Spring 2026 Volume 41

UCLA Women & Philanthropy

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

UCLA is a Global University

Vice Provost for International Studies and Global Engagement Cindy Fan has noticed a culture shift on campus in her 11 years as UCLA's senior international officer. "It has to do with acknowledging and taking pride in the fact that UCLA is a global university — that we're contributing to the world."

She points to UCLA's mission: the creation, application, dissemination, and preservation of knowledge for the betterment of our global society. "We are, indeed, a university in Los Angeles, in California. But we also serve the entire world because of the innovation we generate and the engagement we develop and explore, which better serves California, a globally-connected state."

UCLA hosts the 6th-highest number of international scholars among all U.S. universities. Many attend the UCLA International Institute, which educates students, supports scholarship on the world, and serves as a campus and community resource. As the campus' central hub for global and area studies, it houses 22 research centers and programs, three outreach programs, and eight interdisciplinary degree programs with six majors, 10 minors, and three M.A. degrees. The Institute's educational mission also encompasses global and local involvement and a robust study abroad program.

The UCLA International Institute's reach is vast. It hosts delegations, foreign ambassadors and heads of state. It signs collaborative agreements between UCLA and foreign institutions. And, it's locally active, inviting the public to participate in programs like its annual International Education Week and numerous center events.

These programs bring teachable moments for students. "Our speakers are not only highly visible and highly influential, but sometimes controversial," Fan explains. "For students, it's a way to develop themselves professionally and to be up close to how a university addresses complex and difficult issues, including geopolitical matters. It requires critical thinking, analytical skills, and a willingness and capacity to sit down with people whose views might be different from yours and engage in a productive, constructive, and civil conversation."

Students are leading in other ways. Each year, the student-run Global Development Lab holds a Project Incubator Showcase where team proposals for a development project — either locally or internationally based — are evaluated by a panel of judges. The top proposal is awarded between $1,000 and $5,000. Philanthropy can make a difference. "If we double or triple the award, more proposals can be supported." This, Fan affirms, "...can be very empowering for students' professional development, confidence, and the belief that they can really do good in the world."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

The Power of Travel to Educate

Even as a child, Suzan Kramer understood the power of education. She was so determined to learn, she would sneak into her sister's school pretending to be her.

Suzan reported back to her parents — the school, which was located in Turkey, was terrible. They agreed and set out for the United States. "My parents believed education was the way to elevate one's life — that it was something no one can take away from you."

In 2009, Suzan's husband began teaching at UCLA — Terry Kramer is an adjunct professor and faculty director of UCLA Anderson School of Management's Easton Technology Management Center — and higher education became a primary focus of their philanthropy. "We saw the university giving students opportunities to attend UCLA," she remembers. "Thirty percent of students were the first in their families to attend college. To me, being able to give them that chance was important."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

President's Message

When I wrote my first President's Message, I reflected on milestones. Now, I'm facing another — the conclusion of my service as president. It's a bittersweet marker, but I couldn't be happier to welcome Dana Katz as she steps into this very rewarding role in July.

In this newsletter, Women & Philanthropy catches up with Vice Provost for International Studies and Global Engagement Cindy Fan. We are very inspired by the impressive work the UCLA International Institute is undertaking and her hopes for students. According to Cindy, "Close to 25% of UCLA undergraduate students study abroad for credit, which means a majority of UCLA students haven't taken advantage of this opportunity." She'd like to make it easier for students to utilize the different resources of the International Institute. Cindy lets us know that, "there's so much we can do together to support the global mission of UCLA."

Women & Philanthropy member Suzan Kramer is on board with that very mission. She and her husband, Terry, an Economics alumnus and Faculty Director of the Easton Technology Management Center, support international travel to advance educational experiences through the UCLA International Institute. Want to hear more about this from Suzan? She'll be hosting a Member Gathering in the San Francisco Bay Area this fall.

The UCLA Pritzker Center for Strengthening Children and Families concentrates on fortifying families by focusing on keeping children out of foster care and improving the child welfare system since its launch in 2018. Executive Director Taylor Dudley discusses the center's progress and where it's headed, which extends from on-the-ground work to advancing policy changes. Taylor shares, "The work we're doing at the UCLA Pritzker Center is creating the foundation for a system that will impact children 20 years from now."

I also want to mention our upcoming virtual Spring Community Event, "Rebuilding LA: Ensuring Recovery for All." See the back panel for more information and the RSVP link. We hope you can join us!

It has been a true pleasure to serve as President. I've had the opportunity to meet so many members while helping provide topical programming and opportunities for engagement. Thank you again for your support, ideas and friendships that have made this experience so rewarding.

— Judith Angel, President, Women & Philanthropy

UCLA is a ...

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Doing good in the world is important to Fan. Her goal, "To see higher education play an important role in breaking down barriers — language, cultural, political, and geographical — for students from backgrounds that might be constraining. I think some barriers have been erected somewhat artificially." She sees UCLA as uniquely positioned to empower the next generation of global leaders.

"I believe that only by working together across cultures, borders, countries and peoples, can we truly develop solutions that benefit not only one country, one region, but the whole world," asserts Vice Provost Cindy Fan

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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The Power of ...

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When the Kramers learned that over 50% of UCLA students are unable to access a UCLA education without some financial assistance, they felt compelled to act. They established the Suzan and Terry Kramer Family Scholarship Endowment in 2023, which provides undergraduate scholarships to students, many of whom are first generation.

Something else that strikes a chord for Suzan is giving students exposure to the world. "Traveling and living elsewhere is an education unto itself," she explains. "It broadens their minds, opens up their perspectives, and challenges their assumptions. It also gives you self-esteem and confidence — something we want students to have."

This interest led the Kramer's to work with the UCLA International Institute to create the Terry and Suzan Kramer Global Leadership Scholars Program that supports highly motivated students who aspire to become leaders in international business or nonprofit work. It awards exceptional students each year to study abroad for the first time.

"Wouldn't it be amazing to know that you helped students find their way?" exclaims Suzan."

Strengthening Children and Families

Safely keeping children out of foster care and improving the system for those already within it are the inspiring goals of the UCLA Pritzker Center for Strengthening Children and Families, which opened in 2018.

Then the pandemic hit, forcing an online pivot. Taylor Dudley, Executive Director, shares, "We provided webinars and trainings on everything from how the pandemic was impacting foster care and vaccine hesitancy to domestic violence and racial equity in the child welfare system."

Racial bias has been at the forefront of the team's attention since day one. Under Faculty Co-Director Tyrone Howard, a preeminent expert on race, culture and educational equity, the UCLA Pritzker Center formed the Racial Equity Hub for Child Welfare Reform, which examines how systemic bias and racism impact the child welfare system. "Systemic racism and the over-surveillance of Black families are an insidious feature of the child welfare system," Dudley elucidates. Using data, the new project will provide free education and public training across Los Angeles and statewide, with plans to expand nationally.

The 2025 Los Angeles fires brought another shift. "I felt an urgent need to understand how kids in foster care were impacted," Dudley recalls. They began working with the Department of Children and Family Services to analyze racial demographics of children impacted, movement patterns, and how education was disrupted. Their research has been referenced in furtherance of AB 1602, proposed state legislation addressing how children in foster care are supported after a disaster. Dudley hopes it keeps attention on child fire victims. "The fire is out, but the trauma and the loss associated will endure for years."

New research, particularly around immigration and LGBTQ+ issues, is an area in which the UCLA Pritzker Center is actively involved. "Unfortunately, the families being attacked are the families often involved in our system," Dudley explains.

On the ground, the UCLA Pritzker Center has partnered with the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services to work in the Antelope Valley, which has one of the highest concentrations of families involved in foster care, on services ranging from food pantries and coat distribution to community-based research. "We show up with care and compassion at a time when families need it most," states Dudley.

Reductions in the size and scope of the child welfare system affirm the work. "We've been able to impact policy change in a relatively short period of time," Dudley states. As she looks to the future and beyond, she declares, "We'll keep going."

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Did You Know ...

The UCLA Pritzker Center for Strengthening Children and Families' reach extends throughout Los Angeles County, implementing prevention strategies and policy reform to reduce the need for foster care and improvements for those in the child welfare system.

- Approximately 40% of referrals to the child welfare system stem from neglect, frequently tied to poverty, a lack of resources, and systemic bias. The UCLA Pritzker Center's research prioritizes safely keeping families together to reduce the trauma of separation.
- Children who spend extended time in foster care, especially those who emancipate without permanent family connections, face higher risks of homelessness, incarceration, early or unplanned pregnancy, substance use, and mental health challenges.
- With the aim of training transformational leaders to become changemakers across the child welfare system, students are at the heart of the UCLA Pritzker Center's efforts. The UCLA Pritzker Center works with Bruin Guardian Scholars and other campus partners and employs students with lived experience in child welfare or the juvenile legal system.

UCLA Women & Philanthropy

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Large swaths of Los Angeles County burned to the ground during the worst fires the area has ever seen. The County cannot afford simply to rebuild what was lost — it must build for the future.

A faculty panel will discuss how research, policy studies, and community outreach at UCLA are aiding L.A.'s fire rebuilding efforts and suggesting strategies for a more equitable, reimagined future.

AN INVITATION TO AN INFORMATIVE EVENT ...

Rebuilding LA: Ensuring Recovery for All

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THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM PDT
Webinar

RSVP
https://tinyurl.com/WPRecovery