



our mission:

To promote a spirit of friendship and loyalty among the women of USC, to foster a loyalty to and a spirit of cooperation with the University and to render service and financial support to the women of the University.

February 2009

TROJAN JUNIOR AUXILIARY

Focusing on the Scholarships.

Hello Fellow TJA Members!

February, as you probably know well by now, is an extremely busy month for the Scholarship Committee. Applications closed this year on January 10th, making them available for the Scholarship Committee to get their hands on them! For the school year of 2009-2010, we've received over 140 applications from the woman (and some men) of USC.

As the Scholarship Chair, I've gone through and weeded out ineligible applications, cutting our stack to just under one hundred applications. On Sunday, February 8th, twenty brave TJAers will help me go through and decide which girls should get an in-person interview. These interviews will happen on the evenings of February 26th and 27th and I encourage all to sign up and meet these wonderful and deserving women!

Since TJA is essentially centered around raising and giving out scholarships to the women of USC, helping in the Scholarship process is extremely rewarding- you, first-hand, get to see where and to whom the money is going. Getting to know these girls is a lot of fun (despite them making us feel like we accomplished nothing during our four years at 'SC!) and seeing the impact our scholarship has on their time at USC cannot compare to anything else you will do in this alumni group.

I encourage you all to sign up and meet these fabulous girls! Feel free to email me at starlightsm@hotmail.com if you have any questions! Fight On!

Janine Worrell
2008-2009 Scholarship Chair

Our Benefit!

Get excited for our Monte Carlo Casino Benefit, which will take place Friday, May 5th at the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel & Spa!!! A very special thanks goes out to Jodie Boytos and Samantha Henry for finding a fantastic location and to Scarlett Holguin for booking our DJ.

In order for this event to be a success, we need every one's participation. Please continue to solicit donations from your family, friends, co-workers and acquaintances. You can get items donated for the opportunity drawing, sell sponsorships, or get advertisements in the program. In the e-mail I sent out about a week ago, you can find all of the necessary forms.

Please email your invitation list template to lauren.h.brown@gmail.com asap! We will be sending out the invitations very soon! Also, be on the look out for a "Save the Date" Evite that you can forward to your friends. Remember that each member must sell at least FOUR tickets to the event and bring a basket for the silent auction. Keep your team leaders updated with what you're working on acquiring, so we can get things rolling. And, if you need any information, electronic files, or have any questions - please don't hesitate to ask me or Robin.

Lauren Brown and Robin Luthi
2008- 2009 Benefit Co- Chairs

Happy Valentine's Day!

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The best Valentine's celebration I had was two years ago... My husband and I were engaged and he wanted it to be an extra special Valentine's. Unfortunately, it did not turn out the way he had planned. He had rented a limo, but a party van arrived instead. So it was the two of us in this ginormous van. The van was late, so our dinner reservations were shot. So we pull up to Tommy's in Hollywood and had chili cheese burgers and fries. And then we rush over to the Pantage's, with like minutes to spare, to see WICKED. It was really sweet and the best Valentine's I have had to date!

- Scarlett Mae Ramirez Holguin

It was not on Valentine's Day. It was Sunday, February 12th, 2006. I had seen my boyfriend Dave, of a month at that point, on Friday and we had agreed not to celebrate Valentine's Day because we were both too busy with classes and we both believed Valentine's Day was a hokey holiday that greeting card companies invented. So I was caught a little off guard when he called Sunday afternoon asking "Are you going to be around tonight?" I said sure and Dave said he'd call back when he knew what time he'd make it down, but it was going to be tonight because he had something to give to me.

Around 9 that night Dave called and said he was on his way. When he got to USC he called me on his phone. I offered that he should find a spot on the street and come on up to my apartment. He insisted that he didn't have time to come up, but that he had to see me right now because he had something to give to me. He told me it was perishable.

At this point I was laughing to myself as I clambored (sp?) down the stairs to Watt Way. What could be so important that he had to give it to me tonight? I imagined him having driven 30 minutes from Caltech to give me a box of chocolates because his best friend, who was dating a very high maintenance girl, probably told him that me saying I didn't want anything for Valentine's Day meant I really did and that chocolates would make it all ok. And I imagined laughing at him when he gave me the box of chocolates and letting him know he can trust me to mean what I say.

Well, I got down to the car and we chatted for a minute or two and then he went around to pull out the gift. It certainly wasn't a box of chocolates. It was a gigantic basket-like thing wrapped in pink cellophane with a bow at the top. I went to peer inside and I couldn't tell what was in there. When I asked if I should open it, Dave replied that I should probably wait until I got back upstairs because it's messy. Messy? Could it be a zen garden with little pebbles and a bonzai tree? Or did I catch a faint hint of icing from cookies or muffins or mini-cupcakes?

Well, we said our goodbyes and he headed back to tech to do more homework while I cautiously worked my way back up to my bedroom. I placed the "basket" on our mini fridge and just stared at it with my roommate for a moment. Neither of us knew what to do with it. Finally, I got up the guts to open it.

CALENDAR

Monday, February 9, 2009
TJA Meeting
Begins at 6:30 p.m.

Birthdays

February:

2/08: Audrey Cuy
2/11: Lorraine Comeau
2/19 Janine Worrell
2/24 Susana Cuya

As I untied the bow, the cellophane fell back off the bamboo sticks holding it up to expose a ceramic platter filled with raspberries, blackberries and chocolate covered strawberries. I was floored. This "basket" of berries was put together by hand (which you could tell from the uneven lines on the strawberries) and was by far the sweetest thing anyone has ever done for me. Plus, it made all the girls on the floor wildly jealous of me.

Three years later, as we head into our fourth Valentine's together from separate states, the pictures of these berries will keep me happy as we exchange stories of our week on Valentine's Day over the phone. He may not make me baskets like that for Valentine's Day anymore, but who needs baskets when we have memories. Especially since those berries would probably perish in the time it would take him to drive from Austin to LA. – Meredith Jung