

# UCLA COLLEGE REPORT

Summer 2015 | Volume Twenty-Four



Dear Friends,

UCLA and Los Angeles have grown up together over the past hundred years, through good times and bad. Ours is a story of community that transcends economics, culture, history and tradition. Together, we have built a place of innovation, prosperity and hope. More than ever before, UCLA is committed to ensuring that Los Angeles remains at the forefront of ingenuity, creativity and knowledge.

In fact, engaging with our city and partnering with community members to solve some of our most pressing problems is a cornerstone of our mission. And by offering service-learning courses to our undergraduate students, we ensure that we instill that same commitment to global citizenship in the next generation of leaders.

The map at the center of this magazine shows a mere sampling of our students' impact in Los Angeles, from public health to education to the arts. In recognition of our reach and effectiveness, UCLA was awarded the Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement Classification for the second time, a distinction few research universities can claim.

We dedicate this honor, and this issue, to our hometown. Only in Los Angeles could our students enjoy such rich and varied opportunities to learn the value of service, community and partnership.

Sincerely,

**Joseph Rudnick**  
Senior Dean, UCLA College  
Dean of Physical Sciences

**Alessandro Duranti**  
Dean of Social Sciences

**David Schaberg**  
Dean of Humanities

**Victoria Sork**  
Dean of Life Sciences

**Patricia Turner**  
Dean and Vice Provost for  
Undergraduate Education



Left to right: Joseph Rudnick, Patricia Turner, David Schaberg, Alessandro Duranti and Victoria Sork



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## UCLA College

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Regents UC 2015

## UCLA Tops the Rankings; Faculty and Students Honored

### REGARDLESS OF THE METHODOLOGY, UCLA CONTINUES TO PERFORM WELL IN A WIDE VARIETY OF RANKINGS.

A dozen graduate programs housed in the UCLA College were ranked among the nation's top 20 in their fields, according to a *U.S. News & World Report* survey for the *Best Graduate Schools 2016* guidebook. Programs recognized were clinical psychology (1), psychology (2), math (7), history (9), sociology (9), English (10), political science (10), earth sciences (13), chemistry (15), economics (15), physics (18) and biological sciences (19).

ranked No. 5 in *Kiplinger Personal Finance's* list of *Best Values in Public Colleges*. The report takes into consideration admission and retention rates, student-faculty ratio and four-year graduation rate, as well as tuition, financial aid and student debt at graduation. Kiplinger noted that 83 percent of UCLA's student financial aid needs are met, and that the average cost for in-state students, once need-based aid is included, is \$8,510.

### College scholars named Guggenheim Fellows

Three UCLA College faculty members are among a distinguished group of 175 scholars, artists and scientists from the U.S. and Canada to receive 2015 Guggenheim Fellowships. UCLA has the most 2015 Guggenheim Fellows of any higher education institution in California.

Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry **Paula Diaconescu's** Guggenheim project will focus on redox switchable catalysis. This new area of chemistry is inspired by nature's sensory processes and uses external agents as switches in order to control the catalytic activity of multiple species with different reactivity.

History professor **Sarah Abrevaya Stein** will work on a book tracing the intertwined histories of four generations of a single Sephardic family and the dramatic ruptures that transformed southeastern Europe and the Judeo-Spanish diaspora over the course of the 20th century. **Brenda E. Stevenson**, a history professor specializing in African American history, will work on *Fanny's World of Women: Generations of Enslaved Black Women in North America*, a book focused on the lives of slave women in the U.S. from colonial times through the antebellum era.

Rankings are based on experts' opinions and on statistics measuring the quality of the schools' faculty, research and students. *U.S. News's* most recent *Best Colleges* rankings placed UCLA second among public universities in the nation and 23rd overall.

Internationally, London's *Times Higher Education* also ranked the campus No. 2 among all U.S. public universities in the *World Reputation Rankings*, which assesses the international prestige of institutions of higher learning. Among all universities, public and private, UCLA placed No. 13.

For the second consecutive year, UCLA

### Three professors elected to the National Academy of Sciences

Three professors in the UCLA College were elected to the National Academy of Sciences in recognition of their "distinguished and continuing achievements in original research." UCLA is tied for sixth in the U.S. in the number of faculty elected. Membership in the academy is one of the highest honors a U.S. scientist can receive.

**James C. Liao**, a professor of chemistry and biochemistry, researches the fundamental scientific principles of synthetic biology and metabolism, then uses that knowledge to solve problems in the production of fuels and chemicals and in the treatment of metabolic diseases.

**Glen MacDonald**, UCLA's John Muir Memorial Endowed Chair in Geography, is an international authority on climate change, its causes and its environmental and societal impacts. He is a member and the former director of the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability.

**Jeff F. Miller**, the Fred Kavli Chair in NanoSystems Sciences and a professor of microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics and director of the California NanoSystems Institute at UCLA, is a leader in the genetics of bacterial pathogens.

### Three College faculty elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Three professors in the UCLA College have been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Drawn from the sciences, the arts and humanities, business, public affairs and the nonprofit sector, the academy's 181 new fellows and 16 foreign honorary members are leaders in their fields and include recipients of the Nobel Prize; the Pulitzer Prize; MacArthur and Guggenheim fellowships; and Grammy, Emmy, Oscar and Tony awards.

**Ivan T. Berend**, distinguished professor of history, is a native of Hungary and a former president of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The author of more than 30 books, Berend specializes in European economic history from the 19th century to the present.

**Michael Mann**, distinguished professor of sociology, writes and teaches about

the exercise of power in human societies. He is the author of 10 books, including a monumental, four-volume history of political systems and social and political control that synthesizes thousands of years of history and political developments.

**Gregory R. Schopen**, a professor of Asian languages and culture, is an authority on Indian Buddhist monastic life and the early history of the Mahāyāna tradition of Buddhism, which is the most widely practiced form of Buddhism today. In 1985, he received a MacArthur grant for his work.

### Student named national Goldwater Scholar

UCLA sophomore **Brandon Pham** has been named a Goldwater Scholar, a national honor bestowed on exceptional undergraduates with outstanding potential to become future leaders in scientific research. As a UCLA Undergraduate Research Fellow and Scholar, Pham has been studying the chromosomal causes of gender differences in autoimmune diseases under the guidance of Dr. Ram Singh. He is also a Peer Learning Facilitator (Tutor) for the UCLA Academic Advancement Program that supports low-income and first-generation college students, often from immigrant families. He was an intern at the nonprofit Hands for Africa, which focuses on providing prosthetic limbs for those injured in the South African blood-diamond wars.

Nominations for the award are handled by the UCLA Honors Program.



Brandon Pham

## UCLA Opens New Staglin Family Music Festival Center for Brain and Behavioral Health

### GIFT FROM STAGLIN FAMILY FUNDS RESEARCH ON RETURNING UNHEALTHY BRAINS TO HEALTH

More than 30 percent of Americans will experience an anxiety disorder at some time in their lives. A new research center at UCLA will be dedicated to increasing our understanding of the brain and learning how to help the brain recover when those, and other malfunctions, occur.

The new Staglin Family Music Festival Center for Brain and Behavioral Health will be led by Michael Fanselow, a distinguished professor of psychology in the UCLA College.

"The center will focus on brain health and will develop novel methods to get the unhealthy brain back to the healthy state," said Fanselow, who also holds a UCLA faculty appointment in psychiatry. Fanselow was appointed to the Staglin Family Chair in Psychology.

"We are delighted to have such a prominent scientist assume our Staglin Family Chair and the leadership of the Staglin Center," Shari Staglin said.

Garen Staglin said, "UCLA is among the leading institutions studying brain health, and we applaud its approach to campuswide collaborations to accelerate the science of the brain and resultant treatments."

Psychology and psychiatry professor Michelle Craske, an expert on fear and anxiety disorders, will be associate director of the center, which is being funded by the family of Shari and Garen Staglin through the Staglin Family Music Festival for Brain Health and their philanthropic organization, the International Mental Health Research Organization.

The center will also provide seed money to interdisciplinary teams of scholars to advance understanding of many areas in brain health, ranging from depression to memory loss to schizophrenia.

### Dedicated philanthropists

"UCLA and the UCLA College are extremely grateful to Shari and Garen Staglin and their family for their extremely deep and long-standing commitment to fighting mental illness, and for their generosity over many years to UCLA and the College," UCLA Life Sciences Dean Victoria Sork said.

Garen Staglin, a UCLA alumnus and private equity investor, is co-chair of the \$4.2 billion Centennial Campaign for UCLA. His wife, Shari, a UCLA alumna, has been a director of the UCLA Foundation and a member of UCLA's Women and Philanthropy. The Staglins own the acclaimed Staglin Family Vineyard in Napa Valley. Shari Staglin is the vineyard's CEO and the Staglins' daughter, Shannon, also a UCLA alumna, is president.

The Staglins became active in supporting mental health research and treatment after their son, Brandon, was diagnosed with schizophrenia. Brandon has since graduated with honors from Dartmouth and is currently marketing communications director for both the Staglin Family Vineyard and IMHRO. He also is a member of the joint board of directors of IMHRO and One Mind.

The Staglins raise funds for brain health charities and research through a variety of major events including The Music Festival for Brain Health. All of the music festival's expenses are underwritten by its sponsors, and all proceeds go to scientific research. They also serve as founders and board members of One Mind, of which Garen is co-chairman.



Shari and Garen Staglin



UCLA Ph.D. candidate Bryan Kirschen teaches a class in Judeo-Spanish, otherwise known as Ladino, at L.A.'s Skirball Cultural Center. Photo: Christelle Nahas

## UCLA Grad Student Is Committed to Saving Ladino Language from Extinction

Bryan Kirschen, a Ph.D. Candidate in Spanish Linguistics, Has an International Reputation

**AS UCLA GRADUATE STUDENT BRYAN KIRSCHEN TRIED TO START HIS WEEKLY CLASS IN JUDEO-SPANISH AT THE SKIRBALL CULTURAL CENTER IN LOS ANGELES, HIS UNRULY STUDENTS, ALL IN THEIR GOLDEN YEARS, WERE GETTING OUT OF HAND, VYING FOR HIS ATTENTION.**

By Meg Sullivan

In their excitement about the subject of his class, one student urged him to copy a CD of songs in Judeo-Spanish, also known as Ladino, a language that Spain's Jews took with them when they were expelled during the Inquisition. Another wanted him to look over her family's 19th century Torah, half of which is written in Hebrew, the other half in Ladino. A third student tried to get him to admire her heirloom scarf.

Meanwhile, two other students had already left the class to chat in the hallway because they had just discovered they were distantly related.

"They just get so excited that keeping

control can be a challenge," Kirschen later acknowledged about his Ladino class that consists mostly of retired Sephardic Jews.

The Ph.D. candidate in Spanish linguistics has only himself to blame. In his five years at UCLA, Kirschen has developed an international reputation as a tireless advocate for the endangered language that is often described as the Spanish equivalent of Yiddish.

### Bringing life to an endangered language

Through research, conferences and classes both on and off campus, Kirschen is rekindling passion for this spicy linguistics

brew of 15th century Spanish, Hebrew, Greek, Turkish and Arabic. And he's winning over not just Jews to Ladino, but a Presbyterian, a Mormon and an astrophysicist who was raised Catholic, all students in his weekly class at UCLA.

"He's attracting people from everywhere," said Claudia Parodi, Kirschen's dissertation adviser and a UCLA professor of Spanish.

Most of the activities around Ladino are sponsored by uCLADINO, a student-run organization that Kirschen co-founded five years ago.

Under his direction, the group hosts an annual conference on campus. The uCLADINO Judeo-Spanish Symposium is believed to be the only ongoing scholarly conference dedicated to Ladino in the U.S. First held four years ago, the event has grown from a one- to a two-day affair, and attendance has tripled, drawing Ladino experts from all over the world as well as community members — most in their 70s and 80s — who grew up speaking the language or hearing their "nonas" or "papus" doing so.

"Fifty years ago nobody would've imagined that Ladino would have a second life," said Rachel Bortnick, a retired teacher of English as a second language in Dallas. She runs a 16-year-old Yahoo group for Ladino speakers. "The conference gives me hope that it's possible."

A highlight this year will be the Southern California premiere of a documentary that Kirschen recently completed with independent scholar Susanna Zaraysky. *Saved by Language* tells the story of a Bosnian man whose life was saved on two occasions during World War II because he was able to speak Ladino and make himself understood by both an Italian and a Spanish speaker. Ladino is close to both languages.

### International recognition

Kirschen's stature in the Ladino community has risen to the point where, in 2013 and 2014, the world's leading governmental body for Ladino — the Israeli National Authority for Ladino and its Culture — invited him to record remarks in Ladino for a celebration of the annual International

Day of Ladino, first observed in 2013. He provided similar remarks for a celebration at the largest synagogue in Istanbul, long a leading center of Ladino culture.

"Everybody in the Ladino field knows Bryan," said Bortnick, whose Yahoo group has more than 1,450 followers from 40 countries. "Sephardic people see him as a representative of the future of the language."

### The importance of preservation

At stake, Kirschen maintains, is an important key to the history and memory of a people who suffered genocides, persecution and pressures to assimilate.

"When a language vanishes, a culture loses a part of itself," he said.

Scholars stop being able to read documents that offer insight into former ways of life and historical events; clues to the evolution of languages also get lost, he pointed out. Community members, meanwhile, lose a lifeline to important memories.

In Kirschen's Skirball class, an 84-year-old immigrant from Turkey dabbed his eyes when the teacher played recordings of old Ladino songs.

"I hear songs that my mother used to sing to me when I was a baby," Eliahu Adut said.

### A language with many roots

When spoken, Ladino sounds a lot like Spanish. Differences become more apparent in writing. In Spanish, for instance, the letter "k" is rarely used, but in Ladino, it's ubiquitous, substituting for "qu" — as in "Adios Kerida," a song whose title translates as "Adios Querida" in Spanish or "Goodbye Love." Another letter "k" replaces "c," as in the Hanukkah chestnut "Ocho Kandelikas" ("Eight Candles").

Much of Ladino's vocabulary comes from Hebrew or languages spoken in the countries where Sephardic Jews sought refuge: Greek, Arabic and Turkish.

Kirschen is Jewish, but he is not Sephardic. His family is Ashkenazi, which is the Eastern European strain of Judaism. His interest in languages piqued when

he attended after-school Hebrew school while growing up in Queens. In high school, he studied Spanish and ancient Greek; in college, he added Spanish, Arabic, Italian, Hebrew and Portuguese. However, when Kirschen learned in graduate school of the existence of Ladino, which basically melds all those languages, he was off and running.

In the U.S., Ladino speakers are concentrated in New York, Southern California and Seattle. Kirschen, who is writing his dissertation on the subject, estimates there are no more than 100 Ladino speakers in Southern California and possibly twice that number in greater New York and Seattle. But the latest U.S. Census is more conservative: It puts the population at 125 speakers nationwide. UNESCO, meanwhile, classifies Ladino as a severely endangered language.

Kirschen's colleagues insist that if anybody can revive it, he can. Halfway through their 300-page Ladino textbook, students in his weekly UCLA class might agree as they read aloud a story in Ladino, translated it into English and then conversed with one another in the language.

"If it weren't for Bryan," said Cheri Robinson, a UCLA Ph.D. candidate in Spanish taking his class, "I don't think we'd be here."

### Learn more:

Find audio clips of Kirschen speaking Ladino, and a trailer for the *Saved by Language* documentary at <http://ucla.in/1N0guAB>.



An 1873 Torah written in Ladino or Judeo-Spanish and Hebrew. Photo: Christelle Nahas

# New Research Center to Focus on Big Data in Biosciences and Health Care

*Institute for Quantitative and Computational Biosciences  
Will Advance Basic and Applied Biomedical Sciences*

**A NEW RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT UCLA WILL EVENTUALLY PROVIDE DOCTORS WITH PREDICTIVE TOOLS TO MORE ACCURATELY TAILOR THERAPIES TO PATIENTS TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE AND MINIMIZE SIDE EFFECTS.**

By Stuart Wolpert

With a large-scale, multidisciplinary effort, UCLA's new Institute for Quantitative and Computational Biosciences will study how molecules and genes interact and aim to unlock the biological basis of health and disease by tapping the power of big data and computational modeling.

"UCLA's Institute for Quantitative and Computational Biosciences will have a major, positive impact on human health," UCLA Chancellor Gene Block said. "It will engage exceptional faculty from the life sciences, physical sciences, our David Geffen School of Medicine, and Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science to ensure that UCLA is at the forefront of research that will help usher in a new era of personalized health care, and to transform research and education in the biosciences."

The research institute is led by Alexander Hoffmann, professor of microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics in the UCLA College, whose research aims to understand and decode the language of the cell.

Hoffmann studies how our genes interact to ensure health or produce disease — and the roles played by such factors as food, environmental stresses, infectious agents and pharmaceuticals. "Biology's million-dollar question," he said, is how genes and environment interact to ensure health or cause disease.

As UCLA researchers work to answer that question, they will be aided enormously by mathematical modeling that will help them make sense of a tsunami of biological data.

"Biology is entering a new phase; so far much of biology has been the only science

that has not been math-based," Hoffmann said. "Since the sequencing of the human genome, there is an irreversible change in the way biology and biomedical research are being done. At UCLA, we will lead research in that direction, and connect basic and applied sciences in an unprecedentedly productive collaboration."

Victoria Sork, dean of the UCLA Division of Life Sciences, describes the approach as the "new life sciences" and said it will "accelerate discovery and translational application" in many areas, including medicine, the environment, energy and food production and safety.

"Technological breakthroughs are enabling scientists to analyze not only one gene at a time, but how hundreds or thousands of genes work together," Sork said. "Combined with big data, new knowledge of critical gene networks will lead us to a better understanding of what makes humans healthy."

## The road to personalized health care and 'precision medicine'

"We are likely to see significant change in health care in the coming years as genetic data for individuals become more widely available," said Dr. A. Eugene Washington, vice chancellor of UCLA Health Sciences and dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. The new era of



Steven Dubinett

personalized medicine is expected to improve health care quality and, in some cases, reduce cost, Washington said, because health providers will have better knowledge about particular patients based on their genetics.

Big data has already begun to transform health care. In the past, doctors treating patients with a certain disease might have relied solely on their own or their colleagues' experience. Now, instead of relying on a small number of case studies, physicians are able to turn to mountains of data — potentially millions of similar cases — to guide their approach.

"We haven't yet begun to fully tap into the knowledge we have about how we have treated millions of patients," said Dr. Steven Dubinett, director of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute, senior associate dean for translational research and associate vice chancellor for research. "Now, with the rise of big data, we have the capability to utilize a network of brains in a highly sophisticated manner so that all our experience at UCLA, in the University of California system and in the University of California Research eXchange's nine hospitals and hundreds of outpatient sites owned by the five UC medical centers with which we share data will be able to be brought to bear on patient treatment in a way that was not possible before."

The result may be not only personalized health care, but an era in which positive health outcomes for patients can be predicted — "precision medicine," Dubinett said.

The move to big data in life sciences and biomedical research is dramatically changing the skill sets required for researchers. Increasingly, backgrounds in mathematics, computer science and physics will be highly sought after. Already, UCLA is planning new training programs that will link computational scientists with



Alexander Hoffmann and his colleagues will collaborate with mathematicians to make sense of a tsunami of biological data. Photo: Reed Hutchinson

clinicians so they can learn to work with large sets of data and apply the insights they gain to patient treatment.

In addition, UCLA has established a doctoral program in bioinformatics, and the Clinical and Translational Science Institute, in which UCLA is one of four partner institutions, is at the forefront of utilizing big data in clinical care—including developing new pharmaceuticals and bringing important new discoveries into the community.

Much of the data UCLA faculty will work with will come from the University of California Research eXchange, which manages an extremely large repository of clinical data — more than 12 million patient records. Dubinett said UCRex is in the process of adding millions more records through partnerships with other Los Angeles medical institutions and, eventually, other academic medical centers in California and throughout the U.S. (Patients' identities are not released to researchers.)

Dubinett said sophisticated analysis of more data will lead to personalized medicine, enabling doctors to customize treatment for different patients, even if they have the same disease. UCLA will

be a national leader in this revolution in personalized health care, he said.

To strengthen the quantitative and computational biosciences effort, UCLA has hired nine new faculty members during the past four years and plans to hire additional faculty in the next several years. Among the new hires was Leonid Kruglyak, who came to UCLA from Princeton University in July 2013. Kruglyak uses big data in his genetics research and, according to Sork, is a "brilliant superstar of the highest stature." UCLA has also hired young faculty members who, Sork said, are at the cutting edge of computational biology.

## From individual genes to entire ecologies

Institute co-director Matteo Pellegrini said the move to big data will enable scientists to significantly broaden the scope of their research.

"We're going from a paradigm where scientists studied individual genes to one in which they will study organisms and even entire ecologies — sequencing the genomes of communities of organisms and understanding how they interact," said Pellegrini, professor of molecular, cell and

developmental biology in the College.

Because cancer and immune disorders are caused by errors in cellular decision making, they are among the diseases for which Hoffmann's research may lead to significant progress. Currently, many pharmaceuticals that fight inflammation have intolerably severe side effects.

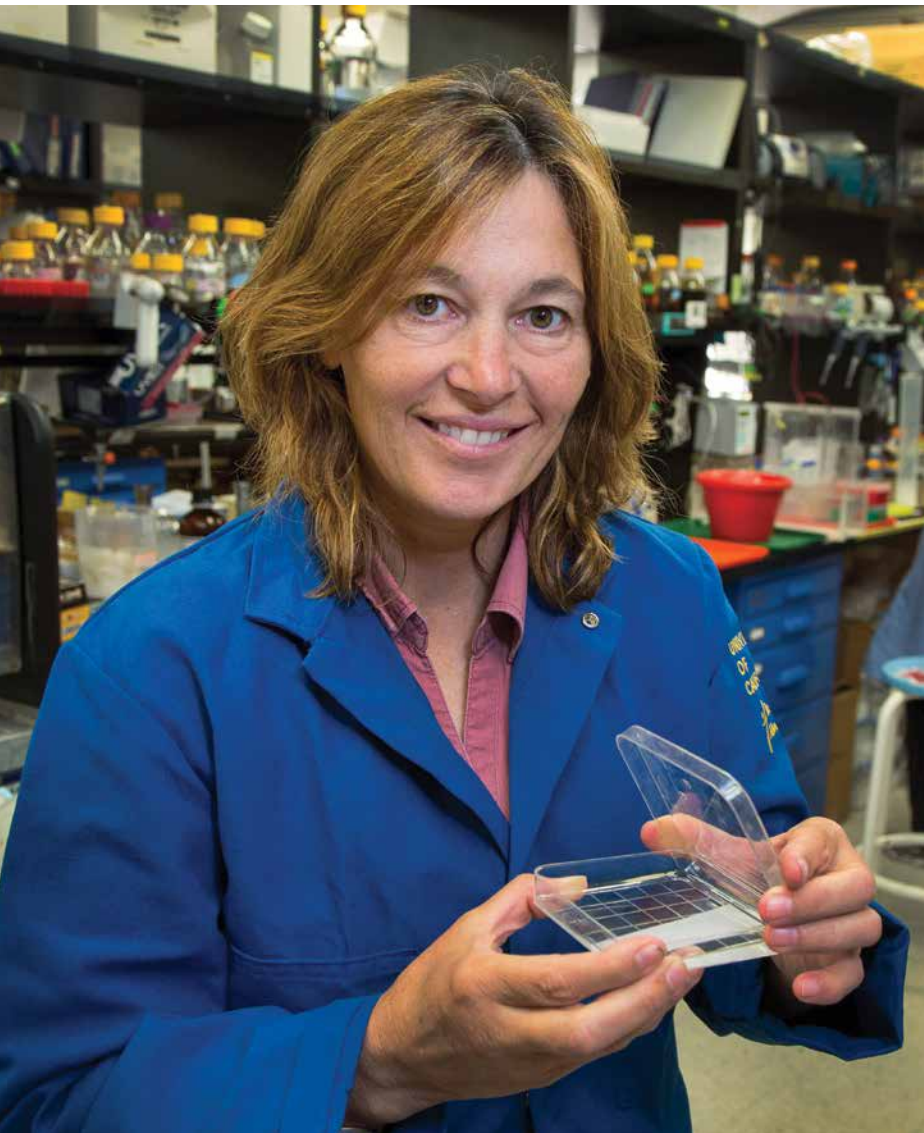
"Instead of blanket inhibition, we need to develop pharmaceuticals that correct the miscommunication in cells," Hoffmann said. "Big data and mathematical modeling give us the tools to understand disease as never before. In the past, the challenge in the biological sciences was to generate data. Now, the challenge is how to make sense of a tsunami of scientific data, to discover the critical patterns and to tell the signal from the noise. The opportunities to develop accurate predictions are unprecedented."

## Learn more:

Watch a video about the new center at <https://youtu.be/oNp7zIde69E>.

# Biochemists Solve ‘Address Problem’ in Cells That Leads to Lethal Kidney Disease

UCLA RESEARCHERS DISCOVER THAT RARE DISORDER IS CAUSED WHEN ENZYME GOES TO THE WRONG LOCATION IN CELL



UCLA professor Carla Koehler in her laboratory. Photo: Reed Hutchinson

**RESEARCH PUBLISHED BY UCLA BIOCHEMISTS MAY LEAD TO A NEW TREATMENT, OR EVEN A CURE, FOR A RARE, GENETIC KIDNEY DISEASE THAT AFFLICTS CHILDREN, AND MAY PROVIDE IMPORTANT INSIGHTS INTO TREATMENTS FOR PARKINSON’S DISEASE, ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE AND OTHER DEGENERATIVE DISEASES.**

By Stuart Wolpert and Shaun Mason

Carla Koehler, a UCLA professor of chemistry and biochemistry, and colleagues report in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS) that they have identified a small, FDA-approved compound called DECA that can prevent a metabolic enzyme, AGT, from going to the wrong cellular address, thereby preventing the rare, lethal disease known as PH1.

In humans, AGT is supposed to go to an organelle inside the cell called the peroxisome, but for people with a particular mutation, the enzyme mistakenly goes instead to the mitochondria — tiny power generators in cells that burn food and produce most of the cells’ energy—resulting in PH1.

Koehler’s research team demonstrated that adding small amounts of DECA (dequalinium chloride) to a cell prevents AGT from going to the mitochondria and sends it to its proper destination, the peroxisome. (They added DECA to cells in a petri dish.)

“In many mutations that cause diseases, the enzyme doesn’t work,” Koehler said, “but in PH1 the enzyme does work, but goes to the wrong part of the cell. We wanted to use this compound (DECA) in a cell model to block AGT from going to the wrong address and send it back to the right address.”

How often did it work?

“All the time,” said Koehler, a member of UCLA’s Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, Molecular Biology Institute and Brain Research Institute. “DECA blocks the mitochondria mailbox and takes it to the peroxisome address instead.”

For people with the mutation, the correct peroxisome address is present in AGT (alanine:glyoxylate aminotransferase), but is ignored because it is accompanied by the address of the mitochondria, which the cell reads first, Koehler said.

Similar “wrong address” issues may be implicated in many diseases, including cancer and brain diseases, Koehler said. Her laboratory has identified approximately 100 other small molecules, which Koehler calls MitoBloCKs, and is testing these compounds for their ability to combat Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s and other diseases.

To treat diseases, scientists have to understand how proteins like AGT move inside the cell, said Koehler, a faculty member in the UCLA College and a member of the scientific and medical advisory board of the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation. She hopes to find out whether a similar “correct address” strategy can slow cancer down.

PH1 (whose full name is primary hyperoxaluria 1) starts at birth and is usually fatal if patients do not receive both kidney and liver transplants. Approximately half of PH1 patients have kidney failure by age 15. Koehler has presented her research findings to the Oxalosis and Hyperoxaluria Foundation, which provides support for patients with this disease and their families.

Life scientists have been identifying more genetic mutations in recent years because of technological advances in genomics, making it easier to diagnose rare diseases, Koehler said.

Koehler conducts research in biochemistry, genetics and cell biology to study how mitochondria are assembled and function, how proteins enter the mitochondria and reach the right location inside, and how mitochondria communicate with the rest of the cell. Her laboratory uses model systems in which researchers can study the biochemistry in a way that is not possible with humans.

Much of her research is conducted in yeast. “It’s exciting to show our studies in baker’s yeast, a typical laboratory model, might be able to help kids with a complicated disease,” Koehler said.

**Method makes it easier to separate useful stem cells from ‘problem’ ones for therapies**

The new research builds on Koehler’s and UCLA Professor of Pathology and Pediatrics Dr. Michael Teitell’s 2013 discovery, as part of their work as members of the Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine

and Stem Cell Research at UCLA, of the new molecule called MitoBloCK-6.

Pluripotent stem cells can turn, or differentiate, into any cell type in the body, such as nerve, muscle or bone, but inevitably some of these stem cells fail to differentiate and end up mixed in with their newly differentiated daughter cells.

Because these remaining pluripotent stem cells can subsequently develop into unintended cell types — bone cells among blood, for instance — or form tumors known as teratomas, identifying and separating them from their differentiated progeny is of utmost importance in keeping stem cell-based therapeutics safe.

Koehler and Teitell discovered that MitoBloCK-6 may be useful in strategies to remove these cells. Their research was in the journal *Developmental Cell*.

Using baker’s yeast as a model system, Koehler, Teitell and their colleagues discovered that MitoBloCK-6 inhibits the assembly of cells’ mitochondria. The research team then tested the molecule in a more complex model organism, the zebrafish, and demonstrated that MitoBloCK-6 blocked cardiac development.

However, when the scientists introduced MitoBloCK-6 to differentiated cell lines, which are typically cultured in the lab, they found that the molecule had no effect at all. UCLA postdoctoral fellow Deepa Dabir tested the compound on many differentiated lines, but the results were always the same: The cells remained healthy.

“I was puzzled by this result, because we thought this pathway was essential for all cells, regardless of differentiation state,” Koehler said.

The team then decided to test MitoBloCK-6 on human pluripotent stem cells. Postdoctoral fellow Kiyoko Setoguchi showed that MitoBloCK-6 caused the pluripotent stem cells to die by triggering apoptosis, a process of programmed cell suicide.

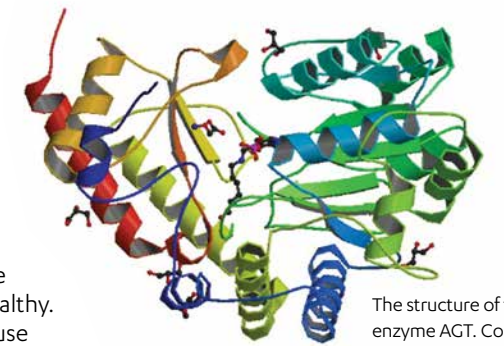
Because the tissue-specific daughter cells became resistant to death shortly after their differentiation, the destruction of the pluripotent stem cells left a population of only the differentiated cells. Why this happens is still unclear, but the researchers said that this ability to separate the two cell

populations could potentially reduce the risk of teratomas and other problems in regenerative medicine treatment strategies.

MitoBloCK-6 is what is known as a “small molecule,” which can easily cross cell membranes to reach mitochondria. This quality makes MitoBloCK-6 — or a derivative compound with similar properties — ideal for potential use as a drug, because it can function in many cell types and species and can alter the function of mitochondria in the body for therapeutic effects.

“It is exciting that our research in the one-cell model baker’s yeast yielded an agent for investigating and controlling mitochondrial function in human pluripotent stem cells,” Koehler said. “This illustrates that mitochondrial function is highly conserved across organisms and confirms that focused studies in model systems provide insight into human stem-cell biology.”

This research was supported by the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, the National Institutes of Health,



The structure of the enzyme AGT. Courtesy of study authors

the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation, and the Development and Promotion of Science and Technology Talents Project of the Royal Thai Government.

The lead author of the PNAS research is Non Miyata, a former UCLA postdoctoral fellow in Koehler’s laboratory. Co-authors include Christopher Danpure, an expert on PH1 and emeritus professor of molecular cell biology at University College London; and Sonia Fargue, a former researcher in Danpure’s laboratory.

# Heat Waves Becoming More Prominent in Urban Areas, Research Reveals

For past four decades, global warming has been amplified in cities, UCLA geographer warns

**THE FREQUENCY OF HEAT WAVES HAS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY OVER THE PAST 40 YEARS, AND THE TREND APPEARS TO BE GROWING FASTER IN URBAN AREAS THAN IN LESS-POPULATED AREAS AROUND THE WORLD, A NEW STUDY SUGGESTS.**

By Meg Sullivan

“Our findings suggest that urban areas are experiencing a kind of double whammy — a combination of general climatic warming combined with the heat island effect, wherein human activities and the built environment trap heat, preventing cities from cooling down as fast as rural areas,” said Dennis Lettenmaier, a co-author of the study and a UCLA geography professor. “Everything’s warming up, but the effect is amplified in urban areas.”

Lettenmaier and his co-authors studied 217 urban areas across the globe and found that prolonged periods of extreme heat increased significantly in 48 percent of them between 1973 and 2012.

The results, which were published in the journal *Environmental Research Letters*, show that about only 2 percent of those urban areas experienced a significant decline in heat waves. And the change was more dramatic at night: Almost two-thirds of the urban areas showed significant increases in the frequency of extremely hot nights.

## Heat island effect

“The fact that the trend was so much stronger at night underscores the role of the heat island effect in urban areas,” Lettenmaier said. “You have heat being stored in buildings and in asphalt, concrete and other building materials, and they don’t cool down as quickly as they would outside of the urban area. This effect was likely exacerbated by decreasing wind in most



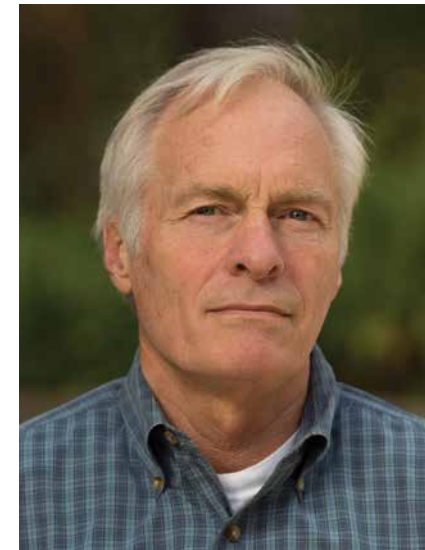
Prolonged periods of extreme heat increased significantly between 1973 and 2012 in almost half of the urban areas the researchers analyzed.

of the urban areas.”

The study is one of the first to focus solely on the extent of extreme weather in urban areas globally and to examine disparities between densely populated and less-densely populated areas.

Lettenmaier collaborated with researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, Northeastern University and the University of Washington. The team obtained daily observations for

rain, air temperature and wind speed from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The researchers identified about 650 urban areas with populations greater than 250,000 and then refined the list to the 217 locales based on the areas’ proximity to weather stations with complete weather records and NOAA data — most were located at airports close to urban areas. Although the researchers would have liked to have had more data



Dennis Lettenmaier

for urban areas in Africa, Lettenmaier said the report provides as close as possible to a representative sample of changing weather conditions in the world’s cities.

## Heat, wind and rain

For each of the locales in the study, the researchers identified extremes for temperature, precipitation and wind, calculated heat and cold waves, and pinpointed individual extremely hot days and nights.

The study defined heat waves as periods in which the daily maximum temperature was hotter than 99 percent of days for the four-decade period and in which those temperatures were sustained for a consecutive period of six or more days. (The median length of heat waves was eight days.) It found that the average number of heat waves per year increased by more than 50 percent during the period.

Of the five years with the largest number of heat waves, four were the most recent years for which data was available: 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. Urban areas in South America experienced the greatest increase in frequency of heat waves, followed in order by those in Africa, Europe, India and North America.

Researchers also found other striking examples of climate change within urban settings. Sixty percent experienced a significant decline in extreme windy days, 17 percent experienced a significant increase in daily precipitation extremes and 10 percent experienced a significant increase in maximum annual precipitation.

## Half the world’s population affected

“Urban areas make up a relatively small part of the global land area, but over half the world’s populations now live in them, so the trend is troublesome,” said lead author Vimal Mishra, an assistant professor of civil engineering at IIT Gandhinagar. “The combination of higher temperatures and lower wind in particular is not a good combination for human health and well-being. This should concern everyone.”

The increase in precipitation could damage cities’ infrastructure, which could also mean large economic losses, Mishra said.

Using a separate data set of 142 pairs of urban and nonurban areas, the researchers found that the frequency of heat waves grew 56 percent more quickly in urban settings than in surrounding areas that were less populated. Urban areas experienced 60 percent fewer extremely windy days than nonurban areas.

“In urban areas, buildings are disrupting the air flow, which affects not only the immediate area of buildings, but apparently the larger regional wind fields,” Lettenmaier said. “The reduction in wind may well be exacerbating the heat island effect.”

## PROFESSOR JOINS UCLA’S TEAM OF CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCHERS

One of the world’s preeminent experts on water resources, Lettenmaier joined UCLA’s geography department in November as a distinguished professor — the university’s highest rank. Actually a civil engineer by training, he complements the department’s growing team of researchers concerned with climate change and its impact on water resources worldwide. Someone who studies hydrology — or lakes, rivers, streams and reservoirs — he is particularly interested in hydrological change in the West as climate change progresses.

“His hire was a big coup for UCLA,” said Laurence C. Smith, the department’s chair.

Lettenmaier is the author or co-author of more than 300 articles for scholarly journals. He served as the first chief editor of the American Meteorological Society’s *Journal of Hydrometeorology* and is a past president of the Hydrology Section of the American Geophysical Union. He is a fellow of the three leading scholarly organizations: the American Geophysical Union, the American Meteorological Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Lettenmaier is particularly well known for developing a hydrological model used to monitor droughts by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He also is known for his work over several decades on the implications of climate change in the West, including the potential for reduced Colorado River stream flows.

In addition to the opportunity to work with the university’s wide range of research on water resources, Lettenmaier said he was attracted to UCLA by the prospect of helping find solutions to the state’s ongoing drought.

## UNDERGRADUATES ENGAGING IN LOS ANGELES

## UCLA Sign Language Students Fill Emotional Void on Holocaust for Deaf

**WHEN BENJAMIN LEWIS, UCLA'S ONLY DEAF FACULTY MEMBER, TOURED THE LOS ANGELES MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE IN 2013, HE COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THAT THE VISITORS ALL AROUND HIM SEEMED MESMERIZED AS THEY LISTENED INTENTLY TO SELF-GUIDED AUDIO RECORDINGS DESCRIBING THE HORROR OF THE HOLOCAUST.**

By Cynthia Lee

He saw visitors' shocked expressions and, in some cases, tears. But because all he was given as a deaf visitor was a thick textbook-like guide to read, Lewis felt that he wasn't experiencing everything the exhibits had to offer.

"All these emotions that others were feeling were not part of my experience," Lewis wrote in an email.

Thanks to a partnership Lewis forged with the museum last summer, deaf visitors will soon have access to iPads containing video content in sign language, leading them through the exhibit in a way that most have never experienced fully on this subject in their native language.

As an instructor in American Sign Language (ASL) at UCLA, Lewis first engaged some of his intermediate and advanced ASL students to help create the videos.

"Even though some of our exhibits are closed-captioned and have very powerful visuals," said Elana Samuels, the director for museum volunteer services who worked closely with Lewis and the students,

"auditory is an important way of teaching the history and experiencing the exhibits. So for visitors who are deaf or have hearing impediments, they are missing out on some very important information and emotion."

Lewis explained, "When it comes to accessibility, it's important to always focus on the fullest experience in order to understand this tragic history."

Making these videos for the deaf, a project that became part of students' final grade, turned out to be a moving experience in itself.

"This project was the most worthwhile thing I've done at UCLA," said student Mariam Janvelyan, a linguistics and psychology major. "It was such an amazing experience. And, yes, it was stressful and terrifying, but it was honestly the most fun I've had for a final, and the most accomplished and fulfilled I felt afterwards."

"I learned so much," Janvelyan said. "My segment, in particular, was one that made me cry when we actually walked through the exhibit. So my toughest challenge was making sure that deaf people got the same feelings and reactions that I did from hearing about the exhibit."

The added challenge for students, Lewis said, was to keep the somber tone for the ASL-using audience without becoming overly emotional in the translation process, which relies not just on signs, but facial expressions, eye movements and body language.

To prepare for the videos, students first took a tour of the exhibit led by Samuels. They then listened to the audio tour and wrote down the English "gloss" for translation into ASL. "Gloss," Lewis explained, is a linguistics term that refers to a transliteration of ASL's grammar structure and word order for the purposes of written text. So, for example, the ASL gloss for "I am going to the store" is written out for ASL translation as "Me store go-to."



American Sign Language students at UCLA at work transcribing an audio guide into gloss in preparation for signing. Photo: UCLA Today

"At first, it was very intimidating to think that we would be translating museum exhibits that the public could see," said student Eunice Liu, a linguistics major who had to translate the story of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, which was "both gut-wrenching and inspirational." The pressure, she said, came from knowing that her signing had to give the deaf visitor the same quality of information that a hearing person would get.

"This project was the perfect culmination to two years' worth of ASL classes because I had the chance to use what I've learned to create something entirely meaningful and new," Liu said.

In May of this year, to ensure full access and the best possible experience for visitors, it was decided to enlist the help of several deaf community members — all native speakers of ASL — who replaced the students as the signers for the iPad video program. Lewis' students will still be involved. They will translate their signs from ASL into English and provide subtitles for the videos. The updated video translation should be completed by late summer.

"The Museum of Tolerance is very committed to being accessible and comfortable for all visitors with special needs," Samuels said. "There are many other areas that would be enhanced by using this technology and having the interpretation easily accessible and available. It truly is a very unique and very worthy project."

**Learn more:**

See a sample video translation from Lewis' team at <https://youtu.be/0uWq4sdJoMY>.

## Carnegie Foundation Recognizes UCLA's High Level of Community Engagement

**EACH YEAR, UCLA STUDENTS, STAFF AND FACULTY PERFORM HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE. ABOUT 400 COMMUNITY-ENGAGED COURSES ARE OFFERED TO STUDENTS, AND UCLA'S COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS ARE TRANSFORMING LIVES AT HOME AND ABROAD. THOSE ARE SOME OF THE REASONS WHY THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING NAMED UCLA A RECIPIENT OF ITS 2015 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION.**

By Rebecca Kendall

In 2006 when this distinction for outstanding community-based curricula, outreach and partnerships was first awarded to universities, UCLA was the only UC campus among its inaugural recipients. This year, UC Davis and UC Merced also received this honor, which was given to a total of 240 American colleges and universities.

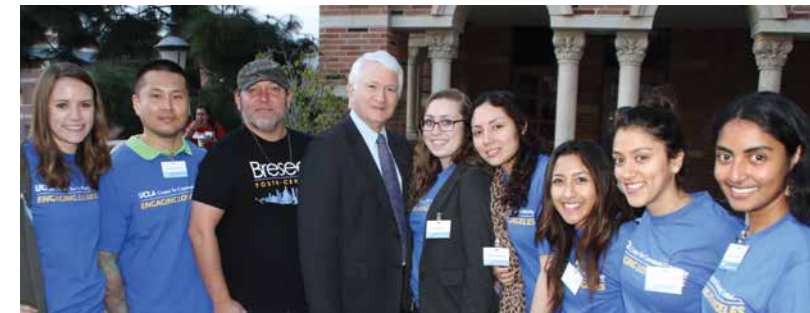
"This recognition reflects what has long been a priority at UCLA — partnering with the community to help address some of our most difficult issues and improve day-to-day life," said professor Patricia Turner, vice provost of undergraduate education in the UCLA College.

Turner chaired a group that prepared UCLA's application package. The campus data was submitted by the UCLA Center for Community Learning, which encourages civic engagement for undergraduates and faculty by finding innovative ways to integrate teaching, research and service alongside their community partners. The center also oversees 35 undergraduate classes that provide 1,500 students with community service learning each year, and hundreds of academic internships each year.

Among other things, the UCLA nomination highlighted UCLA's public scholarship efforts, its support for veterans, early academic outreach, and myriad health care and disease prevention programs provided to those at home and abroad.

It also detailed more than a dozen

community partnership programs, including Operation Mend, a UCLA Health program that provides plastic and reconstructive medical and mental health support to U.S. military personnel. Also highlighted were AMP!, an arts-based, peer-education program led by the UCLA Art and Global Health Center that teaches youth in Los Angeles schools about sexual health, and the National Dream Summer Internship Program, a partnership involving the UCLA Labor Center and the UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment that provides leadership development and work opportunities for undocumented students from across the nation.



Chancellor Gene Block and the UCLA community celebrate the Carnegie Foundation honor. Photo: UCLA Today

Unlike the foundation's other classifications that rely on national data, the Community Engagement Classification is "elective." That is, institutions participate voluntarily by submitting required materials describing the nature and extent of their engagement with the community, be it local or beyond. According to the Carnegie Foundation, this approach enables it to address elements of institutional mission and distinctiveness that are not represented in the national data on colleges and universities.



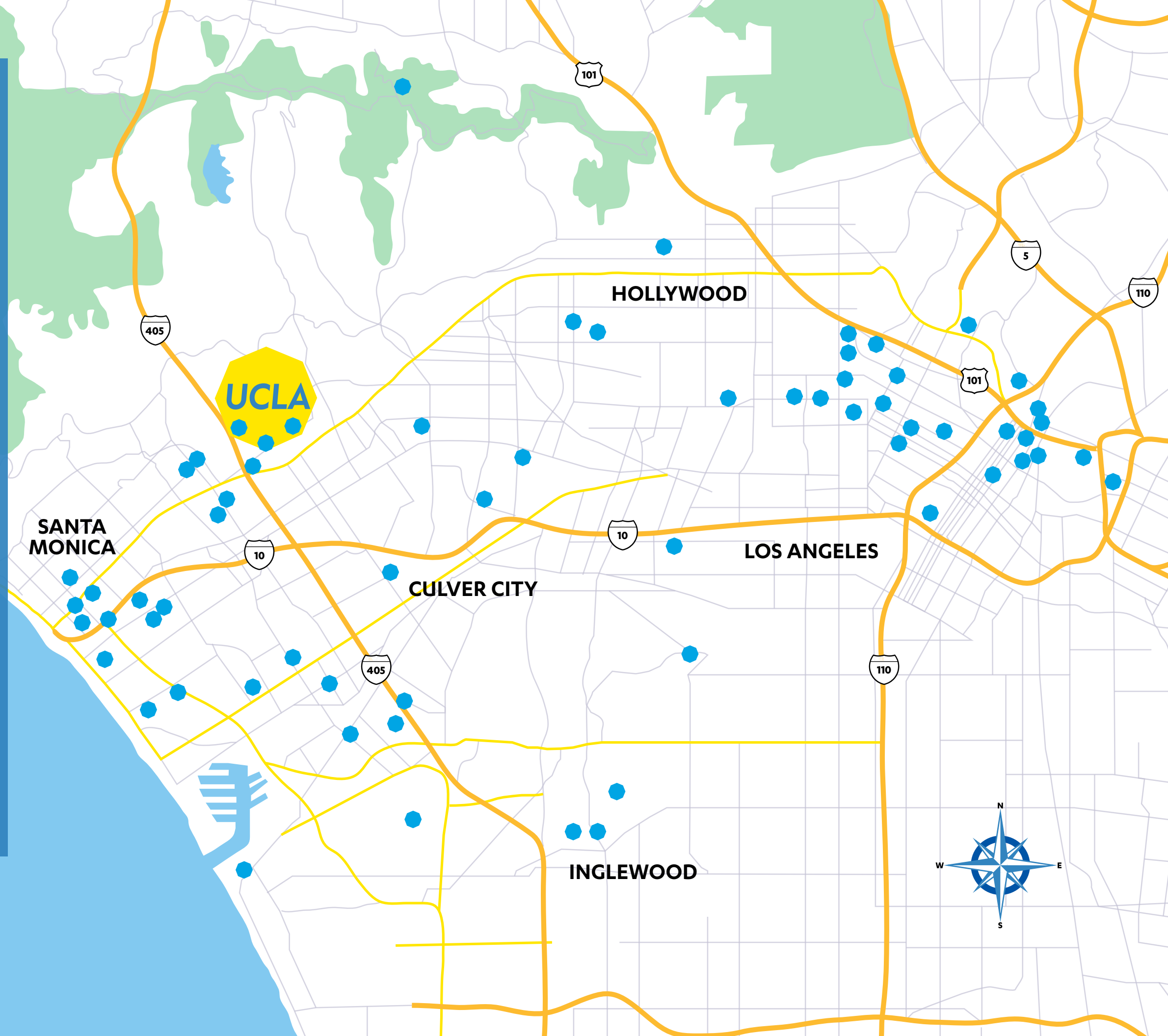
Benjamin Lewis, UCLA's instructor of American Sign Language, signs for his students as Elana Samuels of the Los Angeles Museum of Tolerance gives them a tour of an exhibit on the history of the Holocaust. Photo: UCLA Today



# ENGAGING LOS ANGELES

A Commitment to Service

In the 2014–15 academic year alone, approximately **700 undergraduate students** from across the UCLA College engaged with community partners as part of 10-week service learning courses and yearlong scholarship programs coordinated through the **Center for Community Learning**. Through these unique partnerships in fields ranging from public health to education, students provided **65,000 hours of service** in **75 sites** spread across **327 square miles**.



## \$5 Million Gift Will Ensure UCLA Center for Jewish Studies Remains Among the Best in U.S.

Donation from alumnus Alan Leve honors the legacy of his family

By Jean-Paul Renaud

**A \$5 MILLION GIFT FROM ALAN LEVE, A UCLA ALUMNUS AND THE FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF CULVER CITY, CALIF.-BASED OHMEGA TECHNOLOGIES, WILL ESTABLISH SEVERAL ENDOWMENTS AT THE UCLA COLLEGE'S CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES. LEVE SAID HE HOPES THE GIFT, WHICH WILL BENEFIT STUDENTS, FACULTY AND THE COMMUNITY, WILL HONOR HIS FAMILY'S LEGACY OF GIVING — ONE THAT STARTED WITH HIS LATE GRANDMOTHER, HINDA SCHONFELD.**



Alan Leve's gift will allow UCLA's Jewish studies center, which now bears his name, to expand its research and outreach into a community that helped shape Los Angeles.

Leve still vividly remembers the cold and rainy day in 1941 when he left the Breed Street Shul in Los Angeles' Boyle Heights neighborhood after attending his grandmother's funeral. He was amazed at the sight outside the car window: rows of mourners standing shoulder to shoulder for three city blocks on each side of the street, umbrellas over their heads, to pay their last respects.

"It's a memory indelibly etched in my mind," said Leve, now 87. "It was a revelation to me. My grandmother had no fame, no material assets of any value, but everyone gravitated to her because of her warmth and generosity of spirit. I realized then that who you are is more important than what you have."

His grandmother's legacy of generosity has lived on through her grandson. In recognition of his gift, the center, which is among the world's most prestigious Jewish studies centers, has been renamed the UCLA Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies.

"The Jewish presence in academic, social and cultural life on the UCLA campus is strong, and Alan Leve's generosity helps

to ensure its continued vitality," UCLA Chancellor Gene Block said. "We are proud of the role that the Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies and UCLA — through many other research centers, faculty members, students and public programming — play in the international, national and local dialogue about Judaism."

### Range of programs supported

Todd Presner, the Sady and Ludwig Kahn Director of the center, said, "Alan Leve's gift will enable us to launch a vibrant public history initiative, support undergraduate and graduate students working in all fields of Jewish studies, initiate programs supporting Jewish life on campus, attract international scholars to UCLA and provide vital research and teaching support to our faculty. This gift will secure UCLA's standing as a preeminent center for the study of Jewish history, culture and civilization."

The gift will be divided into several endowments.

The Alan D. Leve Endowment for Student Excellence will be used to fund graduate and undergraduate students engaged in fields related to Jewish studies at UCLA, including graduate fellowships, undergraduate awards, and stipends for student travel and summer research projects.

The Alan D. Leve Endowment for Teaching Innovation will support teaching and curricular innovation in Jewish studies. It also will establish the Etta and Milton Leve Scholar-in-Residence program, which will bring academics from across the world to UCLA and foster international collaborations.

The Alan D. Leve Endowment for Research Innovation will support faculty and graduate student research and provide travel and research grants and conference support.

Leve, who was born in Boyle Heights at a time when the neighborhood was the focal point of Jewish culture in Los Angeles, has also made sure that scholars won't forget that history, nor his grandmother's sense of community. A portion of the gift will establish the Hinda and Jacob Schonfeld Boyle Heights Collection, which, in collaboration with the UCLA Library, will include archival materials and artifacts related to the history of Boyle Heights.

Through the Schonfeld Boyle Heights Collection, the center also will establish a public history program that will include lectures, exhibitions, tours and courses addressing the history of Jewish Los Angeles.

### Delving into Los Angeles history

"My parents lived in Boyle Heights from the late 1920s to the mid-1930s and my grandparents from the late 1920s to their passing in the early 1940s, and they were members of the Breed Street Shul," said Leve, who counts 13 family members from three generations of his family as UCLA graduates: his daughter, Laura Leve Cohen, two nieces and their husbands, and eight cousins.

"We lived two blocks away on St. Louis Street, just south of Brooklyn Avenue, at a place and time when the majority of the

Jewish population of Los Angeles lived there," he said. "That period of Jewish presence in Boyle Heights is history now. I'm proud that the center plans to keep it alive through its commitment to programming around public history."

David Schaberg, dean of humanities, said that Leve's gift will allow the center to expand its research and outreach into a community that helped shape Los Angeles.

"The mission of the humanities is to explore the rich legacy of human creativity and thought," he said. "Alan's philanthropic leadership will allow us to study and teach Jewish history and culture in innovative ways so that our students graduate with the ability to thrive as global citizens."

Founded in 1994, the center is the leading research hub for the study of Jewish culture and civilization on the West Coast and one of the largest and most active centers in the world. It is dedicated to

advancing scholarship in Jewish culture and history, educating the next generation about the role of Judaism in world civilization and serving as an exceptional public resource for Jewish life and learning.

Leve, who still occasionally visits Boyle Heights to show relatives where the family roots began, can only imagine what his grandmother — whose dying words to her daughter were "give \$2 to the poor" — would have said about his generosity.

"We came from very modest means," he said. "I don't think my grandparents or my parents could've conceived of such a gift. For me, this gift fulfills a number of personal aspirations on many levels — supporting my alma mater, investing in education, honoring my Jewish heritage by investing in its future, honoring the memory of my parents and grandparents, and establishing an enduring family legacy."

## Gift from Top International Businessman Will Propel Japanese Studies at UCLA

By Jean-Paul Renaud

**A \$2.5 MILLION GIFT FROM TADASHI YANAI, THE CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF GLOBAL APPAREL RETAILER FAST RETAILING AND FOUNDER OF UNIQLO, WILL HELP TRANSFORM UCLA'S DEPARTMENT OF ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES INTO ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING CENTERS FOR THE STUDY OF JAPANESE LITERATURE AND CULTURE.**

The gift will create the Tadashi Yanai Initiative for Globalizing Japanese Humanities in the UCLA College's Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, establish long-term student and faculty exchanges, fund international symposia and workshops, and form a partnership with Waseda University, one of Japan's most prestigious universities.



Tadashi Yanai

"This visionary gift underscores the resurgence at UCLA of the study of Japanese culture, language and literature," said David Schaberg, dean of humanities. "Thanks to Mr. Yanai's generosity, not only will our students be able to

learn and do research alongside some of the world's leading scholars in Japanese studies, but UCLA is creating a fruitful partnership with Waseda University, one of Japan's best universities."

The gift, to be used over six years, will allow UCLA to host scholars and graduate students from Japan each year. UCLA, in turn, will send two graduate students to study at Waseda, one for a year-long fellowship and another for two months during the summer. It will also establish an annual international symposium and a workshop on Japanese literature and culture, both meant to attract the world's leading scholars to UCLA.

"I would like to express my sincere respect for the excellent academic performance related to the research into Japan at UCLA and Waseda University," said Yanai, one of Japan's leading businessmen. "I hope this project will help to spread Japanese culture and literature across the world, and attract more attention and enthusiasm. I am pleased that, in a small way, I am able to contribute to the development of Japanese studies overseas."

Yanai's gift coincides with recent high-profile additions to UCLA's Japanese studies faculty, which have reinvigorated interest in the subject and catapulted UCLA into a leading center of study and research in the field.

"Asia is where the future is taking shape, and this gift reminds us how vital the humanities will be in a globalizing world," said associate professor Michael Emmerich, who will lead the program. "This initiative and our partnership with Waseda will solidify UCLA's position as a global hub for the study of Japanese culture. But more than anything, I'm thrilled for our students, whose interest in Japan continues to grow."

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALAN LEVE

PHOTO COURTESY OF FAST RETAILING CO.

## UCLA Alumni and Longtime Supporters Establish an Endowed Chair in the College's Division of Social Sciences

By Margaret MacDonald

**MEYER LUSKIN '49 AND HIS WIFE, RENEE '53, AND RALPH SHAPIRO '53, J.D. '58 AND HIS WIFE, SHIRLEY '59, HAVE JOINTLY ESTABLISHED THE SCOTT WAUGH ENDOWED CHAIR IN THE DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, ONE OF THE FEW DIVISIONAL ENDOWED CHAIRS IN THE COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE.**



Scott Waugh

The honoree, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Scott Waugh, said, "That four such generous and loyal alumni as the Shapiros and the Luskins have chosen to honor me in this way is truly humbling. Their gift is especially meaningful because of the commitment it demonstrates to UCLA's academic excellence now and long into the future. Great faculty are essential to that excellence and endowed chairs help us attract and sustain the finest."

Endowed chairs continue to play an increasingly crucial role in the recruitment and retention of outstanding university faculty. The Waugh Chair will be awarded to a social sciences faculty member who will receive funds to support his or her research and teaching activities.

"The Luskins and the Shapiros have once again demonstrated their legendary generosity and unwavering support to UCLA," said Alessandro Duranti, dean of the Division of Social Sciences. "Named for a generous and visionary leader on this campus, the Waugh Chair will have a far-reaching impact, providing the much needed flexibility to address faculty support in a range of areas across the division."

### Honoring a longtime commitment to UCLA

Waugh first came to UCLA as a student, graduating summa cum laude in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in history. In 1975, after earning a Ph.D. from the University of London, he returned to UCLA to teach in the history department. He served as dean of the Division of Social Sciences for 14 years, and was appointed executive vice chancellor and provost in 2008. He has received honors, fellowships and grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Philosophical Society. He also received the UCLA Distinguished Teaching Award, the Harvey L. Eby Award for the Art of Teaching, the UC President's Fellowship in the Humanities,

and a UCLA Faculty Development Award.

Ralph Shapiro, chair of Avondale Investment Partners, said, "Scott Waugh embodies UCLA's commitment to excellence and service. We are delighted to be able to recognize his many years of tireless dedication to the university that gave us both a great education and a head start in our professional lives."

Meyer Luskin, president, CEO and chairman of Scope Industries, added, "It gives me enormous pleasure to join forces with Ralph in establishing this chair in honor of such a deserving individual, whose leadership has helped maintain UCLA's place among the greatest universities in the world."

Ralph Shapiro earned his bachelor's degree in business administration in 1953 and his J.D. in 1958, both from UCLA. He and his wife, Shirley '59, are the founders of the Shapiro Family Charitable Foundation. A prominent campus landmark, the Shirley and Ralph Shapiro Fountain at the top of Janss Steps, was named in recognition of the couple's longstanding commitment to the university.

Meyer Luskin credits a \$30 scholarship with allowing him to continue his UCLA studies, which were interrupted by his military service in World War II. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics in 1949, and his M.B.A. from Stanford. Luskin and his wife, Renee '53, have established several endowments at UCLA, one of which is the second largest gift ever received by the university. The Meyer and Renee Luskin School of Public Affairs and the Meyer and Renee Luskin Conference Center (due to open in 2016) are named in their honor.



Renee and Meyer Luskin



Shirley and Ralph Shapiro

LUSKINS PHOTO: REED HUTCHINSON

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## Unearthing the Secrets of the Past

Jo Anne Van Tilburg M.Ed. '76, Ph.D. '86

By Margaret MacDonald

**FOR EACH OF THE PAST 32 YEARS, ARCHAEOLOGIST JO ANNE VAN TILBURG HAS TRAVELED 4,000 MILES TO ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST REMOTE INHABITED ISLANDS IN A QUEST TO UNEARTH THE SECRETS OF THE MAJESTIC STONE STATUES THAT STOOD WATCH OVER ITS PEOPLE FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS. HER DESTINATION: RAPA NUI, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS EASTER ISLAND, IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN.**



Jo Anne Van Tilburg

Van Tilburg is founder and co-director of the Easter Island Statue Project (EISP), a close collaboration with the Rapa Nui islanders whose ancestors carved the stone giants. She is a research fellow at the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA, where she has also served as director of the Cotsen Rock Art Archive since 1997.

Her work on the rugged island, she said, has been "precious, rewarding and stimulating" since the moment she set foot there in 1982 as part of a volunteer survey team.

"It felt like a dream," she recalled. "I distinctly remember the blended aromas of salt, soil and wood smoke."

The surveys and excavations conducted by Van Tilburg and her dedicated all-Rapa Nui team continue to reveal important new insights about the statues, or *moai*, including their function and symbolic context within early Rapa Nui society. Nearly 1,000 statues have been documented to date. Roughly half were transported to ceremonial structures called *ahu*. Since some statues were almost 30 feet tall and weighed as much as 80 tons, this feat is considered one of the greatest megalithic achievements of Pacific prehistory.

The team uses state-of-the-art conservation techniques to counteract erosion caused by centuries of exposure to the elements. The massive monoliths have long captured the public's imagination, and Van Tilburg and the EISP have been featured frequently in the media.

In 2002, Van Tilburg co-founded the Mana Gallery on the island, which exhibits the work of local artists and sponsors EISP teaching, excavation and lecture programs. Van Tilburg's architect husband, Johannes, helped design the gallery. She said working with him and with island artists has helped her develop an enriched perspective that enhances her archaeological research.

Charles Stanish, director of the Cotsen Institute, said, "Jo Anne has accomplished something unique and very special on Easter Island. Her work has contributed tremendously to our knowledge of an ancient Polynesian culture. She has cultivated a true partnership with the islanders, and is training them to be stewards of their rich heritage for the benefit of future generations."

Van Tilburg was a teacher before becoming an archaeologist. Originally from Minnesota, she taught middle school students and children with special needs before earning her master's in education from UCLA in 1976. In the early 1980s, she volunteered for a local archaeological survey and was immediately drawn to the "diverse community and welcoming atmosphere" of the fledgling graduate archaeology



An excavation site on Rapa Nui

program (now the UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology).

Around that time, she realized that archaeology was what she'd been looking for, and was intrigued by its ability to bring the past into the present.

"It awakened something in me that had been deeply buried," she said.

Van Tilburg fully immersed herself in her newfound passion and subsequently earned her Ph.D. in the archaeology program in 1986.

More than three decades since her first encounter with the statues, Van Tilburg occasionally itches to do something different — perhaps write books about other topics (she is the author of *Among Stone Giants: The Life of Katherine Routledge* about another pioneering Easter Island scholar) — but she suspects the EISP team is close to an exciting discovery: an earlier quarry that could contain yet more artifacts.

"I know there's something else there," she said. "And I'd hate to miss out."

### Learn more:

Find out more about the Easter Island Statue Project at <http://www.eisp.org>.

For more information on the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA, please visit <http://www.ioa.ucla.edu>.

# THE JOURNEY BEGINS

In graduation ceremonies held all over campus in June, an accomplished group of alumni speakers shared encouragement and advice with the Class of 2015. Nathan Myhrvold B.A. '79, M.S. '79 gave the commencement address at the two main College ceremonies at Pauley Pavilion June 12.



**Nathan Myhrvold** B.A. '79, M.S. '79  
 UCLA College Ceremony  
 Pauley Pavilion

**“NATHAN EXEMPLIFIES THE UNBOUNDED SPIRIT OF A BRUIN.”**  
 — Joseph Rudnick, senior dean of the UCLA College  
 and dean of physical sciences

Nathan Myhrvold, an inventor, entrepreneur, author and UCLA alumnus, founded Intellectual Ventures in 2000 after retiring from his position as chief strategist and chief technology officer of Microsoft Corporation. Under his leadership, Intellectual Ventures manages one of the largest and fastest-growing intellectual property portfolios in the world, with more than 40,000 assets and \$6 billion in total committed capital from many of the world's most innovative companies and renowned academic and research institutions.

“Nathan’s career has been at the forefront of new ideas, technology and culture,” said Joseph Rudnick, senior dean of the UCLA College and dean of physical sciences. “He exemplifies the unbounded spirit of a Bruin.”

At UCLA, Myhrvold earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and a master’s in geophysics and space physics, both in 1979 at the age of 20. He later earned a doctorate in theoretical and mathematical physics and a master’s degree in mathematical economics from Princeton University. As a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of famed astrophysicist Stephen Hawking at University of Cambridge, he researched cosmology, quantum field theory in “curved spacetime” and quantum theories of gravitation.

Myhrvold left Cambridge to found a software company, and when Microsoft acquired the startup in 1986, he began a 14-year career that led to many of Microsoft’s most successful product launches and the founding of Microsoft Research.

Myhrvold has continued to pursue his lifelong interests in photography, cooking and food science as the co-author and publisher of the acclaimed five-volume 2,438-page cookbook *Modernist Cuisine: The Art and Science of Cooking*, as well as *Modernist Cuisine at Home* and *The Photography of Modernist Cuisine*.

**Trisha Cardoso '87**  
Sociology Commencement  
Wilson Plaza

**My UCLA education and degree in sociology have positively impacted and influenced virtually every step I have taken in life, both personally and professionally.**

Trisha Cardoso is executive vice president, corporate communications, of Showtime Networks, Inc. She serves as the company's chief press officer, responsible for all national and international corporate and business press outreach, and is the communications liaison with parent company CBS. She also oversees the development and implementation of national public relations campaigns for all Showtime programming including original series, documentaries, music specials, digital initiatives, comedy shows and sports.



Additionally, Cardoso is responsible for the company's talent relations, events, corporate branding, Emmy and Golden Globe award campaigns, and charitable initiatives. She also oversees public relations initiatives for the Smithsonian Channel.

Before joining Showtime, Cardoso established and led a strategic consulting firm, overseeing crisis communications as well as lifestyle and cause-related marketing for diverse industries including entertainment, fashion, philanthropy

and travel. Previously she was senior vice president of publicity and advertising for the Paramount Television Group.

A great believer in giving back to the community, Cardoso serves on the California board of UNICEF and on the board of the Chuck Lorre Family Foundation. She is also an active supporter of local charitable causes, including the Saban Free Clinic and One Voice. She resides in Los Angeles with her daughter.

**Laurie Duthie M.A. '02**  
Anthropology Commencement  
Dickson Court

**UCLA is unique for the culture of mentorship and interdisciplinary collaboration, which is why I chose to do my graduate studies there. It provided a community of professors with open doors, giving me the courage and foundation to apply my learning in a wide variety of environments. It's rare to find this intimacy and support in large and prestigious universities, and this is precisely what makes us special as Bruins going out into the world.**

Laurie Duthie is director of talent acquisition for Yahoo, Inc., and oversees recruitment for the firm's global product teams. She previously spent 18 years working in China, most recently with Apple and now Yahoo. Her career blends consulting, corporate and academic endeavors that connect East to West through building global leadership teams.

Duthie is passionate about connecting people across oceans and cultures, and about facilitating inclusive work cultures. She works with Yahoo's international teams and incoming "Yahoos" to promote this spirit of collaboration in the diverse cultural space of Silicon Valley.

Duthie's research focus is on Chinese business executives working for foreign multinational companies, and the link between global capitalism and sociocultural change. She has received numerous grants and fellowships including Fulbright-Hays, Wenner-Gren, and the Mellon Foundation, and was awarded the Eric R. Wolf Prize from



the Society for the Anthropology of Work.

While at UCLA, Duthie discovered the need for culturally focused consulting in the corporate space. Prior to her in-house corporate roles, she established a consultancy providing tailored solutions for HR topics including international team building, cross-cultural communication in the workplace, market segments in China, and a cultural boot camp for foreign CEOs new to China. Her clients included Gap, Paramount Parks, Starbucks and Unilever.

**Harvey Englander '72**  
Political Science Commencement  
Pauley Pavilion

**I was the first college graduate in my family, so having a degree from one of the world's best universities made me stand taller and walk with more purpose. My UCLA education provided me with a strong foundation and a sense of true accomplishment. Doors that otherwise might have been closed were opened for me, and my UCLA degree allowed me to walk through those doors with confidence and instant credibility.**

Harvey Englander has been at the epicenter of California's political and business life for more than 40 years. From advising elected officials to counseling CEOs, few have his depth of experience and record of achievement in government affairs. He is a

renowned authority on creating and running political campaigns, cultivating crisis and litigation communication strategies, and building complex community relations and advocacy programs.

After serving in executive positions with some of California's leading firms, he formed The Englander Group in 1980. Following a series of acquisitions and mergers, he led the Los Angeles office of MMW Group, one of the nation's top 15 public relations firms. Under his leadership, the office tripled in size and won numerous national and regional awards.

In 2005, Englander started the firm now known as Englander Knabe & Allen, ranked by *Los Angeles Business Journal* as the largest independent public relations firm and the largest lobbying firm in Los Angeles for the past five years.

Englander was named the 2003 Public Affairs Executive of the Year by *PR News*, served on George Washington University's Council on American Politics and was a board member of the UCLA School of Public Policy. He also serves on numerous charitable boards.

Englander and his wife, attorney Donna Black, have a blended family of four sons, three grandsons and a Portuguese water dog. He enjoys playing golf in his spare time.



ENGLANDER PHOTO: REED HUTCHINSON

**Morris Goldman M.A. '68, Ph.D. '72**  
Economics Commencement  
Pauley Pavilion



**At UCLA, I grew up intellectually and learned to think analytically, creating the foundation for my success. Two of my most important career moves were for organizations specifically looking for UCLA economists.**

Morris Goldman, father of Duff Goldman, is an entrepreneur and economist.

Goldman arrived at UCLA in 1967 with few assets to his name. As a graduate student at UCLA, his knack for entrepreneurship enabled him to purchase a single family home, two cars and a business — which he sold upon graduation to start his professional life without debt.

Armed with a master's degree and a doctorate in economics, Goldman was hired as a financial staff economist for General Motors Corporation. He then got his first taste of business ownership in 1976 as managing partner of several small businesses in Kansas City, while also lecturing at University of Missouri-Kansas City and at Avila University. In 1979, he was hired as chief economist for Sprint Telephone, a startup whose survival required eliminating AT&T's monopoly in telecommunications. From 1981 to 1986, he was employed by Congress working on appropriation and leadership issues. In 1986, he was awarded a John M. Olin Fellowship in international economics.

Subsequently, Goldman the entrepreneur fully "broke out." He has spent the past 29 years building businesses. He is founder and CEO (now semi-retired) of Sport Fit Total Fitness Clubs as well as of Chesapeake Bay Aquatic and Physical Therapy, both located in Maryland.

In his spare time, he reads and plays racquetball.

**Duff Goldman**  
Economics Commencement  
Pauley Pavilion

**There's always been a special place in my heart for UCLA because the school's nickname is also the name of my favorite ice hockey team. Go Bruins!**

Duff Goldman, son of Morris Goldman, is one of the most sought-after cake makers in the country and star of the former hit Food Network show *Ace of Cakes*.



Goldman has been working in kitchens and bakeshops since the age of 14. After graduating from the University of Maryland, he earned his Baking and Pastry Arts Certificate from The Culinary Institute of America and has since worked for many celebrated chefs.

In 2000, Goldman founded a bakery, Charm City Cakes, where he and his team gained national attention by pushing the boundaries of what a cake could be. The Food Network asked them to star in *Ace*

of Cakes, which ran for six years and 10 seasons. The show is still popular in more than 40 countries.

Goldman has since had starring roles and guest appearances in a variety of shows, including *Duff Till Dawn*; *Iron Chef America*; *Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives*; *Cupcake Wars*; and *Chopped*. In 2011, he received award nominations for best TV food personality/host and best television program from the James Beard Foundation.

In 2012, Goldman opened Charm City Cakes West in Los Angeles and launched Duff's Cake Mix, a do-it-yourself cake shop in Hollywood. He has formed successful licensing partnerships with several companies including Gartner Studios, Blue Bunny Ice Cream and Godiva. He is also a sculptor, artist and bass player, and has an affinity for wearing his signature hockey jerseys.

**Myung Ki Hong '59**  
Chemistry & Biochemistry Commencement  
Court of Sciences



**As a proud Bruin, I can trace my success as a business owner and philanthropist back to my chemistry education, which was rewarding both personally and professionally. I would not have been able to create the various chemical systems that are the backbone of my company without my degree, but the greatest tool I acquired at UCLA was the ability to persevere.**

Myung Ki Hong came to the U.S. from South Korea in 1954 as an exchange student. After graduation, he worked at Whittaker Coatings, a division of Whittaker Corporation, for 22 years. From there he founded Dura Coat Products, Inc. in 1986, where his first product breakthrough was a water-based formulation that was both effective and eco-friendly. In addition to facilities in California and Alabama, Dura Coat Products distributes its technology through licensing agreements with companies worldwide.

In 1992 after the civil unrest in Los Angeles, Hong committed himself to promoting a better understanding of cultural diversity. He served as chairman of a foundation dedicated to preserving the memory of Dosan Ahn Chang Ho, one of the early leaders of the Korean-American immigrant community. In 2002, he established the Bright World Foundation, based on a translation of his name, Myung Ki ("bright place"), to foster a sense of optimism in the world and inspire the human spirit.

Hong received an honorary doctorate for Humanitarian Services from La Sierra University in 2002 and an honorary doctorate in science from Sam Yook University in South Korea in 2014.

**Jackie Joyner-Kersey '86**  
History Commencement  
Dickson Court

**Attending UCLA was an opportunity that changed my direction in life. I will forever be grateful to my professors and coaches who pushed me to reach my full potential as a student-athlete. Thank you, UCLA!**

Jackie Joyner-Kersey is considered one of the greatest athletes of all time. She won six medals — three of them gold — in four consecutive Olympic Games. She was the first woman to win back-to-back gold medals in the heptathlon and the first American woman to win an Olympic gold medal in the long jump.

Joyner-Kersey excelled in both track and field and women's basketball at UCLA from 1980 to 1985. As a four-year starter on the basketball team, she remains among

UCLA's career leaders in scoring average, rebounding and assists.

Joyner-Kersey is also known worldwide for her interest in aiding others. She established the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Foundation, which raised more than \$12 million to build a youth center in East St. Louis, Ill.



Among her many accolades, Joyner-Kersey was voted Female Athlete of the 20th Century by *Sports Illustrated for Women*; named one of the 50 Greatest Athletes by ESPN; was inducted into the U.S. Track and Field Hall of Fame; was the inaugural recipient of the Humanitarian Athlete of the Year award; and received the International Olympic Committee's Women and Sport Trophy for her role in the advancement of girls through sport.

Joyner-Kersey has written two books, *A Woman's Place Is Everywhere*, and her autobiography, *A Kind of Grace*. She and her husband, track and field coach Bobby Kersey, live in Baldwin, Mo.

**Evan Kleiman '76, M.B.A. '80**  
Humanities Commencement  
Royce Hall

**UCLA gave me the two greatest gifts: structure and guided freedom to explore. Without those I never would have fallen deeply in love with Italian culture and cultivated the language and critical thinking skills to serve what turned out to be a life of endless cultural exploration through the prism of food.**

Evan Kleiman is the acclaimed host of KCRW's *Good Food*, author of six cookbooks and a self-described "food geek."

Kleiman's first visit to Italy at the age of 17 sparked her interest in food and cooking, but she had initially planned to pursue a career in film production. At UCLA, she majored in Italian literature and film, and then entered the Arts Management Program at UCLA Anderson.

In the early 1980s, she returned to her true passion and became one of only a handful of female chefs in Los Angeles at the time. In 1983, she co-authored her first cookbook, *Cucina Fresca*, followed by several more best-sellers.

A Los Angeles native, Kleiman was chef-owner of celebrated Italian restaurant Angeli on Melrose Avenue, which was known for serving locally sourced food from 1984 to 2012.

As a radio host, Kleiman has conducted more than 6,000 interviews on topics



KLEIMAN PHOTO: BRYONY SHEARMUR

ranging from the ethics of foie gras to the history of the toothpick. She is an active member of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council, which focuses on issues ranging from hunger and obesity to school gardens and farmworker rights. She is also founder of L.A.'s Slow Food chapter.

In addition to hosting *Good Food*, Kleiman teaches cooking and leads food tours of Italy and Los Angeles. She jokes that she has a special place in her heart for pie.

**Harold Lewis '05**  
Communication Studies Commencement  
Royce Hall

**My UCLA education helped me identify my passion and forge long-term relationships with fellow alumni and faculty alike. It fulfilled a lifelong dream to connect with some of the best minds on the planet. I have used every kernel of knowledge I acquired at UCLA to start two businesses and develop technologies that are making a difference in the lives of our clients. It's a prestigious badge of honor to wear the blue and gold.**

Entertainment entrepreneur Harold Lewis is founder of Pitch2Me.com, an online film finance platform that brings together filmmakers and professional film financiers. He has created industry-leading analytical tools to help mitigate project risk, and is considered one of the most experienced and respected executives in the field of entertainment financing and banking. He is also the author of the book *Pitch to Me Online*.

Lewis was previously vice president and manager for the Entertainment Banking Group at Union Bank of California. Having identified an unfilled demand in the area of independent film financing, he formed the consulting firm Filmbankers International, which helps filmmakers achieve a more significant ownership stake in their projects.

Before joining Union Bank, Lewis was senior vice president and district manager at Wells Fargo Bank, and served as chief financial officer and general manager of Fully Loaded Records, a division of BET.

In addition to earning a UCLA bachelor's degree in communication



studies, he is a graduate of the Pacific Coast Banking School at the University of Washington in Seattle and the Executive Management Program in the UCLA Anderson School of Management.

**Roger D. Peng M.S. '01, Ph.D. '03**  
Statistics Commencement  
Powell Courtyard

**Studying at the best statistics department in the country gave me the skills and the well-rounded training that is so critical in the current era of data science. It's a testament to the department's vision and leadership that my fellow graduates and I are able to fully capitalize on the tremendous demand for statistical expertise today.**

Roger D. Peng is associate professor of biostatistics at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He is also co-founder of the Johns Hopkins Data Science Specialization, which has enrolled more than 1 million students, as well as the *Simply Statistics* blog where he writes about statistics for the general public.

Peng is known for his research on air pollution, health risk assessment and statistical methods for environmental data. He is also a national leader in the area of methods and standards for reproducible research and is the reproducible research editor for the journal *Biostatistics*. His



research is highly interdisciplinary and has been published in major substantive and statistical journals, including the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*.

Peng is the author of more than a dozen software packages implementing statistical methods for environmental studies, methods for reproducible research, and data distribution tools. He has also given workshops, tutorials and short courses in statistical computing and data analysis.

**Gina Prince-Bythewood '91**  
African American Studies Department  
Commencement  
Fowler Museum

**UCLA gave me clarity of purpose, and the confidence to fulfill that purpose.**

Gina Prince-Bythewood is a writer, producer and director. She wrote and directed the widely acclaimed feature film *Love & Basketball*, which premiered at the 2000 Sundance Film Festival. She won an Independent Spirit Award for Best First Screenplay and a Humanitas Prize for her work on the film, and followed that success with the HBO film *Disappearing Acts*.

In 2008, she wrote and directed the celebrated feature film *The Secret Life of Bees* (adapted from the best-selling novel), which won two People's Choice Awards and two NAACP Image Awards.

Released in 2014, her third feature film, *Beyond the Lights*, garnered an Oscar nomination for best song, received rave reviews, and landed on the Best of 2014 lists of *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

Prince-Bythewood studied at the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television, where she received the Gene Reynolds Scholarship for Directing and the Ray Stark Memorial Scholarship for Outstanding Undergraduate. Upon graduation, she was hired as a writer on the television series *A Different World*, followed by writing and producing series for network television including *Felicity*, *South Central* and *Sweet Justice*.

For her television directorial debut, *What About Your Friends*, Prince-Bythewood received the NAACP Image Award for Best Children's Special and two Emmy nominations for writing and directing. She was also awarded a Community Service Emmy for her work with the Rap-it-Up campaign. Her first feature film producer credit was for *Biker Boyz*, a DreamWorks film co-written and directed in 2003 by her husband, Reggie Rock Bythewood.

Prince-Bythewood is proud to fund a scholarship for African American students in UCLA's film program. She resides in Southern California with her husband and sons.



**Marla Provencio '79**  
English Commencement  
Pauley Pavilion

**UCLA is an institution that has instilled pride in me, provided an education that has generated opportunities for me and created wonderful memories that will always live with me.**



As executive vice president and chief marketing officer for ABC Entertainment Group, Marla Provencio oversees all marketing activities for ABC's prime-time, daytime and late-night lineups, while establishing the tone and brand for the network.

Provencio started her career in 1979 as a production coordinator at ABC. She has since spearheaded the launch of many hit series, including *Modern Family*, *black-ish*, *How to Get Away With Murder* and *Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*, as well as *Grey's Anatomy*, *Lost*, *Desperate Housewives*, *Scandal*, *Dancing with the Stars* and *Shark Tank*. In recognition of her award-winning marketing campaigns, she was named Entertainment Marketer of the Year in 2005 and 2007 by *Ad Age*, and one of the top Hispanic marketers of the year by *AdWeek's Marketing y Medios* magazine.

Provencio participates in ABC's mentoring program, and was chosen as one of *People en Español's* Most Powerful Women for 2013. She was named one of the Most Powerful & Influential Latinos in Entertainment by the Imagen Foundation

in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014. She was also voted one of the 50 Elite Hispanic Women two years in a row by *HispanicBusiness* magazine, and in 2014 made *The Hollywood Reporter's* lists of Power 100 Women in Entertainment and Top 25 Latinos in Entertainment. She currently serves on the board of directors of PromaxBDA, an international association for entertainment marketing professionals.

A native of California, Provencio resides in Arcadia, Calif., with her husband.

**Christine N. Simmons '98**  
Academic Advancement Program  
Celebration of Excellence  
Carnesale Commons

**My undergraduate experience at UCLA helped spark my commitment to empowering diverse communities and community service. I give credit to UCLA for the resourcefulness and problem-solving ability I have carried throughout my life, and I know my love for Los Angeles is further exemplified by my Bruin pride.**



Christine Simmons is president and COO of the Los Angeles Sparks, a founding WNBA team that has won two titles and appeared in the most playoff games (14) in the league's 19-year history.

Simmons has more than a decade of experience in creating strategic alliances,

leading business development and driving corporate initiatives. In her current role, she directs and coordinates business operations including ticket/sponsorship sales, marketing, game operations, public relations, community relations and finance. She previously served as executive vice president of Magic Johnson Enterprises.

Diversity and empowerment have always been her true passions. Simmons led a Supplier Diversity initiative for NBCUniversal, ensuring that diverse communities have opportunities to compete for business with the corporation. She was listed among the Top 25 Women of Power Impacting Diversity by *DiversityPlus* magazine, and is included in the *Who's Who in Black Los Angeles*. In 2012, Simmons received the Tom Bradley Alumnus of the Year award from the UCLA Black Alumni Association.

Simmons earned her bachelor's degree in physiological science. She serves as vice chair of the board of the UCLA Alumni Association, and on the boards of directors for the Jenesse Center, the Los Angeles Sports Council and the Positive Coaching Alliance. She also serves on the advisory committee of Better Futures for Thomazeau, a nonprofit organization that creates jobs and provides aid to Haiti.

**Richard A. Tapia '61, M.A. '66, Ph.D. '67**  
Mathematics Commencement  
Court of Sciences

**I enjoyed my years at UCLA, where I received a solid mathematics education accompanied by a certain amount of research independence. Both have served me well.**

Richard Tapia is internationally renowned for his research in computational and mathematical sciences and for his national leadership in educational outreach and diversity. Since 1970, he has been a faculty member at Rice University, where he is University Professor (only the sixth in the university's 100-year history), Maxfield-

Oshman Professor in the Department of Computational and Applied Mathematics, and director of the Center for Excellence and Equity in Education.



Tapia, whose parents came to the U.S. from Mexico in search of educational opportunities, was the first in his family to attend university.

In 1996, Tapia was appointed to the National Science Board, and chaired the National Research Council's Board on Higher Education and the Workforce from 2001 to 2004. He received the National Science Foundation's (NSF) inaugural Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring, and the Lifetime Mentor Award from the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The first Hispanic elected to the National Academy of Engineering, he was named one of the 20 most influential leaders in minority math education by the National Research Council.

In 2010, Tapia was awarded the National Medal of Science, the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on scientists and engineers. In 2014, he received the prestigious Vannevar Bush Award from the NSF.

In recognition of his contributions to diversity, two professional conferences have been named in his honor, the Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference and the Blackwell-Tapia Conference.

## Nutrition and Sustainability Focus of Student Documentaries, Research and Gardens

UCLA projects awarded UC Global Food Initiative and UCLA Healthy Campus Initiative grants

By Rebecca Kendall

**VANESSA MORENO KNOWS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FEED A FAMILY ON A TIGHT BUDGET. THE FOURTH-YEAR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES MAJOR WATCHED HER OWN MOTHER, A SINGLE PARENT, DO IT WHEN SHE WAS TEMPORARILY UNEMPLOYED. MORENO IS NOW CHRONICLING ON VIDEO THE STORY OF A SINGLE MOTHER OF FIVE AS SHE STRUGGLES TO MEET THE SAME CHALLENGE.**

Fellow UCLA senior Sanna Alas, a human biology and society major, knows the value that urban gardening can bring to a community. She is helping students at Jordan High School in Watts tell their story through film as they turn an abandoned plot of land into a community garden for their school.

Alas and Moreno, who started these projects in the fall quarter when they were taking a class on filmmaking for social change, are now expanding their documentaries, thanks to a \$2,500 fellowship that each student received from the UC Global Food Initiative Student Fellowship Program.

"This fellowship supports our project beyond the classroom," Alas said. "We want to build upon it, make it bigger and include the voices of more people."

### Part of a UC system commitment

The University of California Global Food Initiative, launched in July 2014, is a systemwide commitment to harness UC resources to sustainably and nutritiously feed the world's population by 2025. Moreno and Alas are two of 16 UCLA undergraduate and graduate students to receive funding from this initiative to support four projects.

Other funded UCLA ventures include a research project to evaluate the impact and sustainability of farmer hubs in California that sell to large institutions — such as school districts and universities — and the creation of two new student-run vegetable gardens at UCLA that will be used to educate others about the benefits of a campus garden. A raised bed garden is scheduled to be built at Hershey Hall this winter, with an amphitheater garden to be installed at the Sunset Canyon Recreation Center in the spring.

Additionally, matching funds for two of these projects — the documentary being produced by Moreno's group and the community garden project — were provided by the UCLA Healthy Campus Initiative, which is funded by generous support from Jane and Terry Semel.

### Working to empower the community

As a member of Mentors for Academic and Peer Support, one of 29 organizations operated through the UCLA Community Programs Office, Alas is joining with two other UCLA students on the short



UCLA student Ian Davies (in the foreground) is working with three other students to install two new campus community gardens. Their project was funded by the UC Global Food Initiative, which was announced by UC President Janet Napolitano, pictured second from left. Photo: Reed Hutchinson

documentary about the Jordan High students and other urban gardeners in L.A. A Native American woman who incorporates her ancestral beliefs into a gardening class she teaches at the Autry Museum's Southwest Museum and a weekend gardener at Wattles Farm community garden in Hollywood will also be interviewed.

In the next phase of production, Alas plans to allow the Jordan High students to shoot their own footage as they turn neighborhood blight into a neighborhood asset.

"We want to put the camera into the students' hands and have them take ownership," Alas said. "We want them to tell the story of their own community."

Health, food access and social justice are also at the root of the documentary being produced by Moreno and her team of four. The film, which draws attention to the relationship between food advertising and childhood obesity, follows single mother Stefani Gilmore as she tries to feed her family of six nutritionally, using the federal Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

Moreno's team hopes to raise awareness of the issues faced by low-income and single parents and help motivate policymakers to tighten up restrictions on advertising that markets food to children.

"I know what it's like to be constrained monetarily and nutritionally," Moreno said. "It surprises me that more people are not aware of the realities faced by people in their own neighborhoods."

It's not true that poor people eat fast food because they're lazy and don't want to cook for themselves, she said.

"They eat fast food because it's the cheapest thing they can afford, and it's readily available," Moreno said. "When you're working more than 40 hours a week, or not working at all, and taking care of a large family, you don't have that much time to think about what's for dinner. You're just trying to survive."

## UCLA Students Help Peers Dress for Success

The new Career Closet provides students with gently used business attire that they can keep and wear for interviews

By Rebecca Kendall

**IT'S AN UNFORTUNATE FACT OF LIFE THAT PEOPLE SIZE UP STRANGERS WITHIN MINUTES OF MEETING THEM — THEY HAVE ONLY ONE CHANCE TO MAKE A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION.**

With that in mind, UCLA seniors Amir Hakimi and Meelod Daneshvar want to ensure that their fellow Bruins are always able to put a professional foot forward, even if they lack resources for the right attire.

Hakimi, a neuroscience major, and Daneshvar, a psychology major, recently opened the Career Closet at UCLA. Tucked away on the third floor of the University Religious Conference building, the Career Closet provides UCLA students with gently used business attire that they can keep and wear to work or interviews for a job, internship and graduate school, and professional networking events.

Hakimi said he was inspired to take up this cause following a conversation with Maria Blandizzi, interim dean of students and executive director of student services initiatives. That's when he learned that not having proper clothing for such occasions is a major worry for some students.

"It made me pause because we go to UCLA to get higher education to go to graduate school or get a good job, and attire shouldn't be the one thing holding us back from achieving our goals," Hakimi said.

At one of the program's open houses, 14 students took 24 pieces of clothing home with them. Students with valid BruinCards can take up to four items each academic year, Hakimi said. They may also return items and trade them in for something else. The Career Closet is open Wednesdays from 5–7 p.m. Hours may be extended in the future, depending on student demand and the availability of volunteers.

"As college students, we're on a budget," said April Chau, a third-year student who is majoring in sociology and minoring in education. She was perusing the racks of clothes in search of blazers and pants with her roommate Eileen Joseph, a third-year psychobiology major.

Both women plan to apply for summer jobs and internships and realize it's important to dress well for interviews and on the job. "It is hard when you don't have the resources to buy new clothes," Chau said. "Something like this is beneficial for college students."

The UCLA Career Center has also been supportive of the Career Closet. "Having access to professional attire means there's one less thing for students to worry about," said Wesley Thorne, the center's director. "Dressing professionally will enable students to

focus on other more important things like acing the job interview or developing a professional connection with an alumnus at a networking reception."

Donations of clothing have been coming in steadily since January when Hakimi and Daneshvar started collecting them. To date, more than 300 gently used items, including suits, skirts, shirts, pants, blouses, blazers and ties, have been donated. Collection bins are located near the main entrance to the James West Alumni Center, which is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Donations are also being accepted at the Career Closet during its hours of operation.

To potential donors, Hakimi advised, "Imagine you're going to an interview tomorrow. What would you wear? If that doesn't fit you or you don't wear it anymore and it's still in great shape, go ahead and donate it to us."

### Giving the shirt — or suit — off his back

Jariel Bytheway, a UCLA alumnus who works as a contracts negotiator at Raytheon, has not only dipped into his closet, but also the closets of friends, to come up with half a dozen men's suits, among other items. A 2009 graduate and board member of the UCLA Young Professionals Network, Bytheway learned of the program through the UCLA Alumni Association.

"I'll always support programs that help current students who are trying their best to succeed," Bytheway said. "Not having something to wear to a job interview shouldn't be a worry for applicants."

### Learn more:

Those with questions about donating to the Career Closet or who require special arrangements to make a donation can email [careerclousetat UCLA@gmail.com](mailto:careerclousetat UCLA@gmail.com) or call 559-366-2831.



UCLA seniors Amir Hakimi and Meelod Daneshvar at the Career Closet, where students can pick out donated business attire for job interviews. Photo: Kristina Hordzwick



# UCLA COLLEGE REPORT

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“UCLA IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT  
LOS ANGELES REMAINS AT THE FOREFRONT  
OF INGENUITY, CREATIVITY AND KNOWLEDGE.  
TOGETHER WE HAVE BUILT A PLACE OF  
INNOVATION, PROSPERITY AND HOPE.”

— Deans of the UCLA College