

Honoring Year of the Nurse at UCLA

Some might believe this year being declared the International Year of the Nurse is a response to honor the brave frontline workers keeping us healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While it's certainly well-deserved, the World Health Organization (WHO) actually made this determination well before the word "COVID-19" became part of our everyday language. Their impetus: to honor the founder of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale, on the 200th anniversary of her birth. Nightingale, a frontline worker herself, paved the way for the integrative nursing care received throughout the world today.

"Nightingale looked at the patient from emotional, social, psychological, and biological perspectives, as well as how that person fits into their environment," Dr. Karen Grimley, chief nursing executive for UCLA Health says.

Dr. Linda Sarna, '69, MSN '76, dean of the UCLA School of Nursing, emphasizes that the founder of modern nursing was "all about the evidence, making her as much the mother of modern statistics. Looking at the best ways to care for people as we monitor a situation and collect data is as relevant today as it was 200 years ago."

Like Florence Nightingale, UCLA continues to set the highest standards for nursing education, patient care, and research through its world-class health system and School of Nursing. For example, the hospitals within UCLA Health received an American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Magnet designation for leading nursing into the future.



Magnet status is the highest level of honor awarded by the ANCC and is recognized nationally as the "gold standard" of nursing excellence. The School of Nursing's new doctor of nursing practice (DNP) degree program educates advanced practice nurses to become leaders on the translation of evidence to nursing practice to improve health outcomes.

Furthermore, collaborations between UCLA Nursing at UCLA Health, UCLA School of Nursing, UCLA School of Dentistry, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and UCLA Jonathan and Karin Fielding School of Public Health result in innovative achievements. Grimley credits that synergy for UCLA Nursing's ability to incorporate evidence into practice and clinical realities into education. "The blend has helped us expand on opportunities to address health inequities and disparities."

Sarna says this collaboration is vital, especially during the pandemic when there were constant changes in nursing care. "We were able to work together to prepare nursing students to care for patients in all settings, especially in communities at highest risk for COVID-19."

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Generosity in the Time of COVID

UCLA donors are known for their generosity and forward thinking.

And when the global threat of the COVID-19 pandemic hit hard in March, they stepped up in creative and charitable ways with more than 7,000 gifts totaling \$19 million in coronavirus relief. These philanthropic monies and in-kind donations have provided myriad vital necessities throughout campus from the health care arena to student support.

In the health sector, the COVID-19 Patient Care and Healthcare Provider Protection Fund and the COVID-19 Coronavirus Research and Education Fund were created to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontline workers, advance research, and aid in the search for potential treatments, among other projects.

To meet the urgent demand for PPE, divisions teamed up to produce reusable 3D-printed face

shields. Adding to the supply, UCLA Foundation Chair Emerita Shirley Wang '90 and her husband, Walter Wang, donated rigid plastic sheeting for the creation of 44,500 units. Also rising to the challenge, a group of Bruin students donated 750 surgical masks.

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President's Message: Unwavering Philanthropic Commitment

The year 2020 has brought unimaginable challenges and obstacles. Our beautiful UCLA campus is pristine, but quiet, and we are all eager to return!

In this first newsletter produced since our world changed so significantly, we've showcased vital work being championed throughout the University — the devotion of our critical care nurses, generous support unique during the pandemic, and the importance of financial aid for students. These stories depict the philanthropic commitment by our Women & Philanthropy members. Most especially, we strive to elevate talented scholars who've been undervalued due to gender, race, age, religion, or other facets of their identity.

In my new position of president, I'm honored to follow in the footsteps of visionary leaders, especially my predecessor, Anne-Marie Spataru. Their example and wise guidance have inspired me. Besides being wholeheartedly

dedicated to the important ideals of diversity, equity and inclusion, I aim to continue our expansion as we engage in activities that further our values and mission to be ambassadors for UCLA.

As a Bruin, I've supported UCLA through service on the Luskin Board of Advisors since 2009, the UCLA Foundation Board from 2009 to 2013, and the Women & Philanthropy Board beginning in 2014. Here, I discovered that my other supportive engagements align with those of so many of our members, including Operation Mend, UCLA Health and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Athletics, Luskin School of Public Affairs, and the Chancellor's Greatest Needs.

Women & Philanthropy continues our programming, and we hope you'll join us for our informative presentations with UCLA faculty, administrators, and scholars. I look forward to seeing you on Zoom!

— Susan F. Rice, MPA, '76
President, Women & Philanthropy

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Together, Sarna and Grimley have strongly advocated nursing leadership so that nurses share their unique perspectives. "The nurse's lens is oftentimes very different," Grimley says. "To share this holistic perspective can impact communities in a positive way."

As Sarna retires this year, she reflects, "There are over four million nurses in the United States — it is the largest healthcare profession composed mostly of women." During this Year of the Nurse, the COVID-19 pandemic made clear the paramount importance of nursing to address the world's most pressing health care challenges. A philanthropic investment in nursing and nursing education truly helps UCLA to make a profound difference in the healthcare of the future."

"Nurses will always be there regardless of the crisis and often at our own peril, which gives the public comfort and trust in times of unparalleled stress."

— Karen Grimley, Chief Nursing Executive for UCLA Health

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Generosity in the Time of COVID

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Trying to cope with all the stress and unknowns, medical staff also received emergency assistance by way of funding devoted to food, such as \$200,000 toward the cost of cafeteria meals. Donors have also supported mental health and covered basic needs, including participating in the #TeamLA: UCLA Health Gift Card Drive for \$25 gift and gas cards to healthcare workers, to name an example.



Students, too, have been deeply affected by the pandemic, from facing financial and family crises to transitioning to remote learning — a shift that has dramatically altered their academic experience and campus life. To support students, UCLA's Economic Crisis Response Team Fund has received more than 700 gifts, raising more than \$280,000 to provide assistance for food, rent, and medical care for thousands of students. And senior dean of the UCLA College and vice provost of undergraduate education, Patricia Turner, initiated the Bruin Tech Fund, which donors have supported with 1,180 gifts amounting to \$332,000, to aid students with their technological needs. In addition, donors have supported student-athletes, the Food Closet, and other programs throughout the university.

Through all these thoughtful donations, supporters are contributing perhaps the most invaluable gift of all: hope.

Giving Back and Paying It Forward

The Bruin community of students, alumni, parents, and supporters may come from different backgrounds and life experiences, but they all have one thing in common — a desire to make the world a better place. For UCLA parent Raissa Choi and alumna Stephanie Ellis-Smith, '92, scholarships are a deeply meaningful way of paying it forward.

Choi is funding a UCLA scholarship for transfer students, something important to her on several levels, among them the scholarship's ability to reach underrepresented populations. "This type of scholarship also spoke to me on a very personal level," she says. Choi's father, who grew up on a small farm in Saskatchewan, Canada, stopped school after eighth grade to help the family, but ultimately went on to graduate from medical school.

"This scholarship reconnects me with my father's story," Choi says. "I love the tenacity and the grit of transfer students. They're working against the odds — often without much support."

Giving back comes naturally for Ellis-Smith, who advises families through her firm, Phila Engaged Giving. However, this wasn't the career path she originally foresaw. The Bruin alum double majored in English literature and biochemistry, with her mind set on medical school.

While taking a French class at UCLA, she met her future husband, Douglas Smith, Ph.D. '96. The duo set out looking toward academic careers. Ellis-Smith's path, though, verged into the nonprofit sector, which clicked. "My whole professional life has been around working for the common, social good."



Raissa Choi with her scholarship recipient



Stephanie Ellis-Smith

Knowing firsthand the lasting impact a UCLA education can have on someone's life, Ellis-Smith and her husband wanted to give others this special opportunity, so they established a UCLA scholarship for students with financial need. "My hope is the recipient has the capacity, and is unburdened enough, to pursue interests most meaningful to them." Scholarships are crucial in allowing students to develop leadership skills in clubs, embark on unpaid internships, and even challenge themselves with courses outside their majors that could influence their trajectory.

Both Choi and Ellis-Smith see the role of women's philanthropy as vital, especially when funding scholarships. "For those of us who've had our worldview widened by a really good education, it behooves us to give back," Choi says. Both women believe deeply that providing philanthropic dollars gives others the chance to expand their horizons as well.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Did You Know...

How a UCLA degree changes lives...

- One in three UCLA students is the first member of their family to attend college.
- 35% of UCLA students receive Pell Grants (for students with family annual income of \$50,000 or less).
- UCLA enrolls more low-income students than all the Ivy League universities combined.
- Nearly one in four UCLA undergraduates is a transfer student. That equates to more than 7,000 Bruins who have transferred to campus.
- UCLA ranks No. 1 among elite institutions in socioeconomic mobility: one in four graduates advance two or more income levels — a true testament to the power of a UCLA degree.
- Scholarships help all students, including those from middle-income families, from taking out loans. UCLA scholarships have seen 58% of Bruins graduate with no student loan debt. Those with loans owe \$12,900 less than the average college graduate.

Development/Women & Philanthropy

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Women & Philanthropy is going green!

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Neuroscience Research and Your Legacy

Extraordinary advances in technology have allowed brain scientists to probe the mysteries of how we perceive the world around us and how we think, remember, feel, and communicate.

UCLA neuroscience researchers, such as Drs. Lindsay De Biase, Laura DeNardo, and Anne Churchland, are dedicated to a deeper understanding of how the brain works and what goes awry in brain diseases; and to the development of effective new therapies to treat disorders from autism to Alzheimer's. They also serve as excellent role models who inspire the next generation of women to pursue innovations in the brain sciences.

Donors interested in supporting this research are encouraged to consider a gift planning arrangement. Gift planning offers many options, from estate gifts to annuities and trusts. Some arrangements can provide donors with secure income and income tax advantages.



For information or sample bequest language, please contact **Devon Brown**, *Director of Gift Planning* at devonb@support.ucla.edu or 310-794-2213. Visit legacy.ucla.edu.