

INNOVATIVE, INSPIRED LEARNING AT THE GEFFEN ACADEMY

How do you balance a rigorous, challenging curriculum with the opportunity for students to explore their own individual passions? How do you create a program through which students can learn to live their lives guided by a strong ethical framework?

These aren't the regular questions you'd hear at a school planning meeting. But then again, this is no regular school. This is the Geffen Academy at UCLA, an inclusive, university-affiliated, tuition-based school for sixth- to twelfth-grade students.

Here, students are creating a smartphone app for equestrians that tracks the movements of horses, making gift baskets for homeless women, and working on other innovative projects exploring their problem-solving and creative thinking skills. All while taking challenging math, science, history, arts and English courses, in addition to wellness classes to help them navigate any mental and physical challenges they encounter.

“Who are you, and what do you want to do about it?’ is what we ask our students. We then give them the tools, technologies and time to answer the question.”

– Sibyll Carnochan Catalan, Head of School

Opening doors to a new way of educating. The doors to the Geffen Academy at UCLA opened in September 2017, with its inaugural classes of sixth, seventh and ninth graders representing 61 zip codes throughout greater Los Angeles. Established thanks to a \$100-million gift by David Geffen, the school is working toward a full enrollment of 600 students in grades 6–12 by 2020.

“Students and their families deserve a fantastic, engaging and productive education, regardless of where they live and the private resources they might have,” says Dr. Sibyll Carnochan Catalan, Head of School, who received her Ph.D. from UCLA’s Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. “We can do better by more of our children. I know it.” Catalan starts off her morning reading with the students during the daily elective reading period.



Seventh-grade student Courtney C. with Head of School Sibyll Carnochan Catalan

It’s just one reflection of her connection with the students, as she walks through the hallways greeting each by name.

Welcoming students with a voice and a pioneering spirit. One aspect of Geffen Academy’s innovative curriculum is its I-Track program, which gives students the freedom to create their own course of study driven by their interests. For her project, Kendall McDermott is designing a way to reuse preowned government land as mass housing for homeless veterans — a proposal she hopes to enter into LA 2050, a competition focusing on projects that make LA a better city by 2050.

“I don’t want to be someone who sits on the sidelines while other people fight for what they believe in,” says the 9th grader who is active on the student council. “I want to be the person holding the microphone, leading the discussion and charge.”

Kendall’s mom, Deborah Cincotta, is excited about the school’s future. “I love that this new school includes the modern elements of self-initiative, creativity, problem-solving and innovation, as well as the traditional rigors of strong writing, critical analysis and challenging math comprehension,” says Deborah. “I love that when I ask about her day, my daughter speaks with equal parts enthusiasm about the challenging classwork and the kindness of her peers. What more could any parent ask?”

To learn more about the Geffen Academy at UCLA, contact Susan Beeson at sbeeson@geffenacademy.ucla.edu or (310) 794-0914.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE: WHO WE ARE



Each issue of our newsletter reaches thousands of women, so I wanted to take a moment to remind and clarify to our readers about our different membership levels. The Women & Philanthropy network includes:

- Five-year Circle Members — women who have given a \$25,000 gift or pledge to any area of UCLA
- Lifetime Members — women who have given a one-time gift or whose lifetime giving reaches \$250,000
- University Leadership Members — key female academic, administrative and athletic leadership
- Associate members — women who have given \$2,500-\$24,999 annually (membership benefits are limited)

If you have given at one of these levels, you have automatically been welcomed into the

Women & Philanthropy network — a group of like-minded, visionary women who are dedicated to moving the university forward.

So who are we? We are major donors, leaders and decision makers providing philanthropy, leadership and mentoring for the next generation. We are a network of women committed to a better community, nation and world. And while we each support different passions and areas on campus, together, we share a vision to celebrate and inspire women throughout UCLA, as seen through the stories in this issue.

To each and every member, thank you for your generosity and dedication. To any of you who are not yet part of our network, we’d love to tell you more about who we are. Please join us at our next event, or drop us a line at wmnphil@support.ucla.edu!

Naomi Ellison
President, Women & Philanthropy



DR. ROSHAN BASTANI ... ADDRESSING THE DISPARITY GAP

During President Obama’s 2016 State of the Union Address, a new national Cancer “Moonshot” initiative was announced, with the ambitious goal of making America the country that cures cancer once and for all.

Dr. Roshan Bastani — director of Cancer Disparities Research at the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, the UCLA Center for Prevention Research, and the UCLA Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Equity — is a leading figure in this effort. Bastani recently helped to author *The Lancet Oncology Commission on Future Research Priorities in the USA*, a report that details measurable goals on how cancer research is conducted and care is provided.

“The report maps out specific strategies for mitigating disparities in care, and for breaking away from the predominantly one-size-fits-all approaches for preventing and treating cancer,” says Bastani, who works with low-income, ethnic minority and immigrant communities disproportionately impacted by cancer. In fact, while one in two men and one in three women will get cancer in their lifetime, great disparities exist in who gets certain types of cancer, how they are treated and, ultimately, who dies from them.

Bastani’s research spans everything from studies on breast, cervix, colorectal and prostate cancer screening to hepatitis B screening and HPV vaccine uptake to



Dr. Roshan Bastani

healthy nutrition and physical activity promotion. She also serves as a professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, where health equity is one of the top priorities.

“Being economically deprived does not mean individuals

should not have access to important health programs,” says Monica Salinas, a Women & Philanthropy Board member and longtime supporter of Dr. Bastani’s work, specifically with issues facing the Latino population of Los Angeles. “I believe Dr. Bastani’s team is now at the helm of eradicating health disparities by reaching out to underprivileged people who would have remained basically unnoticed.”

For Bastani, the statistics say it all. The difference in life expectancy between people living in Los Angeles’ richest and poorest neighborhoods is 10–12 years. “We associate this type of disparity with Third World countries,” she says. “We don’t realize the same thing is happening in our own backyard.”

To find out more about how you can support Dr. Roshan Bastani’s work, contact Tracy Hough at though@support.ucla.edu or 310.825.3003.

A MISSION TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS

Just 15 miles east of the UCLA campus, thousands of men, women and children live on the streets without a place to call home. There, right in the heart of Skid Row, the UCLA School of Nursing Health Clinic at the Union Rescue Mission has been delivering compassionate care for the past 35 years, providing hope and healing to those most in need.

“We are the only shelter-based health clinic in Los Angeles that provides care not only for men but for women and children as well,” says Linda Sarna, dean of the UCLA School of Nursing. “Our clinic has become a national model for its delivery of health care to the homeless. And for students at the School of Nursing, the clinic provides the opportunity to learn and experience working with this underserved population.”

Treating the whole person. Since 1983, the clinic has provided care with more than 250,000 patient visits. This includes untreated chronic diseases such as high blood pressure and diabetes. Last year, the clinic helped protect the homeless population from a hepatitis A outbreak that began in San Diego. Even something as basic as Pedialyte for a sick child becomes a challenge when you have no refrigerator, no transportation or no childcare for your other children.

Often, the mental and social care provided are just as transformative. “I will never forget when a patient came by to say, ‘I wouldn’t be here if you hadn’t believed in me and taken a chance,’” recalls Clinic Director Dr. Sabrina Friedman, about a patient who volunteered in the clinic by cleaning rooms. Friedman’s letter of recommendation had kept him from going back to prison, and he was recently promoted within the Union Rescue Mission.



Dr. Sabrina Friedman caring for a patient and child.

community,” says Friedman. This will enable the clinic to continue providing care such as: extended hours for evening clinical services, well-baby checks, school-required immunizations, TB screenings, medications, mental health support and health education.

“It is imperative that we continue to provide care to the underserved individuals on Skid Row who are trying to put their lives back together,” says Carol Block, associate of the chancellor. “They are our neighbors, our extended family, our fellow human beings.”

Women & Philanthropy member Heidi Welch, a 1984 graduate of the UCLA School of Nursing, echoes the sentiment. “Children especially are here through no fault of their own,” says Welch. “At what age do we decide not to care for a person anymore? 5? 25? 40? When someone is willing to do the work to put their lives back together, it’s a travesty to turn our backs on them.”

For more information about how you can assist the UCLA School of Nursing Health Clinic at Union Rescue Mission, contact Amy Drizhal at adrizhal@sonnet.ucla.edu or 310-794-2358.

WITH GRATITUDE: A TRANSFORMATIVE GIFT TO THE HEALTH SCIENCES



Thanks to a \$20-million commitment from lifetime member Maxine Rosenfeld and her husband, Eugene, UCLA will be able to advance a critical practice in preparing future healthcare professionals.

To honor their generosity, the Learning Resource Center will be renamed Eugene & Maxine Rosenfeld Hall and will become one of few destinations in the nation that unites mock clinical experiences, surgical and procedural simulation, and interprofessional emergency and hospital team training in a central location under one roof.

“The philanthropic partnership with the Rosenfelds will revolutionize UCLA’s facilities to maximize knowledge, giving the David Geffen School of Medicine a competitive advantage and leading to greater healthcare efficiencies and more personalized patient care,” said Dr. Kelsey C. Martin, dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Gerald S. Levey, M.D., Endowed Chair.

This gift is just the latest example of the generous and loyal support the Rosenfelds have given to many different areas of campus over the past 50 years.

“Our passions for education and the health sciences intersect perfectly on this project,” says Maxine Rosenfeld. “Serving on the Board of Visitors has given me an inside look at what it takes to run a top-tier medical school and health enterprise, so we’re thrilled to support one of the UCLA health sciences’ highest priorities.”

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Women & Philanthropy is going green!
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AN INVITATION TO AN EXCLUSIVE EVENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UCLA TECH + INNOVATION ...

Is Artificial Intelligence Something to Be Feared or Embraced?



TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2018

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

DeNeve Plaza Meeting Room on the Hill at UCLA

RSVP: eventsrsvp.ucla.edu/AI



As AI becomes increasingly advanced and capable, should we be concerned or optimistic about cutting-edge innovation? Some people consider super intelligent AI a danger to humanity if it progresses unabatedly, while others think that AI can be beneficial to humankind.



A panel of experts from throughout the UCLA campus will discuss the role machine learning AI will play in our lives, the consequences super intelligent AI might have, and UCLA's contributions to the field.

Women & Philanthropy at UCLA celebrates and inspires women throughout the UCLA community as major donors, leaders and decision-makers.

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

To find out more about our programming and to be inspired,
visit our updated website: women.support.ucla.edu.