

# UCLA Women & Philanthropy

volume 28 | fall 2019

## POWERFUL INSTRUMENTS OF CHANGE

A stunning, festive sea of blue and gold décor greeted guests in the Luskin Conference Center as music performed by the Women in Jazz quartet from the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music filled the air. The event was Women & Philanthropy's 25th anniversary celebration on June 19 — and it was an afternoon to remember.

"Our original 15 pioneers have grown to over 2,500 women; we sit on nearly every board throughout the campus; and collectively, we have donated in excess of \$1.1 billion and counting," said Women & Philanthropy President Anne-Marie Spataru, as she kicked off the celebration to a full room filled with applause. "Today, we celebrate all women who give of their time and resources, because wherever we give, we are powerful instruments of change."

**"Women & Philanthropy at UCLA was the first program of its kind — a program that has since been emulated all over the country."**

— Rhea Turteltaub, Vice Chancellor of External Affairs

**Paying tribute.** As the afternoon unfolded, remarkable women were recognized for how they've shaped the university through their determination and leadership. In addition, guests heard from grateful scholars and faculty about the transformative results made possible by members' support.

"Women & Philanthropy at UCLA has been an integral part of UCLA's rich history and is helping ensure our bright future," said Chancellor Gene Block, who presented several awards.

Among those recognized was Women & Philanthropy member Shari Staglin, recipient of the inaugural Women & Philanthropy Alumna Award and a member of the Leadership Council of the UCLA Depression Grand Challenge. The first Women & Philanthropy Icon Award was given to Sherry Lansing, one of the longest-standing members of the University of California Board of Regents. In addition, two dynamic faculty members who retired in June 2019 were honored as Impactful Campus



W&P member Caroline Nahas (left) conducts an interview with Sherry Lansing about the honoree's focus on philanthropy after retiring as the first woman to head a major film studio.

Leaders: Valorie Kondos Field, head coach of UCLA Women's Gymnastics, and Dean Judith L. Smith, founding dean of the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music and emeriti dean and vice provost for Undergraduate Education.

Each recipient spoke from her heart, moving the audience with her passion and generosity. And as the festivities ended, guests left motivated by the positive, purposeful energy reverberating in the room. "You have made an impact that's not only felt now," said Chancellor Block, "but for generations to come."

*Please see page 3 for photo highlights of the celebration.*

**Paying it forward.** In accepting her award, Judi Smith highlighted Philanthropy as Civic Engagement, an undergraduate course she created to teach the next generation about the history, philosophy and practice of philanthropy. "Women & Philanthropy was the first group that gave this course support and funds," she said, thanking the program for its commitment.

Women & Philanthropy is excited to announce that through direct donations and proceeds from the 25th anniversary event, it is establishing the Women & Philanthropy Fund for Philanthropy Education, an endowed fund to support and propel undergraduate philanthropic education.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: INSPIRED BY OUR COLLECTIVE ENERGY AND PASSION



As I write this message, Women & Philanthropy's recent 25th anniversary celebration is still so clear and vivid in my mind. What a truly uplifting and inspirational day we had — 400 guests gathered together to recognize and honor women philanthropists and visionaries who've made an impact on UCLA! The energy in that beautifully decorated ballroom was so palpable, and I carry it with

me still. I hope you enjoy the cover story about the event, as well as the photos on page 3 — all offering glimpses into the special day.

Part of what makes us so proud of UCLA are the dynamic women university leaders on campus. In the story below, we introduce you to Eileen Stempel, the new inaugural dean of the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music. We're thrilled to welcome Dean Stempel to UCLA and look forward to the many ways in which she will inspire our artists and scholars.

Finally, on behalf of Women & Philanthropy at UCLA, it's my honor to offer the Bruin Resource Center our warmest congratulations on its 10th anniversary (p.3). Several of our members are longtime, passionate supporters of the BRC, which provides vital resources for veterans, transfer students, students who have been in the foster care system and more. We've highlighted the important work of the BRC in many past issues, and celebrate this milestone with them.

Our 25th anniversary event may be behind us, but the energy from it continues to propel us forward. We have many exciting programs and events planned for Women & Philanthropy, and I feel so honored to be part of this group's vision. Here's to Women & Philanthropy at UCLA's next 25 years and beyond, impacting and inspiring more lives.

Anne-Marie Spataru  
President, Women & Philanthropy



## WELCOMING ACCOMPLISHED SCHOLAR AND PERFORMER ... EILEEN STEMPEL

"I can't imagine life without music, which is why this role is perfect for me," says Eileen Stempel, who recently took the helm as inaugural dean of the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music — the first music school in the University of California system. "How fortunate is it when someone marries their greatest love and inspiration with their work?"

Indeed, Stempel brings with her a renowned reputation as both scholar and performer. Prior to UCLA, she spent three years as senior vice provost for Academic Affairs at the University of Cincinnati and 17 years in various roles at Syracuse University. An opera singer by training, she has performed with the Bolshoi Opera, Wolf Trap Opera and Opera Theatre St. Louis, as well as with the Chautauqua, Skaneateles and Berkeley Early Music festivals, with roles including Violetta in *La Traviata*, Gilda in *Rigoletto* and the title role in *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Stempel is also a nationally recognized champion for transfer students, and her third book about making higher education work for neotraditional students in the 21st century is slated for publication in 2020.

"In today's world, our artists and scholars are needed more than ever," says Stempel, a passionate believer in the transformative power of music. Her vision for the school: delivering on the promise of Herb Alpert's gift to create

the top music school in the country. "Because UCLA is a public institution, we have a special and sacred mission to serve our community," she says, "to epitomize the most noble promise of higher education, to develop the artistry of our students, and to foster intellectual and ethical well-being of our citizens."



The role of women in music and in leadership is also a topic close to her heart. "Music by women composers was not part of my initial training," explains Stempel whose scholarly interests focus on the political, social and musical contexts of influential female composers. "In fact, if you ask most people to name their favorite female composer, they can't even name one. Eventually, I became very interested in bringing to light the music that was both unknown and unheard."

"I believe it's important as women leaders to have our voices heard and impact felt," says Stempel, thanking Women & Philanthropy members who support the arts and education. "Music transcends time, culture, and generations. More than anything, it shapes our aesthetic sensibility and develops our recognition of the profundity of what it means to be human."



## LAUGHTER, GRATITUDE AND VISION

When more than 400 guests gather to celebrate the accomplishments and vision of women at UCLA, it's guaranteed to be a special afternoon. Here are just a few snapshots of Women & Philanthropy's 25th anniversary celebration luncheon. Congratulations once again to all the honorees, and a heartfelt thank you to all who attended, supported and helped make the event such a success.



**THE STARS BEHIND THE EVENT.** Women & Philanthropy at UCLA President Anne-Marie Spataru (center) with event co-chairs Judith Angel (left) and Susan Rice (right). "I'm so grateful to these two women who put so much time and love into leading this amazing celebration," says Spataru.



**THE STARS BEHIND THE STARS.** The Planning Committee (L to R): First row: Bea Mandel, Susan Rice, Judith Angel, Anne-Marie Spataru; second row: Naomi Ellison, Tricia Grey, Margaret Levy, Tracy Isenberg; third row: Astrid Preston, Joy Monkarsh, Sue Baumgarten, Cara Davidoff, June Kim



**GRATEFUL SCHOLAR.** "Every day this inspires me to push myself so that one day, I might be able to give this gift to someone else," said second-year student Vineeta Singh (left), who spoke during the program about her scholarship from Women & Philanthropy board member Val Maisner (right).



**BLAZING A TRAIL.** Women & Philanthropy Alumna Award recipient Shari Staglin (left) is a dedicated supporter of the UCLA Depression Grand Challenge. "Let's talk more about brain health," says Shari, pictured with W&P founding member Joy Monkarsh (middle) and a founding staff member Dyan Sublett (right).



**TRANSFORMING EDUCATION.** Judi Smith — UCLA's first dean and vice provost for undergraduate education — has served UCLA for 50 of the university's 100 years. W&P member Carole Goldberg presented Smith with the Impactful Campus Leader Award, describing her as someone who "represents all that Women & Philanthropy stands for."



**LEGENDARY COACH.** "I develop champions in life through the sport of gymnastics," said Valerie Kondos Field, who received an Impactful Campus Leader Award. "Every single thing you do related to philanthropy goes to our student body. So the next time anyone asks what you do, say, 'I develop champions.'"



## DID YOU KNOW ...

### November marks the UCLA Bruin Resource Center's 10th anniversary!

UCLA scholars come to campus with a variety of experiences from diverse backgrounds. For a decade, the Bruin Resource Center has provided vital resources that enrich the student experience and promote a supportive and inclusive campus community:

- **The Transfer Student Center** provides transfer students resources and programming that connects them to the university to help achieve their personal, academic and professional goals.
- **The Veteran Resource Center** offers caring and personalized support to UCLA undergraduate and graduate student veterans.
- **The Students with Dependents Program (SwD)** gives assistance to UCLA undergraduate, graduate and professional school students who are parents, guardians and caregivers.
- **The Undocumented Student Program (USP)** provides services and resources that enable undocumented students to reach their highest potential.
- **The Bruin Guardian Scholars (BCS)** aids youth who have previously engaged with the child welfare system and have experienced foster care, guardianship/kinship care, probation, or are unaccompanied minors.
- **The Collegiate Recovery Program (CRP)** assists UCLA students who are in recovery from substance use or other addictive behaviors.

The Bruin Resource Center will soon begin serving new populations, including formerly incarcerated students as well as students experiencing homelessness.

*To find out more about the BRC and its 10th anniversary celebration, contact Alex Nguyen at [anguyen@support.ucla.edu](mailto:anguyen@support.ucla.edu) or 310-983-3092.*



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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 ...

## Living Your Best Life: Developing Health Resiliencies



**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019**

**6:00 PM – 8:30 PM**

**Carnesale Commons, Palisades Ballroom at UCLA**

**RSVP: [eventsrsvp.ucla.edu/WPBestLife](https://eventsrsvp.ucla.edu/WPBestLife)**



As more of our population ages, it's vital to develop strategies that effectively ensure outstanding quality of life and enhanced medical health.

A team of UCLA health experts will discuss how people can benefit from improving their overall health so they become more resilient and satisfied as they age.



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

To learn more about this dynamic group, email us at [wmpphil@support.ucla.edu](mailto:wmpphil@support.ucla.edu) or call **310.794.2389**.

To get more information about the program and our activities, visit our updated website: [women.support.ucla.edu](https://women.support.ucla.edu).