

UCLA Women & Philanthropy

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

Working in Solidarity to Change the World

At a time when our country is undergoing profound racial examination, UCLA’s Institute of American Cultures (IAC) and its Ethnic Studies Centers—the central hub to American Indian Studies Center (AISC), Asian American Studies Center (AASC), Bunche Center for African American Studies (Bunche Center) and Chicano Studies Research Center (CSRC)—are more important than ever.

The four directors came together virtually to discuss the innovative and collaborative projects the centers are undertaking with an eye toward changing the world.

“It’s no longer possible to hide deep racial disparities, inequities, racist attitudes and beliefs—it’s on the national stage,” Karen Umemoto, Ph.D., director of the AASC says. “This is the time to take the bull by the horns and direct our resources and energies to addressing problems.”

The foursome champion critical race studies at UCLA, public high schools and college systems as a way of creating a landscape of understanding. “The ethnic studies community, as well as arts and humanities, have to work in solidarity to build something that’s never existed before,” Bunche Center Director Kelly Lytle Hernandez, Ph.D., says. Shannon Speed, Ph.D., AISC director, adds, “And we’re fighting to ensure whatever gains we’ve made aren’t whitewashed and lost.”



California Freedom Summer, a project helmed by CSRC Director Veronica Terriquez, Ph.D., gets students involved in civic engagement. “The initiative is focused on low-income communities across the state with low voter turnout,” Terriquez says. “We’re making sure California’s racially diverse young people understand what’s on the ballot in a nonpartisan way.”

The ongoing COVID health crisis and its disproportionate impact on low-income communities of color is also being addressed by the IAC. Recently, the AASC created www.translatecovid.org, a website with COVID information in 60 languages. “It helped a lot of people who so rarely get resources in their own languages at a critical moment in the pandemic,” Speed says.

Another project is a hate crimes mapping database for reporting incidences of prejudice. “It’s an important tool because many people in our communities don’t feel comfortable going to law enforcement when they’ve had this kind of experience,” Speed says. Seventeen years of data collected by the LA County Human Relations Commission will be included, providing a visual for how hate crimes have evolved in LA.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ●●●

Inspiring and Encouraging Women



Esmeralda “Lali” Moheno and husband Victor are known for seeing a need and taking action. Such is the case

with UCLA César E. Chávez Department of Chicana/o and Central American Studies.

“The department is one of many that’s underfunded and socially challenged,” Lali explains. As activists who worked alongside César E. Chávez for farmers’ rights, supporting his namesake school felt especially meaningful.

The Moheno’s gift is a charitable remainder unitrust (CRUT). With this type of planned gift, donors receive income in exchange for establishing a charitable trust. After their lifetimes, the remainder of the

trust goes to UCLA. This also qualified Lali to become a member of Women & Philanthropy. The Moheno’s CRUT will fund scholarships. “We’re concentrating on the sons and daughters of farmworkers from Central Valley,” Lali says. “No one really helps that group out. We wanted to do so by sending them to UCLA.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ●●●



President's Message

As UCLA begins its fall quarter—with students on campus, the return of our successful Olympic athletes, and the Rose Bowl welcoming the season—Women & Philanthropy at UCLA revels in our progress during a very challenging

year. In spite of everything, we celebrate greater diversity and more women in leadership positions.

Our newsletter cover story features the four accomplished directors of the Ethnic Studies Centers in the UCLA Institute of American Cultures (IAC): Kelly Lytle Hernandez (African American Studies), Shannon Speed (American Indian Studies), Veronica Terriquez, (Chicano Studies Research), and Karen Umemoto, (Asian American Studies).

In addition, we introduce five exceptional women who have joined the University Leadership ranks as deans: Christina Christie, Dean of the School of Education & Information Studies; Susan Ettner, Dean of Graduate Education; Adriana Galván, Dean of Undergraduate Education; Tracy Johnson, Dean of the Division of Life Sciences; and Lin Zhan, Dean of the UCLA School of Nursing.

Our cover profile of new Women & Philanthropy member Esmeralda “Lali” Moheno highlights her gift of a charitable remainder unitrust, or CRUT, which is a viable way to become a Women & Philanthropy member. Lali and her husband are using theirs to support the Cesar E. Chavez Department of Chicana/o and Central American Studies.

Campus leadership, engagement, and support by women from a variety of backgrounds, ages, and areas have always been the objectives of Women & Philanthropy. To reinforce this broad commitment, we have taken several steps. We reworked our Standing Rules to further implement our diversity, equity and inclusion practices. The Board appointed a Diversity & Inclusion Task Force to promote systemic change and broaden active participation of underrepresented members, and also underwent inclusion training. In addition, a recent survey taken by members shows a high rate of satisfaction, good questions for member follow-up, and opportunities for growth in the coming year.

While we weren't able to meet in-person this past year and a half, there has been a silver lining. With our virtual programming, we are delighted by the increased participation and involvement of members from beyond Los Angeles. That has been one of the highlights of this very tough time. Our successes strengthen our resolve for this academic year.

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

Working in Solidarity ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Also vital, Terriquez says, “Women's issues are at the forefront of racial justice issues. We're making sure women's voices are respected and recognized.” Just one of the reasons they look forward to developing a deeper relationship with Women & Philanthropy. “There's a natural kind of match in terms of what our concerns are,” Umemoto affirms. “We're very attentive to the needs, issues and aspirations of women in our communities and across all topics our faculty, students and staff work on.”

“It's empowering to work amongst women who bring so much to the table. There's an emotional honesty, camaraderie and shared passion for issues affecting our communities.”

— Karen Umemoto, Director of the Asian American Studies Center

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Christi Corpus at:
ccorpus@support.ucla.edu or (310) 794-2396

Inspiring and Encouraging Women

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Growing up, Lali's family worked Central California's fields. Following their mother's wish, seven of her nine children received college educations, with five of them, including Lali, earning master's degrees. “We never received financial aid, paying for college by working in the fields.” To honor her mother, Lali started the Farmworkers' Women's Conference, which educates women about their rights. Lali's advocacy saw her recognized with the 2013 California Peace Prize and she served as a panelist on the 2018 United Nations World Conference on the Status of Women.

The Mohenos aren't strangers to philanthropy. For years, they've provided funds to UCLA Law School. After earning his JD in '76, Victor specialized in farmworkers' rights and was instrumental in developing policy for injured farmworkers. “He felt it was his duty to give back to the professors who'd prepared him to do what he wanted to do in life, to do it well and responsibly.” Lali hopes others will follow in her footsteps. “One of my goals is to encourage other women, especially Latinas, to contribute to universities throughout the nation.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Devon Brown at:
devonb@support.ucla.edu or (310) 794-2213

Did You Know ...

Meet UCLA's New Women Deans

Five women recently stepped into dean roles at UCLA. Through these bite-sized introductions, they share their challenges, missions, hopes and dreams with Women & Philanthropy.



Christina "Tina" Christie, Ph.D.
Wasserman Dean of the UCLA School of Education & Information Studies (Ed&IS)

As a professor of education, Christie trains educational scholars in social research methodology with a focus on facilitating social change. "It's work driven by an ethic of responsibility for the furtherance of human good through engaged practice and scholarship—an ethic which, I believe, eminently befits a public university entrusted with advancing this good."

Christie, who earned her doctorate from UCLA, often draws the Bruin community together to effect such social change. "The best of scholarship is that which is theoretically sound and rises to the challenge of contributing to social upliftment—to the resolute realization of cherished human goods and ideals."



Susan Ettner, Ph.D.
Dean of Graduate Education

A professor of general internal medicine and health services research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, Ettner's research runs the gamut from health insurance to mental health and substance abuse policy.

As to her new position as dean, Ettner has been upfront about dealing with imposter syndrome. Something she says "... is common among faculty who are first-gen or from underrepresented groups." To combat this, Ettner chooses not to let these feelings dictate her actions. "Understanding how my mindset was holding me back was key to my decision to apply for leadership roles on campus." And that puts her in role model territory.



Adriana Galván, Ph.D.
Dean of Undergraduate Education

A professor of psychology with an expertise in adolescent brain development, Galván is also director of UCLA's Galván Laboratory for Developmental Neuroscience, which focuses on "how behavioral changes related to decision-making, risk-taking and emotion are influenced by neurobiological development."

The neuroscientist also serves as amicus curiae for U.S. Supreme Court cases—a step toward her mission to inform policy pertaining to youth behavior and development. "My research on the maturation of the adolescent brain was cited by legal scholars to argue that the adolescent brain continues to develop beyond the legal age of majority, which is 18, and through the early 20s," she says. "This is relevant for legal discussions regarding sanctions for young people in the juvenile justice system."



Tracy Johnson, Ph.D.
Dean of UCLA Life Sciences

A professor of molecular, cell, and developmental biology at UCLA College, Johnson says the national stats for STEM undergrads—especially underrepresented students—changing majors or dropping out are high. A goal she has for UCLA Life Sciences is "... to empower students from all walks of life to pursue careers in the sciences, seize opportunities to excel, and tackle the world's most pressing challenges."

Her dream? "That every student who starts in Life Sciences leaves UCLA feeling they were supported, belonged, and were able to bring their whole selves to their educational experience."



Dr. Lin Zhan, Ph.D., RN, FAAN
Dean of UCLA School of Nursing

Zhan is on a mission: health equity for all. Her roadmap for success? "Forwarding a shared vision by faculty, students, staff, and practice/community partners toward making collective, concerted efforts to integrate equity, diversity, and inclusivity in education, research, service, and practice."

What "mission accomplished" looks like—"When diversity, equity, and inclusion are integrated in an educational environment, biases are examined, assumptions are challenged, microaggressions are addressed, civil engagement is enhanced, diverse perspectives are appreciated, and humanity is respected."

Development/Women & Philanthropy

405 Hilgard Avenue
PO Box 951590
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1590

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
UCLA

Women & Philanthropy is going green!

Please share your email address at
wmnphil@support.ucla.edu



People understand how things like the flu, diabetes, and heart disease drastically impact our health, but social determinants like income inequality, poor public transportation, and housing instability can have an even greater effect on well-being.

We'll hear from a panel of experts from the UCLA Health Sciences Division about how community conditions and other factors play a powerful role in determining health and outcomes.

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

**Advancing Health Care
for All: The Role of Social
Determinants in Improving
Health Equity and Access**



NOVEMBER 16, 17, OR 18, 2021

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM PST

Webinar

RSVP

<https://tinyurl.com/WPAccess>

The event date will be confirmed on the RSVP site.