Andrew J. Viterbi delivered the keynote address to approximately 370 engineering faculty, staff, students, alums, industry executives, members of the USC Board of Trustees and the Viterbi School’s Board of Councilors at the 26th annual Engineering Awards Luncheon.

The awards ceremony was held April 23 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles.

Viterbi, who is a USC trustee and member of the School’s Board of Councilors, is a pioneer in the field of digital satellite communications, and holds memberships in both the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Sciences, which is unusual. He spoke on “Education and the Information Technology Society.”

“Most of the progress in information technology has come about as a result of our country’s research and development activities, which depend so heavily on education,” he said. He then described the deterioration of K-12 education and said the causes were “many, interrelated and complex.”

“It all boils down to a basic problem of our society: a general lack of concern for education and of respect for the teaching profession,” he said. “What a high school student learns is less important than the way she or he learns. Concentration, thoroughness and a positive attitude toward learning are the best preparation for further education, a career and life.”

Viterbi said that computers have already helped countless technically savvy tots and teens to read and write more effectively, and that information technology tools could also be used more effectively to teach history, art, literature, music, science and

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It’s Official: Viterbi School and IIT Kharagpur Team Up

High-ranking officials from USC and the Indian Institute of Technology at Kharagpur (IIT Kharagpur) gathered June 2 to sign a Memorandum Of Understanding, cementing the terms of a new sister alliance in teaching and research.

In a brief ceremony, USC Provost Lloyd Armstrong, Jr., Viterbi School of Engineering Dean C. L. Max Nikias, IIT Kharagpur’s Director Shihir K. Dube, and Dean Kalyan Chakravarti, who oversees IIT Kharagpur’s Vinod Gupta School of Management, signed their names on a formal agreement to establish the partnership.

“At the Viterbi School, we already enjoy extremely strong ties to India and its vastly creative engineering community,” Nikias said. “Our Indian students, alumni and faculty have been essential to our progress.

“Now we are taking our relationship a giant step forward,” he continued. “Our alliance with IIT Kharagpur cements our ties with the oldest, largest and most diversified of the IITs.”

Internationalization and globalization will play a more prominent role in USC’s new Strategic Plan, which will be presented to the USC Trustees in October, Armstrong said. The plan calls for building strategic partnerships around the world.

“I can think of no partnership that is more strategic than the one which we are here to formalize tonight through the signing of a new MOU,” Armstrong said.

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USC Names Merwyn C. Gill an Honorary Trustee

Merwyn C. Gill — founder of the world's oldest existing manufacturer of reinforced plastics — has been named an honorary trustee of USC.

“M. C. Gill has demonstrated a level of philanthropic leadership and commitment that is exemplary,” said USC President Steven B. Sample in announcing Gill's election.

“His generosity and steadfast dedication have been instrumental in helping the USC Viterbi School of Engineering achieve international recognition for its educational and research programs. It is an honor to permanently link his name to the university.”

In 1986, Gill — a 1937 USC chemical engineering graduate and member of the university’s Presidential Associates, Cardinal and Gold, Norris Auxiliary and USC Viterbi School’s Board of Councilors — endowed the M. C. Gill Chair in Composite Materials, currently held by engineering professor Stephen R. Nutt.

Fifteen years later, in 2001, Gill endowed the USC Viterbi School’s Merwyn C. Gill Foundation Center for Composite Materials, which Nutt also directs.

Over the years, Gill also funded an engineering postdoctoral fellowship, which bears his name, and received the USC Viterbi School's Outstanding Alumnus Award.

2004 Engineering Awards Luncheon

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mathematics. He suggested that a serious, well-funded effort be put in place to develop new educational software.

“To have information technology, the beneficiary of our nation’s intellect, turn around and become the benefactor of our educational system would not only constitute a virtuous cycle, but it may be the only way to preserve the level of innovation needed to maintain our nation’s standard of living and quality of life,” he said.


Dean C. L. Max Nikias introduced a stirring video profile of Andrew and Erna Viterbi, and presided over the awards presentations, given to Kenneth R. Klein, A.V. Balakrishnan and Philip M. Condit.

Condit, retired chairman and chief executive officer of the Boeing Company, received the Daniel G. Epstein Engineering Management Award. Klein, president, chief executive officer and chairman of the board of Wind River, received the Mark A. Stevens Distinguished Alumni Award. Balakrishnan, professor of electrical engineering and mathematics at UCLA, received the Distinguished Alumni Award in Academia.

Q & A: The A-B-C’s of Giving

With a transformational naming gift of $52 million from Andrew and Erna Viterbi, USC’s Viterbi School of Engineering is approaching the halfway mark in a seven-year initiative to raise $300 million. The Viterbi’s gift goes a long way toward securing the School’s future endowment, and their name means even more when it comes to inspiring future generations of engineers. Viterbi’s reputation in the field of digital communications is recognized world over; we know our new name will bring the School added recognition as one of the very best American engineering schools. But the hard work of raising another $150 million begins now. Happily, there are 101 ways to give — and 101 questions to answer when giving. USC Engineering News asked Daniel Epstein and Mark Stevens, the co-chairs of the fundraising initiative, to address some of the fundamental concepts and goals, and some of the options available to all who may wish to contribute. Both are members of the USC Board of Trustees and the Viterbi School’s Board of Councilors, and both have already stepped up to the plate with their own gifts.

Why are you conducting a fundraising initiative now? The engineering school has received a number of large gifts, including $52 million from Andrew and Erna Viterbi. Does it really need more money?

Stevens: Yes. It sounds like we’ve already done plenty to support our endowment, but despite the accomplishments, we lack the financial security that some of our competitors enjoy. Caltech, MIT and Stanford University all have more plentiful endowments.

Epstein: We cannot acknowledge the Viterbi’s enough for their generous naming gift, or the very generous donations of others. However, we’re not halfway to our goal of $300 million, so we’ve got a lot of work to do. Call it ambitious, but that fundraising goal is a testament to our belief that the Viterbi School has a golden opportunity right now to grow, even in lean economic times.

Our $300-million goal will secure our place in the ranks of the elite engineering schools nationwide and allow us to continue recruiting the very best faculty and students in the country.

What are the key priorities of the fundraising initiative?

Stevens: Building the School’s endowment is a key component of the initiative. One of our key priorities is to raise $150 million, or half of our fundraising goal, for the endowment.

Despite our accomplishments and successes so far, we still lack the financial security that our competitors, like Caltech, MIT and Stanford, have. They are all in the same league and compete for the same fundraising dollars that we do. It is important that we reach out to our alumni and friends to help build our endowment, so that we can continue to recruit and retain prominent scholars and researchers, strengthen our reputation and increase our visibility.

We have an endowment, which is a highly prized instrument for safeguarding our future. It enables us to meet the highest academic priorities and gives us the flexibility to be innovative and to pursue emerging opportunities.

What is endowment and why are these types of gifts so important?

Epstein: Endowment funds are the bedrock or foundation for the financial stability and future success of any school of engineering and university.

Endowment is vital because it is a perpetual source of funding that will continue to grow. Endowment funds are invested to generate a total return each year, and a portion of the gains can be spent by the Viterbi School for student scholarships and fellowships, faculty research and teaching, academic programs and other school priorities. Schools of engineering are evaluated by their reputation and, in part, by the size of their endowments.

Gifts to support the endowment are not only important but also very popular. An endowment can be named in honor or recognition of the donor. The donor provides an everlasting form of philanthropy that supports the Viterbi School and can also name a program, scholarship, faculty chair or professorship, capital project, etc. as a result of their endowment gift. In addition, the donor’s gift serves as an everlasting memorial to their generosity.

Stevens: The University of Southern California manages all endowment funds. USC has been an exceptional steward of these funds entrusted to it in perpetuity by donors. It is an important responsibility of the Board of Trustees to see that those funds are well managed and to ensure that each donor’s wishes and intent are observed long after the current administration is gone. It is a responsibility that Dan and I both take very seriously.

Epstein: Over the past three decades, USC’s endowment has achieved more growth than any other university in the country. This rise is attributable both to an increase in gifts dedicated for endowment purposes and to an impressive rate of return on investments. For several years, USC’s endowment has ranked among the top 25 colleges and universities in the United States.

Are annual gifts important to the School?

Epstein: Absolutely. If this fundraising initiative is to succeed, all alumni and friends connected to USC’s Viterbi School of Engineering need to step up to the plate and contribute whatever they can. Those who have never given before should start now. We need those who have given in the past to continue supporting the School. This sounds dramatic, but there isn’t another way to raise such a large amount of money.

I understand there are many ways to make a gift to support the Viterbi School of Engineering, including a way to generate personal income for myself and provide a gift to the School at the same time. Is that true?

USC Engineering News asked Christopher Stoy, chief executive officer of external relations...
The A-B-C’s of Giving  continued from page 3

at the Viterbi School, to answer this question.

Stoy: Planned giving is a very attractive way of making a gift. People often find this option intriguing because it can generate a lifetime income and tax savings for the donor and, at the same time, provides financial support for the Viterbi School of Engineering.

There are several types of planned gifts to choose from, each tailored to individual financial and tax situations:

✔ A charitable gift annuity gives you an attractive stream of income, guaranteed for your lifetime — and in many cases, for a spouse’s lifetime as well — and it is backed by all the resources of USC. It also provides a sizable charitable tax deduction in the year of gift, and a portion of the income will be tax exempt.

✔ A charitable remainder trust is funded with real estate or securities. Like the gift annuity, it will provide you with a lifetime income and a charitable income tax deduction. It also enables you to avoid capital gains tax on the appreciated assets.

✔ A charitable lead trust may enable you to take a current tax deduction for gifts that will actually go to the Viterbi School of Engineering in subsequent years. This unique form of trust can also play a valuable role in estate planning for your children.

Stevens: If you haven’t been asked to give a gift yet, rest assured, you will be! In fact, let me ask you for that gift now! There is a convenient way for you to accomplish this. You can use the USC’s secure web site — www.usc.edu/giving. Make sure you designate your gift to the Viterbi School of Engineering.

If you receive mail, or a phone call from USC’s development office, asking for a contribution, just be sure to indicate that you want your gift to support the Viterbi School of Engineering. I want to echo what Dan said. Every gift, no matter the size, is important. The Viterbi School is on the rise and you may never have a better opportunity to be part of something so big.

Five-Star Search

C. L. Nikias, dean of the USC Viterbi School of Engineering, has announced a new faculty recruiting initiative to bring five top-notch senior “stars” in engineering to the Viterbi School.

“These five people could come from any discipline but they will be ‘heavyweight world champions’ in their fields,” said Nikias in a recent State of the School address. “These will be people whose abilities and accomplishments will be beyond dispute. And these bright new stars will add to the overall brilliance of the Viterbi School.”

Aggressive faculty recruitment has been a hallmark of Nikias’ tenure since he became dean in July 2001. He hired 26 new tenure-track faculty in his first two years, and the Viterbi School’s 10-year strategic plan calls for the School’s tenured faculty to grow by 60 members.

Nikias personally interviewed approximately 150 candidates for faculty positions during his first three years. He said candidates have been growing increasingly excited about the School.

“They’ve been hearing about it from colleagues who are saying our School is ‘on fire,’” the dean said. “Since our naming, there has been more and more buzz out there about the Viterbi School.”

The State of the School address is traditionally delivered at the School’s Faculty and Staff Awards Luncheon. This year, the School’s faculty turned the tables on Nikias and honored him for his three years of leadership.

Michael Safonov, professor of electrical engineering and chairman of the Engineering Faculty Council, recognized Nikias for his “extraordinary leadership, foresight and guidance in the advancement of the Viterbi School of Engineering,” and presented an award to the surprised dean, who vowed to display it proudly in his office.

Nikias recognized five faculty and staff, who had been nominated by their colleagues, for outstanding achievements during the 2003-2004 academic year. They were:

- Kurt Palmer, assistant professor in the Epstein Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, who was awarded the 2004 Teaching Excellence Award.
- Chongwu Zhou, assistant professor of electrical engineering, who was awarded the Junior Faculty Research Award.
- Professor Richard M. Leahy, director of the Signal and Image Processing Institute, who holds joint appointments in biomedical engineering and radiology and who was awarded the Senior Faculty Research Award.
- Ronald Ohlander, deputy director, Information Sciences Institute, who received the Service Award.
- Julieta de la Paz, budget analyst in the department of computer science, who received the Staff Achievement Award.
VITERBI SCHOOL IS #1 IN GOOD NEIGHBORS CAMPAIGN

The Viterbi School of Engineering raised $70,062 for local community outreach programs and the United Way this year, putting it in first place among all academic units in the 2003-2004 USC Good Neighbors Campaign. Employee pledges were up about one-third from last year’s campaign, which totaled $47,749, said Doris Gallan, director of Strategic Planning and Local Government Relations for University External Relations.

Participation rates, although down slightly overall, were markedly improved among regular faculty and research faculty, said James E. Moore, II, co-chair of the Viterbi School Good Neighbor Campaign, and chair of the Daniel J. Epstein Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering.

“If you break it down, faculty participation across academic units was actually up to 46 percent and civil engineering hit 62 percent,” Moore said. “I think many of our faculty appreciate the importance of these outreach programs in getting children interested in science and engineering, and I thank them for raising the bar this year.”

Good Neighbors is the umbrella program that enables USC employees to donate money for USC Neighborhood Outreach and the United Way.

The annual campaign supports dozens of local community outreach programs in K-12 schools, as well as health education and public safety, and arts and cultural events, according to Petra Pearce, student services adviser in the Department of Material Science.

All funds go directly to the outreach programs. For example, grants from the Good Neighbors Campaign support a very successful, hands-on science tutorial program run by the Viterbi School of Engineering, called “Mission Science” (see related story at right).

Mission Science: A Good Neighbors Program That Keeps Getting Better

Build a boat and they will come.

Larry Lim, director of Pre-College Programs in the Viterbi School’s Center for Engineering Diversity, has been doing just that for nine years.

With a few simple materials — plastic deli salad lids, sticks, wire, switches and batteries — he’s been showing 10-year-olds how to craft the vessels, while introducing them to the principles of electricity, circuitry, magnetism and Newton’s third law of motion.

Lim runs an outreach program called Mission Science, which is supported in part by USC’s Good Neighbors Campaign. The program, which started in 1996, supports after-school, hands-on science and engineering instruction for 10 elementary schools surrounding USC.

Imagination and hands-on projects can go a long way in teaching kids about the world around them, says Darin Gray, Mission Science coordinator, who trains the teachers in basic science.

“Our projects are designed to stimulate kids’ natural curiosity about the way things work,” says Gray, who has dreamed up many of the 100 science projects used in the classroom. Kids learn to build everything from bottle rockets, flashlights and rovers to FM transmitters, herb gardens and pinhole cameras.

Mission Science is part of the statewide MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) program of the University of California, which provides educationally disadvantaged students with academic services from kindergarten through the university level. The goal of the program, says Lim, is to increase the number of students pursuing college degrees in math, science and engineering.

Since 1996, Mission Science has gone from one classroom and about 25 students to 10 schools serving nearly 400 kids.

“Twice a week, they have an opportunity to learn about science, engineering and technology by working on projects, exhibits, simple experiments and machinery,” Lim says.

“When we introduce science, we want kids to know that they, too, can become scientists,” says Gerardo Reyes, a K-5th grade teacher at Norwood Elementary School, who runs Norwood’s Mission Science classes.

The girls at Norwood were a bit reticent to join the predominately male classes at first, so Norma Lewis, another teacher at Norwood, started an all girls science club. About 15 girls showed up for the first class, she says.

“They generated so much excitement about their projects among friends that female enrollment in the co-ed Mission Science class also increased,” Lewis says. “The girls feel like they are the stars—the scientists—of the classroom, and that’s the atmosphere we want to create.”

Without Mission Science, most of these students would not have been introduced to science, engineering and mathematics in any depth until they got to high school, Lim says. By then, if national surveys are any indication, many of them would have lost interest in the physical sciences altogether.

For additional information about supporting the program, visit the USC MESA Mission Science web site at http://www.mission-science.org.
TUTOR HALL GIFTS WILL SUPPORT STUDENTS, PROGRAMS AND CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH

The Viterbi School's new Ronald Tutor Hall, a five-story undergraduate instructional and research complex, is expected to become the centerpiece of leading-edge research in three rapidly evolving fields: biochemical technology, information technology, and nanotechnology. Less than six months from completion, the new facility will house faculty from a variety of disciplines that will become increasingly collaborative in the next decade.

The 103,000-gross square foot building, located just south of the engineering quad, will provide a rich educational environment for undergraduate students, offering them a lounge, court yard, café and career services, in addition to state-of-the-art instructional facilities. It will provide space for faculty undertaking major research initiatives and important laboratory experiments and tests.

The new complex will also provide exciting opportunities for alumni, friends and corporations that want to support Viterbi School students, programs and research. This will be possible with several gift-naming projects. Donors will be able to support student scholarships, student programs and services, tutoring, and faculty research in groundbreaking areas expected to shape our future, such as nanotechnology, microelectromechanical systems (MEMS), information technology, and biotechnology. Not only will donors be able to support these fields, their gifts will also support permanent donor-naming opportunities throughout the building.

For more information, please call the Viterbi School Office of External Relations at (213) 740-2502.

INTRODUCING LORD SAINSBURY

Dean C.L. Max Nikias introduced Lord Sainsbury of Turville, United Kingdom Minister of Science and Innovation, at an all-day conference on biomanonotechnology, co-sponsored by the British Consulate and USC’s Alfred E. Mann Institute for Biomedical Engineering. Lord Sainsbury discussed the British government’s aggressive university-based program in creative new technology and moving it to the marketplace. The conference attracted more than 160 participants.

Engineering’s Unsung Heroes

An oil executive thanks USC every year for his success

Every December, like clockwork, Richard Dickinson, MSCE ’60, sits down to write out a $1,000 check to the Viterbi School of Engineering. He thinks back to his days as a member of Archimedes Circle, a support organization formed in 1962 to drum up financial support from engineering alumni and friends of the School. He still chuckles about it.

“My participation in Archimedes Circle is probably why I started giving to USC,” said the retired Texaco Co. executive from his home in McKinney, Texas. “We had a lot of fun back then.”

Alumni and friends who make contributions like Dickinson’s — steadily, year after year — are the unsung heroes of a successful fundraising initiative. Over time, even the smallest of contributions adds up to make a tremendous difference. And they always come from the biggest of hearts.

Dickinson attributes his affinity for the Viterbi School of Engineering to his very successful career as an oil industry executive at Texaco.

“USC and Caltech had more to do with my success than anything else I can think of,” he said. “I just wanted to give something back to society.”

“Annual gifts, which range from $5 to $50,000, are so important because they provide a valuable base of unrestricted support necessary for the School to achieve its strategic objectives,” said Matt Bates, director of Annual Giving and Special Gifts in the Viterbi School’s External Affairs Office. At least $11 million of the $300 million that will be raised during the Viterbi School’s seven-year fundraising initiative is likely to come from alumni like Dickinson, whose loyalty goes back to college.

He was fresh out of Caltech in 1952, a chemical engineer working as a process technician in Texaco’s domestic refining operations in Los Angeles, when Dickinson first began attending night classes at USC.

By 1960, he had earned his USC master’s degree and began to take assignments all over the country and abroad. First he became a staff coordinator in Texaco’s strategic planning group in New York, then general manager in charge of supply and distribution for Texaco Limited, based in London. By 1982, he was senior vice president for Texaco, USA, in Houston.

“I feel fortunate that I did so well at Texaco,” said the 73-year-old grandfather. “When I became vice president of technology [in 1987], overseeing Texaco’s research and development department, I started reviewing USC’s chemical and petroleum engineering research and realized what a good reputation they had in the industry.”

During that time he made his first gift to the Viterbi School of Engineering, and he has continued to give nearly every year since.

“I’ve got a comfortable life,” he said, “and I owe it to my education.”

Richard Dickinson
The engineering quad became a profusion of color, noise and euphoric jubilation May 14, 2004, as approximately 2,500 spectators joined in the 76th annual Viterbi School of Engineering commencement ceremonies.

Parents wept, siblings cheered, friends hooted and applauded as 1,861 newly minted engineers celebrated the best day of their lives.

In a morning ceremony, 517 undergraduates, dressed in black caps and gowns, followed flagbearers to the steps of Vivian Hall for their celebration. Flagbearers Janet Tew Hallett, a newly graduated Ph.D. in aerospace and mechanical engineering, led the procession, followed by Patricia Porto, who was awarded a master of science degree in electrical engineering.

Master’s degree and Ph.D. students returned for an afternoon ceremony, which took twice as long for twice as many graduates. In all, 1,178 advanced degrees were conferred, including an additional 166 MS degrees, awarded to students enrolled in the Viterbi School of Engineering’s Distance Education Network.

“This day represents a milestone in the lives of the young men and women graduating,” said Dean C. L. Max Nikias. “The recognition being given to them on this occasion has been earned through long hours of studying, solving innumerable homework problems, enduring some impossible quizzes and exams, and even pulling ‘all-nighters.’ This is a day of recognition and celebration!”

Undergraduate valedictorian Robert Parke, awarded a doctoral scholarship in electrical engineering at USC, earned a perfect 4.0 grade point average in computer science, with a minor in neuroscience, while taking a leadership role in university life and several national collegiate honor societies.

“I was drawn to engineering because I was excited by technology and its really positive power to profoundly impact people’s lives,” said Parke, who is a spokesman for the Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation. “Whatever path you choose – engineering, medicine, business or another field – you must remember to keep focused on giving back to society, and on creating opportunities to help others in the community for whom the doors are seemingly closed.”

Engineers will find a variety of moral and ethical dilemmas as they venture into new research areas made possible by scientific and technological breakthroughs, Nikias noted.

“You work will increasingly require a sense of moral imagination—the will and ability to include an ethical perspective in the design of powerful new technologies,” he said.

“As graduates of the USC Viterbi School of Engineering, we expect you to lead the way.”

At day’s end, the grads posed in full regalia with family, friends and, sometimes, strangers. “It feels good to have my Ph.D.,” said Paniz Ebrahimi, holding up her diploma in electrical engineering. “I always liked experimental work in optical communications, to see how nature works, so I’m looking for a research position in a research lab, or a postdoc, and later on, a faculty position.”

“I really enjoyed the program here, but I’m waiting to see which Ph.D. programs I get into,” said Ji Hoon Jang, MSCE ’04. “I’d go to USC, sure, if I get in.”

Eric Liu, MSME ’04, wearing a Lakers basketball jersey underneath his robe, was on top of the world—a degree and the Lakers leading in the playoffs. Who could have asked for more? [图片]

Top right to bottom: Thousands crowded into the Viterbi engineering quad on commencement day. Flagbearers carrying the School’s heraldic flag and banner led the procession. One happy graduate was in a hurry to get to the Lakers playoff game, while valedictorian Robert Parke and his proud mother, Mary, preferred to mingle awhile.
The two universities will develop collaborative programs in joint research, distance learning, and student and faculty exchanges. Initially, the collaboration will focus on IIT Kharagpur's Gupta School of Management, and involve programs in information technology/communication, biomedical technology and, especially, engineering management. The USC Viterbi School's Distance Education Network, one of the foremost distance education facilities in engineering education, will play a key role.

Vinod Gupta, chief executive officer and founder of InfoUSA, was the catalyst for the partnership. "I believe that when we bring the strengths of the Viterbi School of Engineering together with the strengths of IIT Kharapur, great things will happen for both schools," said Gupta, alumnus of IIT Kharapur and a USC parent.

Decline in Americans choosing careers in science and engineering. In 1975 we were third in the world in the proportion of 18-to-24-year-olds earning science and engineering degrees. Today we are 17th.

Ironically, the quality of the students attracted to engineering has never been better. At the Viterbi School, and most other engineering schools, SAT scores and high school GPAs of engineering freshmen are the highest in the university. In 2000, 120,000 engineering freshman began studying engineering, but only 60,000 will eventually earn an engineering degree.

That is a national disgrace and the single biggest problem in engineering education today.

At the Viterbi School, we recognize the problem, have a plan to fix it, and are making progress. Our freshmen and sophomore students seem to be responding to changes in the area of curriculum revisions, advising, cross-disciplinary academies, industry seminars and instruction. The most important tactic is to keep reminding these bright students of the excitement and creativity in engineering — the reason most chose to study it in the first place.

If we can retain most of the 120,000 of the bright students who choose to study engineering so they earn engineering degrees, we will take a huge step toward economic security. For the American economy will continue to be driven by technological innovation. And solving the retention problem at the Viterbi School is a key to executing our overall strategic plan.

You may notice that this issue of USC Engineering News has several stories about our fundraising initiative, which was announced last November. Andrew and Erna Viterbi’s $52-million gift to name the School was an important milestone in this initiative, but we are still less than halfway to our $300-million goal.

Those resources are needed, and are already being used, to attract and keep top tier faculty, which I have repeatedly stated is the key to academic excellence. Faculty have many responsibilities including teaching our undergraduate students.

With help from the Viterbi School’s alumni, industry, and other friends, I am confident that we will successfully complete the fundraising initiative and fulfill our strategic plan.

Leading the way among those friends is ARCS, which for more than 40 years has been helping young Trojans become working engineers.