

SERVING THE SCHOLARS WHO HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY

Melissa Mendoza is a third-year student with her sights set on becoming an anthropology professor. Shann Dornhecker is a fourth-year undergraduate who recently studied abroad at the London School of Economics. Together, they share a bond that is unique to the Bruin student population: They are female student veterans who have served and protected our country. And both women credit the Veterans Resource Office (VRO) for helping them transition from military service to college life.

"As student veterans, it's very important for us to have a social support group," says Mendoza, who served on active duty for five years in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. "The camaraderie I've formed with other student veterans here has made all the difference."

Dornhecker, who began her six-year military career as a Navy cryptologist during the first Iraq War, couldn't agree more. After developing PTSD, then suffering a brain injury as a result of an assault, she found herself in a homeless shelter for women veterans. One day before moving to Washington DC, she received her acceptance into UCLA.

"Being able to walk into a space on campus where all of a sudden, a bunch of other people get exactly what you're dealing with, is a gift," says Dornhecker, who created Drago Data, a data-gathering mobile app that is being modified for the Navy's use.

The Veterans Resource Office, part of the Bruin Resource Center, provides a comprehensive range of services for more than 100 undergraduate and 150 graduate student veterans – including help with the admissions process, health and counseling services, housing, mentoring and post-graduation career assistance.

"Most Americans will never serve in the military or fight for their country," says Emily Ives, Veterans Program Director, adding that the women veteran population is somewhat overlooked. "These women made a commitment to keep our country safe. What better way for the university to support them than to help them achieve their academic, personal and professional goals."

"I made some very good friends at a recent breakfast for female veterans co-hosted by Veterans Programs and



Sergeant Melissa Mendoza, now a third-year student at UCLA

"These students took time out of their lives to serve their country."

– Marianne Murphy

Counseling and Psychological Services," says Dornhecker. "There are so few women veterans, so it's exciting to be able to meet and share information with one another."

For Marianne Murphy, past president of Women & Philanthropy, supporting student veterans has always been a priority. Murphy established two scholarships for veterans in honor of her father and step-father, both of whom served in the military.

"These students took time out of their lives to serve their country," says Murphy, adding that student veterans are highly motivated and passionate about their education. "I'm thankful for their sacrifice, and I can't think of any students more deserving of our support."

UCLA has a long history of serving veterans, dating back to the end of World War II. For more information, or to support the Veterans Resource Office, contact Laura Adler at 310-794-6936 or ladler@support.ucla.edu.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE: MAKING A DIFFERENCE WHILE HAVING A GREAT TIME



Being surrounded by dynamic women these past few months has been the best part of being your new president. I am constantly amazed and humbled by the group’s passion to make a difference, not to mention that we truly have a good time at our events!

The featured stories in this issue give us a glimpse into the many ways our women are making an impact on campus. I was especially moved by the story below, of three young women who turned a tragedy into a creative opportunity to honor their dear friend’s memory. It is truly encouraging to see young women begin their philanthropic journey in such a meaningful way.

Under our new membership structure, I would like to welcome UCLA’s female head coaches, along with other women university leaders, into Women & Philanthropy as University Leadership Members. These extraordinary women inspire our female athletes to excel not just on the court or on the field, but in all aspects of their lives. Thank you, ladies! To show our support for Women’s Athletics, we had a fun, family-oriented group outing to a women’s basketball game last year. And just recently, we went to a gymnastics meet to cheer on our fantastic team. We look forward to continuing to support our top-notch women’s athletes and coaches in the future.

In closing, I am happy to say that UCLA was once again the most applied-to four-year university in the country. I’m proud to be part of a group of women that is working to ensure that every corner of UCLA remains an outstanding institution!

Hope to see you soon,

Agi Hirshberg
President, Women & Philanthropy



HONORING THE LIFE OF A CHERISHED FRIEND

Lifelong friendships are made on campus.

When Courtney Cochran, Sarah Wagman Ellenbogen and Jennifer Cohen Bogan met Kristen Hanson during their first semester at UCLA, they knew they had met someone special.

“She was disarming, funny, stylish and sincere, but most impressive was her intellect,” says Courtney. “Kristen always had the courage to tackle subjects dominated by men: science, math, finance. And she did so without ever apologizing for being a woman or for being feminine – or for her equal gusto for designer shoes (Prada was a longtime passion of hers).”



Trip to Miami, 2008. Left to right:
Kristen, Jennifer, Courtney and Sarah

From the time they met, the four women forged a wonderful friendship. But in 2012, Kristen passed away unexpectedly at the age of 33.

Deciding to turn the deep tragedy of their loss into a meaningful way to honor their friend, Courtney, Sarah and Jennifer raised \$25,000 to dedicate a bench in her name in the Botanical Garden. With this outpouring of support from Kristen’s friends and colleagues – many in their early 30s – they were also inspired to create a scholarship fund to honor the Phi Beta Kappa graduate in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology.

“It’s a lofty goal – we need to raise \$100,000 total to achieve endowment, and still have nearly \$60,000 to go,” shares Courtney. “But we’re invigorated by the knowledge that when we succeed, we will make an impact on the lives of other deserving women studying science at UCLA – year after year.”

For all three women in the midst of their careers, (Courtney works in public relations for E&J Gallo Winery; Sarah works in strategic partnerships at Google; Jennifer is a vice president of marketing and digital at Sephora), philanthropy is a new journey they’re on together, with Kristen deep in their hearts.

“Philanthropy is something we never thought could bring us so much pleasure,” says Courtney. “We’re thrilled we discovered it at this age because you literally can choose where to make a difference. Philanthropy is deeply personal, and that’s when it works best.”

To find out more about the Kristen Hanson Memorial Scholarship Fund, contact Brittany Winfree at 310.825.3277 or bwinfree@support.ucla.edu.

INSPIRING CHAMPIONS ON AND OFF THE COURT

Female athletes and coaches have played a powerful role in UCLA’s athletic dominance. Two of the last three NCAA championships were won by women’s teams with female head coaches. And women’s teams have won 39 out of UCLA’s 112 NCAA titles, although they only began competing for NCAA Championships in 1982. Women & Philanthropy welcomes UCLA’s eight female head coaches as University Leadership Members.

“These exemplary female head coaches will greatly enhance our group’s efforts,” says Board Member Rita Rothman, a women’s gymnastics supporter for more than three decades. “Women’s sports programs at UCLA provide an amazing platform for young women to develop their skills athletically, academically and socially.”



Coach Val encouraging her gymnasts

Indeed, for these head coaches, the goal is about much more than the final score. “You can see the world through one of two lenses: as a giver or a taker,” says Cori Close, head coach of women’s basketball. “My responsibility is to inspire my players to see through the right lens.” For the past several years, Close and her players have visited and donated hundreds of new shoes to children in inner-city schools.

“These coaches are teaching, equipping and building young women up for the rest of their lives,” says Board Member Jan Cloyde, a passionate, longtime supporter of women’s basketball. They’re also teaching them how to handle themselves with grace and class, while being focused, driven and determined.

“Young women need to have role models who show them that they can be in charge,” says Amanda Cromwell, head coach of women’s soccer. Under Cromwell’s leadership, the UCLA women’s soccer team made history by winning its first NCAA championship in 2013.

“I believe that there is no greater arena to learn substantial life lessons than in the world of athletics,” says Board Member Valorie Kondos Field, who has led UCLA to six NCAA championships as the head coach of gymnastics.

As Women & Philanthropy proudly welcomes aboard these amazing women, the coaches have a message for our members. “You are our role models – strong, successful women who see through the lens of being givers, not takers,” says Close. “If my players become like you, I will have done my job well.”



Head Coaches. Left to right: Stella Sampras Webster, Cori Close, Carrie Forsyth and Kelly Inouye-Perez

WOMEN & PHILANTHROPY WELCOMES UCLA’S FEMALE HEAD COACHES

- Cori Close, Women’s Basketball
- Carrie Forsyth, Women’s Golf
- Cyndi Gallagher, Swimming
- Valorie Kondos Field, Gymnastics

- Amanda Cromwell, Women’s Soccer
- Amy Fuller Kearney, Rowing
- Kelly Inouye-Perez, Softball
- Stella Sampras Webster, Women’s Tennis



DID YOU KNOW...

The contributions of Women & Philanthropy members are seen and felt throughout the university.

HERE ARE SOME WAYS OUR MEMBERS HAVE RECENTLY ADVANCED UCLA’S WORLD-CLASS EXCELLENCE.

- Thanks to **Agi Hirshberg’s** vision and relentless efforts for 18 years, the newly named Agi Hirshberg Center for Pancreatic Diseases – among the nation’s leading comprehensive programs for pancreatic cancer and diseases – was announced.
- Passionate about improving the health of Latinos across Southern California and in Central and South America, **Monica Salinas** continued her longtime support of the Fielding School of Public Health’s curriculum, fellowships, research and programs that have direct impact in largely Latino communities.
- In honor of her late husband Leo M. Klein, **Elaine Krown Klein** – a longtime supporter of UCLA’s arts – established the Leo M. Klein and Elaine Krown Klein Chair in Performance Studies at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music.
- Patty Boyle** helped launch the new Financial Actuarial Mathematics Major in honor of her late husband, who founded the Actuarial Program within the Mathematics Department more than 30 years ago.



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AN INVITATION TO AN EXCLUSIVE EVENT ...

A NEW FRONTIER IN TECHNOLOGY: PRINTING THE FUTURE IN 3D



Photo courtesy of Ryan L. Hong '13 and Andrew Raffel '13

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015

6:00 PM–8:30 PM

GRAND HORIZON ROOM AT COVEL COMMONS



UCLA faculty and students are exploring three-dimensional printing as a tool to create nearly anything. Select the “print” option, and out comes a skateboard, a beautiful dress, a micro-house, complete with a bed, kitchen and full bathroom. Or human tissue, organs and bones.

Come hear from UCLA experts in the field about how 3D printing actually works, see examples of items made by students, and discover what these innovations mean for you.



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**.