



Ryan Furlong | Daily Trojan

Walking for a Cure

Hundreds of Angelinos from around the city gathered downtown Sunday morning to participate in the 16th Annual Memory Walk. The walk is hosted by Alzheimer's Association of the California Southland and the Student Gerontology Association in partnership with the USC Memory and Aging Center.

Amid crisis, endowment takes a hit

The fund saw a loss of 1.2 percent, down from a 21 percent gain in 2007.

By CHANDLER RABENS
Daily Trojan

After seeing consistent growth in recent years, USC's \$3.7 billion endowment has taken its deepest dive into the red since the explosion of the dot-com bubble.

USC has reported that its \$3.7 billion endowment lost 1.2 percent

of its value during the 2008 fiscal year, marking a substantial drop from last year when it gained 21 percent.

Since 1984, USC has averaged a positive return of approximately 12 percent.

"This was an unusual year," said James Grant, executive director for USC Media Relations, on behalf of the Treasurer's office.

Grant said the university does not see the number as worrisome, since the USC endowment fared better than the overall market.

"Relative to the S&P 500, the endowment vastly outperformed the market," said Lawrence Harris, a professor of finance and business economics at the USC Marshall School of Business. "If we had invested only in U.S. equities, we would have lost 13 percent, instead of 1.2 percent. While it's always disappointing to lose money, it's good to know we performed significantly better than the U.S. equity market."

Because the market fluctuates

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At least 130 infected with stomach virus

Highly contagious virus hits freshmen in dorms; dozens of students hospitalized.

By JENNIFER SMITH
Daily Trojan

About 130 USC students are being treated for a highly contagious gastrointestinal virus centered in a cluster of freshman dormitories on campus, school officials said Sunday.

James Grant, executive director for USC Media Relations, said USC students began arriving at on- and off-campus clinics Friday after suffering from vomiting, diarrhea and stomach cramps.

Officials alerted students of the virus early Saturday with text and e-mail messages sent via USC's emergency alert system, TrojansAlert.

Students who did not feel well were urged to get plenty of rest and to avoid socializing with others. School officials also asked students with the virus not to attend Saturday's football game against the Oregon Ducks at the Coliseum.

Symptoms of the virus are short in duration, lasting between one to two days.

In response to the outbreak, USC officials closed Everybody's Kitchen for a portion of Saturday. EVK is located between a number of freshman dorms on the east side of campus.

But Grant said the virus is not a food-borne illness but is, in fact, a human-contracted virus.

"The cafeteria was briefly closed Saturday," Grant said. "However, it should have never been closed. My colleagues have confirmed that there was no food contamination at [EVK]."

"The students that are sick ate at a variety of different eateries," he added.

Jeffrey Brown, an undeclared freshman living in Birnkrant Residential College who contracted the stomach virus, said the virus spread rapidly to the other students living on his floor.

"Almost all of the guys on my floor are sick," Brown said. "I felt really sick. Everything came on so suddenly; I felt worn out. I would lie in bed and then wake up and have to puke."

David McAlpine, a freshman majoring in broadcast journalism who lives in Birnkrant, said he contracted the virus from another student on his floor.

"Once someone on the floor got it, everyone got it," McAlpine said.

McAlpine said he began to feel sick shortly after he received the e-mail notifying him of the virus early Saturday. He went to the Health Center to receive treatment and was given fluids and a shot for nausea.

"I felt a lot better after I went to the Health Center," McAlpine said. "My symptoms definitely lessened."

Another student, Evan Zuckerman, a freshman majoring in business administration who also lives in Birnkrant, said he visited the health center and was given a checkup. Zuckerman was told to drink a lot of fluids and to rest.

"I have absolutely no idea how it happened... I threw up six times Friday night and had a fever of 101," he said. "I didn't start feeling better until [Sunday]."

Students are being asked not to share food or drinks and to wash their hands often.

Film festival equips students with gear to enter contests

The annual festival will supply students with equipment to shoot their own film projects.

By ARIANA GOMEZ
Daily Trojan

Buses and crew members from Campus Moviefest arrived on campus Friday morning bearing cameras, laptops, tripods and cell phones to distribute to 120 student teams competing in the annual filmmaking competition, which kicked off last week.

The festival, which is in its seventh year, visits university campuses worldwide with the goal of presenting students with the opportunity to make their own films.

Campus Moviefest provides participants with all the necessary technology to make a film — including Apple laptops, handheld digital cameras, tripods, microphones and AT&T phones — for free.

The festival also provides technical support throughout the production period for all participants.

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USC professor, mentor, social worker dies at 95

Friends said Frances L. Feldman's contributions to the field of social work were selfless.

By CUITLAHUAC GONZALEZ
Daily Trojan

Frances Lomas Feldman, a USC alumna and professor at the USC School of Social Work for more than 36 years, died Tuesday, Sept. 30 from complications following a stroke. She was 95.

Colleagues said Feldman's contributions to USC have been immortalized by, among other accomplishments, the Center for Work and Family Life, which she helped create.

"Frances Feldman was an icon at the university," said Dean Marilyn Flynn of the USC School of Social Work. "I know of no one with the same extent of personal relationships, intellectual attachments and wide network of connections in the history of our

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Photo courtesy of USC

Pioneer • Frances Feldman was one of the main forces behind the creation of the Center for Work and Family Life, which now assists thousands of local families.

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COUNTDOWN
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Days Until Election