Los Angeles – November 23, 2009 – Few Trojans this side of legendary Superfan Giles Pellerin have seen as many USC-UCLA matchups as Dr. Arthur C. Bartner, who this week will direct the Trojan Marching Band at his 40th consecutive Crosstown Showdown at the Coliseum (more than half of all games played in the rivalry). During this time, the Trojans are 21-16-2 against the Bruins. This is just one of many remarkable statistics in a legendary career.

This Saturday will be Dr. Bartner’s 236th home game (posting a 78% winning percentage), the band’s 283rd consecutive game attended (home or away), and the 483rd game the Trojans have played since Dr. Bartner’s arrival in 1970. During his tenure, there have been 6 football coaches, 3 USC presidents, and over 3,000 band members have passed through the TMB’s ranks.

Forty football seasons ago, Dr. Arthur C. Bartner took a pay cut from his job as the Davison High School band director in Flint, Michigan to come west and take the helm of the organization. In the ensuing four decades, the TMB has earned two platinum albums, guest starred in over 100 movies and television shows, toured 17 countries, appeared in the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue, and performed at Super Bowls, the Olympics and the World Cup.

Dr. Bartner’s 40th year with the Trojan Marching Band has been one of his most accomplished yet. In February, the band appeared on the Grammys, backing up Radiohead on one of the most critically-acclaimed performances of the night. (It was recently ranked one of “The 25 Best Live Moments on TV” of the decade by Paste Magazine). Later that month, the drumline accompanied Beyoncé and Hugh Jackman on the Academy Awards. Also this year, the TMB has appeared on The Tonight Show with Conan O’Brien and Dancing with the Stars.

The band recently released a double CD album to celebrate the anniversary: Trojan Legacy: 40 Years of Dr. Arthur C. Bartner and The Spirit of Troy. Encompassing both the “Then” and “Now” of the band, the collection features two discs of new and archival material. Live recordings of hits from the Pete Carroll era join the original renditions of four decades of standards from “Frankenstein” to “Heartbreaker” to “Tusk.” Filling out the 40 songs are special bonus tracks, including the full drumline cadence and a never-before-released rehearsal recording of “15 Step” with Radiohead. It can be purchased at www.uscbookstore.com.

The Trojan Marching Band will be celebrating throughout 2010 with an all-star concert and retrospective on May 1st at USC’s Galen Center, a fully-illustrated, commemorative hardcover book released in the spring, and a very special Homecoming reunion in November.

For more information on Dr. Bartner’s 40th, visit www.usc.edu/dept/band/bartner/bartner40.html