI:UEL), the first resource of its kind at an engineering school, provides leadership and other student opportunities outside the classroom with tangible impact on retention.

Increase in freshman retention rates:
- Graduation rate: 40% to 45% to 50%
- Retention rate: 50% to 60% to 65%

RESEARCH
Growth in research volume:
- New research centers:
  - Biomimetic MicroElectronics Systems (BMES) center, an NSF Engineering Research Center
  - Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events (CREATE)
  - USC Center for Systems and Software Engineering (CSSE)
  - USC Center for Robotics and Embedded Systems (CRES)
  - USC High Performance Computing Center
  - USC GamePipe Laboratory
  - Space Engineering Research Center
  - Center for Genomic and Phenomic Studies in Autism
  - Center for Quantum Information Science & Technology (CQIST)

New corporate-funded centers and industry partnerships:
- Center for Interactive Smart Oilfield Technologies (CISOT)—supported by Chevron
- Pratt & Whitney Institute for Collaborative Engineering (PWICE)—supported by Pratt & Whitney
- Aerospace Institute for Engineering Research (AIER)—supported by Airbus
- Center for Advanced Software Technologies (CAST)—supported by Infosys
- Institute for International Collaboration (IICBERC)—supported by General Electric and Korean Airlines

New international university partnerships:
- Tsinghua University
- Peking University
- Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Taiwan National University
- Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
- IIT Kharagpur, India
- Tsinghua University
- Kuwait National University
- Korea Aerospace University
- Inha University, Korea

Viterbi School Naming Gifts Highlights

2002
- USC Daniel J. Epstein Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering ($11 million)
2004
- USC Viterbi School of Engineering ($32 million)
2006
- USC Ming Hsieh Department of Biomedical Engineering ($16 million)
2005
- USC Mark Family Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science ($15 million)
2006
- Klein Institute for Undergraduate Engineering Life (KI:UEL) ($16 million)
2007
- USC Sonny Astani Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering ($17 million)

$92 Million in Corporate and Foundation Funds:
Corporations include Chevron, Pratt & Whitney, Boeing, Airbus, Intel, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Microsoft, and Raytheon. Foundations include Charles Lee Powell, Whittaker, ARCS, and Toyota USA.