

Women & Philanthropy

at UCLA

President's Message: Building on a Strong Foundation



This is such a wonderful time for Women & Philanthropy. We have built a solid record of generous support for UCLA, recently topping \$100 million in total giving since our founding in 1994. That's a phenomenal milestone that represents more than 8,500 gifts to more than 1,000 different areas of the campus.

Through these outstanding achievements, our program has become a model across the country, particularly for universities interested in how we enable our members to support their individual passions. UCLA was one of the first institutions to provide that kind of opportunity.

Certainly we have much to leverage going forward. We actively demonstrate our dedication to UCLA, not only through our financial support but also through our leadership. Women & Philanthropy members sit on volunteer boards and committees all across campus, and Betsy Wood Knapp recently served as chair of the UCLA Foundation.

The more we interact with the campus, the more we learn about the university's

opportunities and challenges in serving students and in advancing research and discovery. We also identify areas needing our support that match the interests of our members.

Looking ahead, we will continue to reach out to all who would like to partner with us, especially the new generation of women who want to make a difference through philanthropy. Please invite like-minded friends to attend our events and feel free to share our brochure and website.

UCLA is a beacon of excellence and opportunity and an economic engine helping to drive California's future. Everything Women & Philanthropy does advances the university's ability to serve in those capacities.

Thank you for all you do for Women & Philanthropy. I am honored to serve as president. I look forward to working with you, and I welcome your thoughts on how we can do more.

"WOMEN & PHILANTHROPY HAS POSSIBLY BEEN THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PART OF MY CONNECTION TO UCLA.

THROUGH OUR ORGANIZATION, MEMBERS LEARN FIRSTHAND FROM ACADEMIC LEADERS ABOUT THE CHALLENGES THE UNIVERSITY FACES AND THE POSITIVE IMPACT OUR PHILANTHROPY CAN HAVE."

*—MARIANNE MURPHY, PRESIDENT
WOMEN & PHILANTHROPY*

Women & Philanthropy at UCLA recognizes and promotes women’s leadership and philanthropy on the UCLA campus.

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Leader, Mentor, Friend

Tracie Christensen (1964-2010)

Tracie Carole Christensen served UCLA with distinction for more than 21 years. Her impact was broad and deep, and her grace and tenacity unwavering. A talented and visionary leader, Tracie was among the founders of Women & Philanthropy and provided direction to the organization for a decade and a half. She was held in high esteem by the donor and volunteer community, as well as by her colleagues. Her legacy will live long through the many successes achieved with her guidance and through the model she provided both in her profession and in life.

“Interacting with UCLA’s outstanding women donors was just half the joy of working with Women & Philanthropy; the other half was working with Tracie. I’ll always remember her bright, positive attitude and her determination to reach her goal—a powerful combination. She was a special leader and a special friend.”
– Sally Blowitz, *former co-executive director of Women & Philanthropy*

“The success of Women & Philanthropy is one of the many legacies Tracie leaves to UCLA and to our members. She was the driving force behind it. We will never forget her.” – Kathleen Flanagan, *president, Women & Philanthropy, 2008-2010*

“Tracie was my friend and mentor. I never made an important decision involving the campus without her counsel. I loved to make her laugh, and we laughed often. She will forever be my beacon, an unwavering example of great courage, quiet strength and passion for life.” – Joy Monkarsh, *president, Women & Philanthropy, 1998-2000*



Champion of the Arts

Yvonne Lenart (1915-2010)



Yvonne Lenart, who passed away in August at age 95, loved the arts and loved helping others learn about them. The daughter of a French Canadian artist and art appraiser, she supported the arts at UCLA in a number of ways.

In 2000, she established the Yvonne Lenart Public Programs Fund, which has made possible the majority of the public programs offered at the Fowler Museum since then, according to Marla Berns, Shirley & Ralph Shapiro Director of the Fowler. In tribute, the museum’s

auditorium is named for Mrs. Lenart and her late husband, Harry. Used daily as a classroom and on evenings and weekends for public programs, “the auditorium is a lasting reminder of Yvonne’s presence and engagement,” Berns says. “We feel lucky to have been a part of her dedicated giving.”

Mrs. Lenart also funded scholarships for graduate students to study the humanities abroad and served on the UCLA Humanities Advisory Committee and Board of Governors. The university presented her with a number of awards, including the Alumni Association Award for Excellence in University Service and the College of Letters and Science Award.

Matters of the Mind

Vicky Goodman

It was through a conversation with Dr. Michael Gitlin, professor of clinical psychiatry and director of UCLA's Mood Disorders Clinic, that Vicky Goodman got the idea of starting a support group for the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA.

Goodman, a Circle Member of Women & Philanthropy, wanted to help reduce

the stigma often associated with mental disorders. So in 2002, with other committed volunteers and the assistance of Dr. Andrew Leuchter, Semel's director of continuing education, she founded The Friends of the Semel Institute. Early meetings were salons in board members' homes, where distinguished faculty spoke.

Now with 800 members, the group sponsors a public "Open Mind" lecture/film series, which brings together scientists and clinicians with authors and filmmakers whose work pertains to mental health issues.

In addition to supporting the next generation of scientists focused on treatments for illnesses of the mind and brain, the Friends provide fellowships to fund research. They also give travel grants to enable junior faculty and fellows to present their work at professional conferences.

A fundraiser on April 28, 2011, will pair world-famous magicians with renowned neuroscientists to explore how magicians' methods may lead to improved treatments for brain disorders. The event's honoree will be Ronald A. Katz, husband of the late Women & Philanthropy board member, Maddie Katz.

There is a thirst for knowledge about mental illness, Goodman says. "We are pleased to be able to provide access to pre-eminent doctors in the field, those conducting the very latest research."



Pooling Resources to Support Pediatrics

Today's and Tomorrow's Children Fund

"The idea is philanthropy made simple," says Ellen Sandler, co-chair of Today's and Tomorrow's Children Fund (TTCF) at UCLA. "Our members want to do something significant to support pediatric research. Through TTCF, they know exactly where their dollars are going."

In 2005, TTCF's founders envisioned that by pooling their donations, a group of committed UCLA supporters could award a major gift every year to advance the work of talented pediatrics faculty. Today, TTCF—led by visionary, dedicated philanthropists—is one of the strongest support groups on campus.

"TTCF has provided a lifeline for creating healthy futures for children," says Dr. Sherin Devaskar, interim executive chair of pediatrics and physician-in-chief

of Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. "The fund supports research targeted at developing treatments for various disease conditions."

Each member commits at least \$5,000 annually to TTCF, and the group selects three finalists from research projects prescreened by the physician-in-chief of Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. The donors hear the finalists present their research and vote to determine the winner. Each winner submits a summary of the gifts' impact in research or clinical care.

The 2010 grand prize recipient was Dr. Christopher C. Giza, whose research focuses on therapies to restore function following traumatic brain injury.



With 58 members currently, the group hopes to grow to 200 so they can award a minimum of \$1 million a year.

As state institutions face serious financial challenges, "private philanthropists need to step up and fill the gap," says Sandler, who is also on the board of directors of Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA.

Backing Up Her Belief in Public Education

Astrid Preston

Artist and philanthropist Astrid Preston, who serves on the board of Women & Philanthropy, says she believes nothing is more critical than education. And her actions speak even more loudly than her words. She and her husband actively demonstrate their commitment to higher education through gifts to UCLA campuswide.

A UCLA alumna, the Swedish-born Preston is an accomplished painter who is widely acclaimed for her art. Through the years, she has remained a devoted ally of the English department, where she received her degree. “Astrid has been

a valuable benefactor of the English department and a dedicated board member of Friends of English for many years,” said Ali Behdad, department chair.



With her husband, Preston also has made multiple gifts to the department of physics and astronomy. The couple’s recent pledge to the UCLA Foundation will enable the establishment of The Preston Family Endowed Graduate Fellowship in Astrophysics. The fellowship will fund graduate student research for Professor Andrea Ghez. “The Prestons’ support of graduate students in both [English and astrophysics] is exemplary,” said Behdad.

The pair are also members of Royce Center Circle. Preston simply says, “We love UCLA.”

An Advocate of Access, Innovation, Excellence and Service

Rachel F. Moran



Rachel F. Moran, the new dean of the UCLA School of Law, has a long affiliation with the University of California. The first Latina to head a top-ranked U.S. law school, she served on the faculty of Berkeley Law, Boalt Hall at UC Berkeley from 1983 to 2010, where she taught torts, education law, and race and the law. She also was a founding faculty member of the UC Irvine School of Law. In 1988 and 2000, she was a visiting professor at UCLA.

What drew her back to Westwood as the eighth law dean, she says, were UCLA’s traditions of access, innovation, excellence and service. “I look forward to working with the UCLA law community and campus leadership to preserve these core commitments. Together, we can prepare

a new generation of lawyers with the knowledge, skills and ethical compass to make a difference.”

Moran holds an undergraduate degree in psychology from Stanford University and a law degree from Yale. She has published and lectured extensively on education law and policy, family law, and civil rights and anti-discrimination law.

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As a member of Women & Philanthropy, you will:

- Support the areas of UCLA that are most important to you.
- Meet other women devoted to making a difference.
- Have opportunities to hear from campus leaders and world-class scholars.

To join this dynamic group, please e-mail wmnphil@support.ucla.edu or call 310.794.2389