

PROMOTING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT

Deanna Jordan pursued her bachelor's and master's degrees in African American Studies simultaneously. Christine N. Simmons now serves as president and chief operations officer of the Los Angeles Sparks. Victor Ruiz headed to Yale as a doctoral candidate in the pharmacology program. And Anthony Tyson designed and coded programs that were used for the last three space shuttle launches.

Highly accomplished scholars representing various fields of study, these individuals have one commonality: Each was part of UCLA's Academic Advancement Program (AAP), the nation's largest university-based diversity program.

According to Patricia A. Turner, dean and vice provost for undergraduate education, many students in AAP come from high-need families. In fact, 97 percent are the first in their families to go to college, and 63 percent are from historically underrepresented communities.

"These are high academic achievers who made it into UCLA in a competitive environment," says Turner. "However, they don't necessarily come from homes where the culture of attending college is the norm." Turner, who received her master's degree and doctorate in rhetoric from UC Berkeley, is a first-generation college student herself. "These students need a place and a staff that can help them navigate the university," she says.

Established at UCLA in 1971, AAP provides more than 5,600 undergraduates with services such as academic advising, collaborative learning workshops, summer bridge programs for entering freshmen and transfer students, mentoring to prepare scholars for graduate and professional schools, and scholarships for students.

"I've long been passionate about leveling the playing field for young people who come from homes without adequate resources," says Women & Philanthropy board member Rita Rothman, whose family established the first AAP scholarship in 1990. "I'm honored to be a part of helping those who are first in their families to attend college."

"Every single one of the students I've met has been amazing, each in a different way," adds Women & Philanthropy member Marilyn McIntyre, a longtime AAP supporter who



Academic Advancement Program students

looks forward to meeting program participants at their annual scholarship luncheon.

Many AAP graduates go on to receive a Ph.D. or other professional degree. Many also go on to focus on the underserved and return to their high schools to mentor the next generation of students.

"These students need a place and a staff that can help them navigate the university."

— Patricia Turner, Dean and Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education

"When we don't make the most out of every intelligent person we have in the country, we're leaving human capital on the table," says Turner. "We need every good engineer, every good teacher, every good nurse."

"We are so appreciative of the Women & Philanthropy members who have supported AAP," she adds. "You have been instrumental in changing the lives of these students who are going on to change the world."

To find out more about the Academic Advancement Program, contact Bea Richman at 310.825.8654 or brichman@support.ucla.edu.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE: THANK YOU FOR THE HONOR



I can’t believe how quickly time flies as I find myself writing my last President’s Letter to you. As I reflect on the past two years, I’m so proud of what our group has accomplished.

We grew. Under our new structure, our network expanded to more than 1,700 members — dynamic women making an impact on remarkable programs, including the Academic Advancement Program featured on our cover.

We inspired. One of our main goals has been to mentor and engage the next generation of philanthropic leaders — young women who, like Caroline and Elizabeth featured below, are already making an impact on the campus.

We promoted progress. We are pleased to have introduced many University Leadership Members to you in this newsletter. In this issue, we welcome Jayathi Murthy, our new Engineering Dean.

But above all, what I’ve loved most about serving as president can be summarized in one word: YOU. You are women who inspire me with the depth of your dedication to this campus. And perhaps no one embodied that affection more than Lena Astin, to whom we pay tribute on page 3. I had the honor of helping her throughout her battle with pancreatic cancer. Lena’s passion, optimism, intellect and smile will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege to be her friend.

Again, thank you for this honor. While my term as president comes to an end this summer, my dedication to Women & Philanthropy does not. I look forward to continuing to serve alongside you as we continue to shape the future of this brilliant university.

See you soon,

Agi Hirshberg
President, Women & Philanthropy



INSPIRING AND LEARNING FROM THE NEXT GENERATION

Mentoring and networking are at the forefront of Women & Philanthropy’s strategic goals. With that in mind, the program recently welcomed **Caroline Torosis** and **Elizabeth Frank** — two young women who are passionate about giving back — to a one-year term on the board as ex-officio members.

Caroline, a 2008 UCLA graduate in political science, is an attorney and policy advisor for the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs. She is currently serving



Agi Hirshberg, Elizabeth Frank, Naomi Ellison
(President-Elect)

her second year as chair of the UCLA Fund’s Young Alumni Development Council. A 2012 UCLA graduate with a degree in statistics, Elizabeth works with charter schools

conducting data and statistical analytics. She is a longtime member of the UCLA Alumni Network who now serves as the communications and social media chair for the San Fernando Bruins.



Caroline Torosis

“We are thrilled to welcome these bright, interested, connected young women,” says board member Bea Mandel, noting that each generation brings incredible ideas that the group can embrace. “In return, seeing how our diverse group gives, operates, thinks and plans gives these young philanthropists a remarkable

opportunity to learn and grow,” she says. “Every single one of us had a mentor along the way, and we look forward to sharing our connections and experiences.”

Both women are honored to be invited on the board. “I’m excited to give back in a concrete way to a university that has really shaped where my life and career have gone,” says Elizabeth.

“Every single dollar or volunteer hour makes a difference,” adds Caroline. “I’m extremely excited to network with women across all generations — to hear about their experiences, to bring our perspectives and to work together to reach the younger generation.”

Looking forward rather than backward is what makes Women & Philanthropy such a vibrant program at UCLA. Welcome, Caroline and Elizabeth — we are thrilled to work with you to impact the future of the university.

WELCOMING NEW UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP MEMBER ...
DEAN JAYATHI MURTHY



Dean Jayathi Murthy

Engineering has the power to transform lives.

Jayathi Murthy, the new dean of UCLA’s Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science (HSSEAS), has experienced it firsthand.

“My father belonged to the first generation of engineers to graduate after India’s independence,” says Murthy, who previously served as chair of the mechanical engineering department in the Cockrell School of Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. “As a child, I lived with my family in some

desperately poor and remote areas — no running water, no electricity, no hospitals, no schools. He built the first railway bridges in some of those places, which paved the way to better health, education and prosperity for many thousands of people.”

As dean, Murthy, who received her Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of Minnesota, will focus on growing the size and quality of the research enterprise, broadening undergraduate curriculum, expanding the international footprint, and growing online and executive programs. Another top priority: bringing more women and people from diverse backgrounds into the student and faculty ranks.

“It is to the benefit of all that women occupy leadership positions, whether it be in philanthropy, academia or in executive boardrooms,” says Murthy, whose work in computational fluid dynamics is used throughout the world. “This is especially true in the sciences, where the contributions and capabilities of women have not always been fully recognized. By bringing our voices, our skills and our resources to bear, we can create greater opportunities for the next generation of women.”

REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED FRIEND ... LENA ASTIN



Lena Astin, 1932-2015

Helen “Lena” Astin once said, “Giving is one of the most wonderful things we can do; the act of giving and caring is a privilege.” For those who knew her, the true privilege was calling Lena — a distinguished professor, scholar and longtime Women & Philanthropy board member — our dear friend.

Born in 1932 in Greece, Lena came to the United States in 1951 and received her Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Maryland in 1957. Only the second woman from the university to earn her doctorate in psychology, Lena would go on to make a vital impact on higher education issues related to women, equity, leadership, civic engagement and spirituality.

Lena and her husband, Alexander “Sandy” Astin, joined the UCLA faculty in 1973 and created the Higher Education Research Institute. Lena served as Associate Provost of the College of Letters and Science, co-founded the Center for the Study of Women, became Distinguished Professor Emerita, authored 14 books and conducted landmark research impacting higher education.

The notion of giving back — creating a culture of service — was woven into everything she did. Lena was a sensitive, compassionate woman and a passionate, intelligent scholar. She brought this kindness, strength, commitment and wisdom to Women & Philanthropy, always asking the question: How can we mentor the next generation and establish a culture of philanthropy within the university?

Women & Philanthropy joins Lena’s family, friends and colleagues in thanking Lena for touching our hearts and our lives.



DID YOU KNOW ...

There are many tangible ways you can help Bruins prepare for their careers.

- **Donate gently used professional clothing**
The Career Closet at UCLA provides free attire for internships and interviews. [Facebook.com/CareerClosetUCLA](https://www.facebook.com/CareerClosetUCLA)
- **Interview with a Bruin**
Students bring their résumés for this mock interview. The next event is on April 12, 2016. [Alumni.ucla.edu/traditions/interview-with-a-bruin](https://alumni.ucla.edu/traditions/interview-with-a-bruin)
- **Post career opportunities and advice online**
UCLA ONE is a new web-based platform allowing UCLA alumni and friends to create career connections with Bruins around the world. Uclaone.com
- **Be a mentor or judge in the UCLA Social Enterprise Academy**
This program connects students with nonprofit organizations to identify earned income opportunities. Partnership.ucla.edu/seacademy
- **Serve as a guest lecturer or on a career panel**
Share your industry expertise as a guest lecturer or on a career panel. Partnership.ucla.edu



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Women & Philanthropy is going green!

Please share your email address at

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AN INVITATION TO AN EXCLUSIVE EVENT ...

Making a Global Impact Through Medical Education and World Health



Photo: Tanwe Shende

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2016

6:00 PM–8:00 PM

**Tamkin Auditorium at Ronald Reagan UCLA
Medical Center**

RSVP: eventsrsvp.ucla.edu/WPWorldHealth



The UCLA Center for World Health's vision is to heal humankind through shared knowledge and compassion and to make a difference in people's lives throughout the world. Our success stories encompass maternal and pediatric health, surgical innovations and global research.



Come hear from faculty experts who will share exciting stories on how they're using education, research and service in addressing today's most pressing global health challenges and making a sustainable difference.

To join this dynamic group, email us at wmnphil@support.ucla.edu or call **310.794.2389**.

To find out more, see a list of current members, and be inspired, visit women.support.ucla.edu.