

## A Generous Gift Transforms Japanese Studies at UCLA

Paul and Hisako Terasaki have endowed programs that will help build greater understanding between the United States and Japan.

*Paul Terasaki: “In the Center for Japanese Studies we saw a great need for expansion into studies of contemporary Japan, and a need for many more visiting scholars.”*

Paul Terasaki’s ties to UCLA are numerous and strong. Terasaki earned all three of his degrees from the university—a B.A. in preventive medicine and public health in 1950, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in zoology in 1952 and 1956. He joined the faculty of the UCLA Medical School in 1957 and served as a professor of surgery from 1969 until his retirement 30 years later. Three of his four children are UCLA alumni.

But Terasaki’s connections to UCLA range well beyond the academic. For several decades, he and his wife Hisako have been devoted and generous supporters of both the health sciences and the College of Letters and Science. Through the Nikkei Bruins—a group of Japanese-American alumni and friends of UCLA—they became involved with the Center for Japanese Studies (now housed in the International Institute) soon after the unit was established in 1991. In 1997 they created the Paul I. Terasaki Endowed Chair in U.S.-Japan Relations in the Center with a generous gift.

Now the Terasakis have extended their philanthropy to the Center with an additional gift, establishing another endowed chair, graduate and postdoctoral fellowships, relationship-building activities with other universities and civic groups, and outreach programs for K–12 education and the broader community. In

recognition of their exceptional commitment and support totaling \$5 million, the center has been renamed the Paul I. and Hisako Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies.

Asked about the gift, Paul Terasaki explained, “The UCLA campus is a wonderful place. The university seems to be very well off, but I know, having been there, that there are still many things that could be supported to a greater extent. For example, in the Center for Japanese Studies we saw a great need for expansion into studies of contemporary Japan and a need for many more visiting scholars.”

The Paul I. and Hisako Terasaki Chair in Contemporary Japanese Studies will enable the center to attract and retain an eminent senior scholar whose work addresses key issues in Japanese culture, politics, economics or social systems. The Terasaki Postdoctoral and Graduate Fellowships will bring talented, emerging scholars in Japanese studies to UCLA from around the world to work on innovative research projects and to teach in subject areas related to Japan’s past and future.


Another component of the gift, the Terasaki Program Endowment, will enable the center director to fund new initiatives and public programs, such as conferences, that will foster collaboration between the

center and other universities and think tanks. The Paul I. and Hisako Terasaki Community Outreach Program will support connections to local schools, providing training to K–12 teachers and curriculum materials for the study of historical and modern Japan, and will foster joint activities with the Japanese-American community, such as museum exhibitions, musical performances and other cultural projects.

Born in Boyle Heights in 1929, Paul Terasaki spent three years with his family in the Gila River internment camp in Arizona during World War II. After the war, the Terasakis moved to Chicago, where Paul completed high school and entered the University of Illinois. When he transferred to UCLA in 1948, his family followed him back to Los Angeles. Later, while studying for his Ph.D., he met and married Hisako, then a student at Los Angeles City College and now an accomplished and recognized artist.

After graduating, Terasaki became a professor of surgery in UCLA's School of Medicine and, ultimately, a pioneer in tissue typing for organ transplantation. The test he developed, the micro-lymphocytotoxicity test, became the international standard for tissue typing. He also established the UCLA Kidney Transplant Registry, which was active from 1971 to 1987. His corporation, One Lambda, has played a vital role in tissue typing and transplantation surgery, and the Terasaki Foundation, a research laboratory that he founded after his retirement from UCLA, focuses on the study of humoral immunity and transplantation.

The Terasakis hope that their gift will foster greater understanding between the U.S. and Japan by helping to produce and promote a new generation of scholars whose expertise focuses on modern Japan.

"I've been interested in Japan, mostly because my parents came from there," said Terasaki. "I want to help make sure that relations between the U.S. and Japan will be as good as possible. I think that the friendship between the two countries is a very important thing." 

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*Paul and Hisako Terasaki*

*For information about supporting the UCLA College of Letters and Science, call Tracie Christensen, assistant vice chancellor of development (310)206-0699.*

# Philip Whitcome: A “Payback” with Visionary Philanthropy for the Sciences

After receiving his Ph.D. in 1974 from UCLA’s Molecular Biology Institute (MBI), Philip J. Whitcome earned an M.B.A. and pursued a successful career as a biotech industry executive. In 2004, his success enabled him to create an undergraduate scholarship in UCLA’s Department of Biology.

“I had a fellowship at UCLA, and it’s payback time,” Whitcome said two years ago. “I want to initiate an activity that I can continue, that will help people benefit the way I benefited.”

Tragically, Whitcome became ill only a year later and died at the age of 57. His death was a tremendous loss to all who knew him, including his friends at UCLA. Not only had he been a devoted supporter of the university, but he was also an active member of the Sciences Board of Visitors, a group of scientists and executives who consult with College faculty and deans about how to enhance science education, develop partnerships with corporations, and encourage potential donors.

Dean of life sciences Emil Reisler said, “We miss Phil’s energy, his enthusiasm, and his dedication.”

But Whitcome’s support for UCLA was not over. His affection for the university and his insightful vision for its future had led him to bequeath \$5.2 million to endow the Philip J. Whitcome Ph.D. ’74 Scholarship Fund for UCLA undergraduates in biology or biochemistry, or graduate students in the interdepartmental program housed in the Molecular Biology Institute.

“A gift had been talked about for some time,” said Steven Clarke, director of the MBI. “But we had no idea that it would be of this magnitude.”

Whitcome’s extraordinary gift comes at a crucial moment for the MBI, when plans are under way to start a new program for highly talented Ph.D. students—plans that require substantial funding. Currently, the MBI Interdepartmental Program—like similar programs around the nation—requires graduate students to



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A bequest from a fondly remembered alumnus will create an innovative program for top students in the Molecular Biology Institute and provide scholarships to undergraduates.


undertake a standard first-year course of study, with general survey classes, topical seminars, and laboratory rotations, before narrowing their field. The unique new program will eliminate the mandatory first-year curriculum for more advanced students and enable them to begin their dissertation research earlier. (See page 8)

According to Sabeeha Merchant, chair of the interdepartmental program, the new program will be designed to attract superior students “who are sophisticated, knowledgeable and know what they want to do. The intent is to enable them to finish the Ph.D. sooner.”

Said Clarke, “It will mean something special to these students to be called ‘Whitcome Fellows.’ It’s a distinctive recognition that they’re part of a special program, part of the vanguard.”

Whitcome’s visionary philanthropy will help place UCLA and the MBI at the forefront of science education for decades to come.

Dean of physical sciences Tony Chan explained, “The Whitcome gift will put us on an equal footing with private universities, enabling us to put together a competitive package for the best students in molecular biology.”

In 2004, Whitcome said he hoped his philanthropy would inspire other alumni and friends to support the University. It may well do that, but it will also encourage generations of bright young scholars to pursue their dreams of scientific investigation at UCLA. 

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# Ralph and Shirley Shapiro: Making an Impact across the College

*Ralph and Shirley Shapiro, at the fountain at the top of Janss Steps named in their honor. Said Shirley: "It means more to me to support UCLA than to do a lot of other things."*

Among UCLA's many alumni and friends are generous supporters who focus on one particular academic area. A few, like Ralph and Shirley Shapiro, gain satisfaction from supporting a range of campus schools and departments, from the arts to the libraries, to the basic sciences and medicine.

In recognition of the Shapiros' long-standing commitment to the university, now totaling more than \$11 million, the fountain at the top of Janss Steps has been named the Shirley and Ralph Shapiro Fountain.

Ralph Shapiro earned his B.A. in business administration at UCLA in the College of Letters and Science and, after a stint in the army, returned for a law degree. Shirley graduated from UCLA with a degree in education and became an elementary school teacher.

For the last twelve years, the College of Letters and Science has been one of the fortunate beneficiaries of the Shapiros' steadfast support. "Most of the undergrads on campus are in the College," said Ralph Shapiro, "but you don't have to have taken a class there to support it." Shirley added that, although she was an education major, "the classes that were the most interesting to me were the ones in Letters and Science."

Much of the Shapiros' philanthropy has been discretionary, allowing divisional deans and the executive dean to direct funds where they are needed most.


"Nobody I've met has enough resources to support all the things that need to be done," said Ralph. "There are a lot of unmet needs." The Shapiros were introduced to Patricia O'Brien two years ago, shortly before she was appointed executive dean of the College. "She was so terrific that we created an endowed discretionary fund for her," Ralph remarked. Recently O'Brien used some of that fund to establish fellowships for the recruitment of international graduate students. She commented, "The impact of Ralph's and Shirley's philanthropy is felt everywhere throughout the College. They not only support us, they challenge us to do our best."

The Shapiros also support specific areas within the College, such as the Center for Japanese Studies, the International Institute, the English department, the humanities, and physical sciences, among others.

In addition, they have created numerous scholarships and fellowships for outstanding students.

Ralph asserted, "Wonderful, bright students should not be prevented from getting an education simply because their families don't have the resources. We need to help UCLA bring the best and the brightest here. That's really what scholarships are about for us." Shirley added, "It's important to have young people who are so dedicated. They really are going to make a difference in our world."

In addition to their exceptional philanthropy, both Shapiros volunteer their personal time to the university: Ralph is a member of the the UCLA Foundation Board of Directors, while Shirley serves on the Board of Visitors of the School of the Arts and Architecture and the Board of Directors of Women and Philanthropy. They also are regular participants on the dinner committee for the College Awards Dinner.

"When you volunteer," Ralph said, "you meet people you wouldn't otherwise meet. Your common goal is to help make UCLA a better place. It's doubly enjoyable and gratifying when you're making a difference. If all of us did a little bit, it would be fabulous." 

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