

UCLA Women & Philanthropy

Celebrating and inspiring women throughout the UCLA community as major donors, leaders and decision-makers.

Fulfilling UCLA's Promise

Since stepping into new roles in September as vice chancellor for equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) and professor of law with expertise in addressing racism and promoting human rights, Anna Spain Bradley hit the ground running.

There are a lot of Bruins to meet, from current students and staff to alumni and UCLA organizations in between. Through these introductions, Spain Bradley says she's gained "a very clear picture of UCLA's power. It's incredibly diverse in a global way, and that diversity is UCLA's strength."

An immediate goal has been keeping a crucial UCLA pledge. "It's important for me to hear and understand ways we can truly make good on UCLA's promise to be welcoming and equitable for all. To further advance the culture people experience at UCLA as one in which dignity is present."

Spain Bradley's relationship with UCLA spans many years. After serving as an attorney-advisor at the U.S. Department of State, she made the leap to academia at UCLA, serving as a lecturer at the law school, then deputy director of the UCLA Burkle Center for International Relations. In 2009, she moved to the University of Colorado Law School, where she served as a law professor and assistant vice provost for Faculty Development and Diversity until her return to UCLA.



A frequent question Spain Bradley gets is: What is EDI? "It's a lived experience wherein your identity is valued and you're accepted for all that you are," she explains. "Equity layers onto inclusion the understanding that structures, resources, and opportunities are available to people in the ways that they need them."

UCLA has been breaking barriers in EDI since 2015. Of her predecessors, Spain Bradley says, "The university has led the way nationally and beyond with advancements like publishing diversity data and ensuring diversity and equity in faculty hiring."

Forging new paths, Spain Bradley's team is strengthening campus communication with a website update and student-targeted social media. Additionally, UCLA's EDI office provides civil rights investigations as the fourth largest employer in Los Angeles. "We have an important role to play in upholding civil rights protections for our community and complying with applicable law and policy."

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A Professor Honored for Reaching for the Stars



A force of gravity. The phrase certainly describes Women & Philanthropy member Andrea Ghez.

honored with the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics in October. Her discovery: the existence of a supermassive black hole at the center of the Milky Way—four million times the mass of the sun. For Ghez, it was the realization of a 25-year research project that began when she became a UCLA faculty member in 1994. With this role came access to the twin telescopes of W.M. Keck Observatory atop Hawaii's Mauna Kea volcano. As the world's largest, they were ideal for exploring black holes.

Initially, Ghez's vision met strong resistance, but she was able to move forward with patience and perseverance. The advancement of adaptive optics, which Ghez helped pioneer, removed turbulence in the Earth's atmosphere. Suddenly, observing fine details was possible. Tracking multiple stars orbiting the black hole proved that yes, the suspected black hole existed.

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The UCLA Lauren B. Leichtman and Arthur E. Levine Professor of Astrophysics and director of the UCLA Galactic Center Group was



President's Message: Leadership and Generosity

Women & Philanthropy has much to share as we enter 2021. We start by lauding Women & Philanthropy member Andrea Ghez, the 2020 Nobel Prize winner in Physics for pioneering research and discovery of the Milky Way's supermassive black hole.

The fourth woman to receive the Nobel in Physics, Andrea is the UCLA Lauren B. Leichtman and Arthur E. Levine Professor of Astrophysics.

In September, we welcomed Vice Chancellor Anna Spain Bradley as a new UCLA leader to the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). She brings tremendous depth to this role and is profiled in our cover story. One of her missions: building on one of UCLA's strengths—its diverse culture, which imbues people with a sense of dignity.

The brainchild of Women & Philanthropy member Maddie Katz, UCLA Health Operation Mend continues its groundbreaking work in providing veterans' care for medical issues, post-traumatic stress, and traumatic brain injuries. Her daughter-in-law and current Women & Philanthropy board member, Dana Katz, carries on her legacy as the organization's director of their

Community Engagement and Buddy Programs. This vital work is highlighted on page 3.

These inspirational women bring to mind former Women & Philanthropy president (2000–2002) Marion Wilson, who passed away on December 12, 2020. A UCLA graduate, Marion '50, along with her husband, Bob '53, was a stalwart Bruin throughout her life.

In 2015, UCLA recognized the couple's philanthropy with the University Gold Medal and, in 2000, Wilson Plaza was named in their honor. Their gifts included establishment of the \$2-million Bob and Marion Wilson Endowed Scholarship Fund to the UCLA School of Dentistry.

Marion's tireless work for UCLA included service on numerous other boards across campus, including the Alumni Association, School of Education & Information Studies, UCLA Foundation Board of Governors, UCLA Fund, and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Marion's commitment exemplifies the heart of our work – the value and type of leadership and generosity women have provided to our communities, our campus, our families, and our neighborhoods.

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

Fulfilling UCLA's Promise

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Spain Bradley also speaks to the importance of being a woman in a leadership role. "I am honored to serve and to highlight other women, whose voices and experiences are an integral part of every aspect of UCLA and should be recognized as such."

She recognizes Women & Philanthropy's impact. "It's a true accomplishment rooted in a grassroots approach that sends an important message about diverse forms of fundraising," says Spain Bradley. "Understanding that every person can make a difference and every contribution, no matter the size, can make an impact, goes to the core of UCLA's values."

"Equity, diversity and inclusion requires a transformational approach where we advance these values through the hard community work of recognizing and dismantling all forms of discrimination."

— Anna Spain Bradley, Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

A Professor Honored for Reaching for the Stars

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Women & Philanthropy Board Member Astrid Preston and her husband were impressed with Dr. Ghez's "brilliance, vision and tenacity" from the very beginning. Astrid shares, "we started supporting her research in whatever way would help her and her team. It has been so rewarding to see what they have been able to accomplish."

Winning the Nobel Prize has placed Ghez in revered company. As the fourth woman to receive the physics prize, she follows in the footsteps of Marie Curie, Maria Goeppert Mayer, and Donna Strickland. She's also the eighth UCLA faculty member to be named Nobel Laureate.

Of her discovery, Ghez says it's led to many more questions. We excitedly await the revelation of those answers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Amber Buggs at
amberbuggs@support.ucla.edu or (310) 267-5194.

Healing Our Nation’s Warriors and Their Families

During the height of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, Ronald and Maddie Katz had an idea: provide a place where post 9/11 wounded service members can receive medical specialty care at zero cost.

Both active Bruin alums, and Maddie being a member of Women & Philanthropy, the couple approached UCLA. The university enthusiastically came on board and UCLA Health Operation Mend launched in 2007.

Operation Mend treats specialty surgical and medical needs of veterans and, through its Intensive Treatment Program (ITP) for psychological wounds, treats symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI). “Operation Mend is the only program in the nation that includes caregivers as 100% participants in treatment with their veterans,” says Dana Katz, director of community engagement and buddy programs. Katz, the daughter-in-law of Ron and Maddie, is also a W&P board member.

“When caring for an ill or injured family member, family resources tend to be pulled to that individual,” adds Jo Sornborger, PsyD, director of operations & clinical director. “Having caregivers participate in treatment strengthens family cohesion and functioning.”

To determine the level of care needed, participants first go through a comprehensive diagnostic assessment. Then, at UCLA’s on-site, three-week intensive program, veterans interact with clinical and administrative teams and are paired with a volunteer “buddy” that provides social support. These buddy relationships often continue beyond their UCLA stay, becoming lifelong friendships. “Operation Mend’s Buddy Program provides a safe environment and



Dr. Jo Sornborger (l) and Dana Katz (r) at the Veterans Day Parade, New York City, 2019

relationship where warriors and caregivers can practice skills they’re learning in treatment,” Sornborger explains. “Our warriors have said, ‘I’m alive because of Operation Mend, but also my buddy.’”

Once home, three weeks of transitional video conferencing support commences. “Often, when warriors and family members are preparing to return home, they get nervous and panic. We make a transition plan that includes connecting them with other organizations to support in a non-stigmatizing way,” emphasizes Sornborger.

Over the next year, patients are monitored. If additional assistance is needed, there is help navigating the VA system and connecting with other veteran service organizations.

The cumulative effect of Operation Mend? “It’s like a blossoming,” Katz says. “People’s personalities emerge when they become more competent, comfortable and connected.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Nicholas Middlesworth at nmiddlesworth@mednet.ucla.edu or (310) 206-2089.

Did You Know...

UCLA Health Operation Mend has always focused on embracing the veteran or service member and their whole family by providing world-class care plus comprehensive case management, care coordination, and social support to eliminate treatment barriers and ensure everyone is integrated into the recovery process.

- Operation Mend is available to post-9/11 veterans from all military branches and their caregivers. 60–80% of caregivers meet criteria for PTSD themselves.
- In FY 2020 alone, Operation Mend served 179 veterans and 121 caregivers in its surgical program; 75 veterans and 32 caregivers in its Intensive Treatment Program; and 86 veterans and 48 caregivers in its diagnostics program.
- Operation Mend’s annual budget is nearly \$9 million, the majority from philanthropic donations. All treatment, travel, and accommodations are provided at no cost.
- The Intensive Treatment Program benefits many women: 15% of veterans treated and 87% of caregivers are women, and 8% of those female caregivers formerly served in the military.
- Completion rate for participants is 97%, with a 95.5% satisfaction rate.

Development/Women & Philanthropy

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Women & Philanthropy is going green!

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Can just witnessing an act of kindness, even between strangers, make us feel better about our world and make us more inclined to perform an act of kindness ourselves? Does mindfulness make us healthier? Are social relationships necessary for mental and physical health?

A panel of experts from the UCLA Bedari Kindness Institute will discuss innovative research that’s being conducted by the world’s first interdisciplinary research institute with a goal of transforming the individual and society as informed by the understanding and practice of kindness.

**AN INVITATION
TO AN INTRIGUING EVENT...**

**Is Kindness Contagious?:
The Bedari Kindness
Institute**



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021

12:00 PM – 1:15 PM

Webinar

RSVP

<https://tinyurl.com/WPKindness>