

COLLABORATION AT ITS BEST

A spirit of collaboration flourishes at UCLA, where boundaries are pushed and society's most pressing issues are tackled from multidisciplinary angles. An environment in which students are encouraged to take classes outside their majors. Faculty explore shared visions. And the question is always asked: What can we learn from one another?

Deans Judy Olian, Jennifer Mnookin and Jayathi Murthy embrace and embody this culture of collaboration. As deans of the UCLA Anderson School of Management, UCLA School of Law, and UCLA Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science (respectively), they each lead a professional school that is among the best in the nation. Together, they are examining innovative partnerships to achieve even greater impact.

Intersection of three fields. "There's no question our fields already intersect closely," says Dean Olian. The business and law schools hold venture competitions that engage students from all three areas; the UCLA Ziman Center for Real Estate is a partnership between UCLA Anderson and the UCLA School of Law; Anderson's field studies often involve engineers; and UCLA's Entrepreneurship minor engages students from all parts of campus.

"The hairy, audaciously big issues of the day are all interdisciplinary. They require all of us to be collaborative."

— Dean Judy Olian

But there's more the deans would like to explore: joint faculty appointments, networking groups, physical spaces like the Anderson Venture Accelerator that encourage experiential learning, and even degrees.

"For those who may need legal skills but not necessarily a JD degree, what if we blended what a business school and a law school can offer?" asks Dean Mnookin, who is looking at expanding the school's programs and degrees. "Yes, there are critical legal and management issues unique to the startup world and emerging technologies," says Dean Murthy, noting that engineers must address much more than just the technical aspects of their job.



Left to right: Deans Judy Olian, Jennifer Mnookin and Jayathi Murthy

"We are very early in the stages of conversation," says Dean Mnookin. "But with my two fellow deans, we might be able to do something new and creative."

A candid, supportive bond. Deans Mnookin, Murthy and Olian are just three of the 18 female deans and vice provosts currently in leadership roles at UCLA, all of whom are University Leadership Members of Women & Philanthropy.

"UCLA has created institutional structures that support collaboration, diversity and excellence, and allow women to thrive," says Dean Mnookin. "I feel fortunate to be at an institution with so many strong female leaders."

For Dean Murthy, who joined UCLA early this year, the camaraderie has been particularly helpful. "For those of us who are new to our positions, it's hugely valuable to get really candid, helpful, engaging advice from your fellow deans," she says.

Dean Olian points out that whether it's about curriculum, philosophy or policy, the three regularly reach out to one another for advice. "I learn from my fantastic colleagues and enjoy the collaboration," she says. "The whole is greater than the sum of the parts, and we are one institution with one shared purpose."

Look for Women & Philanthropy networking events and opportunities next spring in collaboration with these three schools.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE: INSPIRING ONE ANOTHER TO GROW



As a member of Women & Philanthropy since its beginnings, I am honored to serve as your new president, taking the baton from the remarkable Agi Hirshberg.

Our group represents so many different passions. Through our outstanding programming opportunities, I have been introduced to areas of campus I never knew existed. From watching

third graders sit in Royce Hall and learn about opera, to viewing Susan Sontag’s complete collection in the UCLA Library, I’m grateful that the passions of other women inspire me to grow. We are stronger when we learn from one another.

It’s this spirit of collaboration that we celebrate in our cover story about three extraordinary female deans exploring how their passions intersect to benefit our global society. We also highlight how UCLA researchers have been working together since the beginning of the HIV/AIDS crisis 35 years ago,

continually at the forefront of discovery, treatment and eradication of the disease (p. 3). As a 1980 graduate of the UCLA School of Dentistry, I was doing my residency in dentistry at the VA Hospital in 1981 when the very first case of AIDS was diagnosed. To see patients walk in today knowing they have a life before them is remarkable.

Collaboration also thrives outside our campus and across the globe, as UCLA partners with other countries to offer study abroad programs. Below we feature University Leadership Member Vice Provost Cindy Fan, who speaks passionately about the importance of international education.

Whether it’s North Campus or South Campus, or across nations and borders, Women & Philanthropy members are making an impact. I feel fortunate and overjoyed to serve alongside you as we continue to make our reach even greater.

Naomi Ellison
President, Women & Philanthropy



A WORLD OUTSIDE THE CAMPUS

UCLA senior Tala Spencer Ahmadi studied abroad in Ghana for a year. Clarissa Rodriguez ’15 spent a year in Kazakhstan. Every year, 2,000 UCLA students study abroad in different programs throughout Asia, Africa, Europe, South America, North America and the Middle East — and each student comes back transformed.

“This was singlehandedly the most important year of my life,” says Ahmadi. “I became conscious of the reality of world economics and what my privilege means.”

As vice provost for international studies and global engagement, Cindy Fan knows that a study-abroad experience can change a life. And she believes that every student, regardless of financial resources, should be given that opportunity.

“It’s our responsibility to make sure that our students understand the world in regard to conflicts, trade, migration, climate change, global collaborations,” says Fan. “Our faculty on campus is world-class, and we offer so many wonderful courses, but nothing can replace what a student experiences living in another country.”

As part of the Centennial Campaign, Fan is spearheading an active fund-raising campaign to raise \$10 million to support study abroad scholarships. In addition, the new Chancellor’s Centennial Scholars Match will provide

a 50-percent donation match through June 2017 to support undergraduate scholarships — gifts that can be designated to study abroad programs and even to specific countries.

“Studying abroad offers opportunities for assumptions to be questioned,” says Fan. “People are people no matter their color, their religion, their culture. When we interact with them, we find common ground that helps us break down stereotypes.”

“We only have a few years in a student’s undergraduate education to give them this amazing opportunity,” adds Fan, who hopes to increase the number of students who go abroad. “As the world becomes increasingly complex, we need to inspire them to gain global experience and provide them with the means to do so.”

For more information about how you can help support international studies for UCLA students, contact Aaron Cervantes at 310-206-1718 or acervantes@international.ucla.edu.



Clarissa Rodriguez (left) and other UCLA students exploring Astana, Kazakhstan

35 YEARS AT THE FOREFRONT OF AIDS RESEARCH

AIDS is one of the greatest pandemics we have faced in modern history, and from the very beginning, UCLA has led the way in both research and treatment.



The start

In 1981, UCLA physicians reported the very first cases of AIDS. “People were being diagnosed with a new disease, and there were no treatments,” says Dr. Judith Currier, chief of the division of infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and associate director of the UCLA Center for Clinical AIDS Research and Education (CARE). “It was a time of hopelessness and fear.”

“We didn’t understand virology at the level we do now, and lack of knowledge is always scary,” explains Dr. Kathie Ferbas, scientific administrator for the UCLA AIDS Institute and the UCLA Center for AIDS Research (CFAR), who was a college intern at a Manhattan hospital at the time.

Leading the way

Since those earliest days 35 years ago, UCLA’s renowned AIDS researchers have accomplished many groundbreaking “firsts.”

“We have contributed to many important developments,” says Dr. Currier, who oversees NIH-funded AIDS clinical trials, mentors young physicians, and provides medical care for HIV/AIDS patients. “We still have a lot of work to do, but we are equipped with more tools and treatments.”

“UCLA is at the forefront of this battle because we come at this with a multidisciplinary approach,” adds Dr. Ferbas, who coordinates the HIV Extinction Project, which provides seed money to accelerate the work of scientifically compelling multidisciplinary projects that would not get funded elsewhere because of a lack of data. “The mathematician speaks a different language from the immunologist, and we need to translate all of that and bring it together.”

Fueling this project is the support of the McCarthy Family Foundation, one of the earliest supporters of AIDS research at UCLA. “This research is going to lead to advances in many areas of medical science, not just AIDS,” says Rachel McCarthy, president of the McCarthy Family Foundation. McCarthy is continuing a strong family connection to the university: her mother, Jane, was a founding member of Women & Philanthropy, her father was chair of the UCLA Foundation, and her sister is a UCLA alumna.

Changing history

Every day, the brilliant minds at UCLA are searching for ways to eradicate this deadly disease. Recent headlines read, “Stem cell gene therapy developed at UCLA holds promise for eliminating HIV infection” and “Vault nanoparticles engineered at UCLA show promise for cancer treatment and possible HIV cure.” Of course, there is more work ahead.

“We need continued support for young investigators and to keep programs in place so that we can see this work to the end of AIDS,” says Dr. Currier.

“My hope was to see a vaccine in my children’s lifetime, and now we’re talking about finding a cure,” says Dr. Ferbas. “UCLA can change history by being the institution where AIDS was first identified — and where it was ultimately eliminated.”



DID YOU KNOW ...

Since the start of the epidemic, 35 million people have died from AIDS-related illnesses. In 2015, there were 36.7 million people living with HIV.

UCLA researchers were the first to:

- **Describe** why early AIDS drugs failed
- **Report** a case of HIV transmission through breastmilk
- **Identify, clone and characterize** HIV in the brain
- **Discover** that some individuals are wholly or partially resistant to HIV infection
- **Develop** a scientific model for HIV, thereby enabling investigators to test new drug therapies
- **Demonstrate** the clinical activity of the AZT drug in HIV-positive patients
- **Devise** treatments for patients who don’t respond to standard multidrug HIV therapy
- **Reduce** mother-to-child transmission rates by pioneering the use of the drug AZT in HIV-positive pregnant women
- **Demonstrate** the feasibility of stem-cell gene therapy in HIV

To read about UCLA’s major AIDS-related accomplishments, visit aidsinstitute.ucla.edu.

For more information, contact Alexandra Ashworth at 310-794-7976 or aashworth@support.ucla.edu.



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AN INVITATION TO AN EXCLUSIVE EVENT ...

What Now ...? The Impact of the 2016 Election



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2016

6:00 PM–8:00 PM

CNSI Auditorium at UCLA

RSVP : eventsrsvp.ucla.edu/WPWhatNow



Once the long, grueling election cycle is finally over, what can people expect from the newly elected president and Congress? Can the country be brought together, and will there be any real, meaningful solutions?



Come hear from faculty experts from the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs about the outcome and impact of the 2016 election.

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.