When it comes to education, research, and service, UCLA is one of Los Angeles’s — and the world’s — great resources. No surprise, then, that the university has multiple programs in place to help save and sustain the world’s natural resources, including far-reaching endeavors in UCLA College.

Demonstrating his passion for the environment and the university, loyal alumnus Morton La Kretz ’48 recently gave $20 million to UCLA College to renovate the campus’s historic botany building. The upgrade preserves physical and philanthropic continuity with La Kretz’s previous gifts. When updated, the La Kretz Botany Building will feature a new main entrance and lobby, remodeled labs for botanical teaching and conservation research, and classrooms updated with advanced instructional technology. A second entrance will be accessible from UCLA’s Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden, a university treasure that has benefitted from La Kretz’s generosity.

La Kretz’s tremendous commitment to conservation is improving understanding of the natural world, educating future stewards of the environment, and preserving environmental resources on campus and beyond. Other beneficiaries of his forward-thinking philanthropy include UCLA Institute for the Environment and Sustainability and La Kretz Center for California Conservation Science. To recognize his influence at UCLA and throughout Los Angeles, the university awarded La Kretz the UCLA Medal at a ceremony on October 24.

La Kretz’s generosity has broad reach. He has made his mark in places from the Arts District — home to Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator’s La Kretz Innovation Campus — to Beverly Hills’ Coldwater Canyon Park, where nonprofit TreePeople educates children at La Kretz Watershed Garden. His generosity is an invaluable resource cultivating invaluable resources.

To protect the environment and propel UCLA College, contact Megan Kissinger at 310-206-0667 or mkissinger@support.ucla.edu.
Managing to Make a Difference

Nearly 70 percent of UCLA Anderson School of Management MBA graduates stay in California to work. Many of them are on a mission to advance the greater good, and my colleagues and I in Anderson’s Parker Career Management Center help connect them with meaningful, purpose-driven careers in the private and non-profit sectors.

One example is Sandy Tesch Wilkins, MBA ’15, senior manager of investments for Humanity United, a foundation dedicated to ending human trafficking and violent conflict. Another is Nathan Lazarus-Gardner, MBA ’17, a consultant for The Bridgespan Group, which helps mission-driven organizations and philanthropists advance their learning and accelerate their influence. Throughout their time at Anderson, they worked with the career center to prepare for successful, fulfilling careers that benefit others.

Founded and endowed by loyal and generous alumnus John E. Parker ’50, the Parker Center was ranked second in the world among full-time MBA career centers by The Economist. It’s a great example of how philanthropy to UCLA enables passionate people, myself among them, to work with purpose.

— CHRI$ WEBER, MBA ’09
Director, Career Advising and Corporate Outreach
Parker Career Management Center

Gifts that Give Again

We often say that gifts to UCLA resonate far beyond the university. The 2018 UCLA Economic Impact Report affirms that. During the 2016–2017 fiscal year, UCLA contributed $11.06 billion to the California economy, including $4 billion to Los Angeles; helped generate $706.1 million in tax revenue; received 251 patents; and supported nearly 73,000 full-time jobs in California. During this year-end giving season, remember that socially and economically, contributions to UCLA help people thrive throughout the state — throughout the year.

See the full report: ucla.edu/economic-impact


**A Gift in Three Acts**

The arts play a powerful role in sharing stories and shaping culture. That’s why UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television (TFT) is dedicated to nurturing creative new work — an endeavor that just got a big break.

“The gift makes UCLA TFT a magnet for remarkable playwrights,” Dean Teri Schwartz says of the new Hearst Theater Lab Initiative, which joins three pillars supporting students, faculty, and visiting professionals. Approaching nearly 50 years of giving to UCLA, The William Randolph Hearst Foundation contributed $250,000 to establish the program.

The playwrights include students, who now will have more opportunities to develop and showcase their works in a collaborative environment. The initiative already has helped produce the undergraduate Capstone Reading and the annual New Play Festival, An Evening of Devised Work, and MFA Ones for graduate students.

The gift also provides grants to faculty for new plays and works-in-progress. Assistant professor Marike Splint received the inaugural award for her *Biography of a Home*, extending her exploration of people, places, and identity.

Moreover, the initiative welcomes playwrights from around the world in a Distinguished Playwright-in-Residence program that launched this fall. During the 2018–2019 academic year, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel is creating new works, teaching master classes, and inspiring students.

Thanks to the initiative, UCLA TFT will prepare alumni to influence the industry and society with compassionate storytelling. “The Hearst Foundation’s visionary gift allows us to put into action our shared belief in the power of story — specifically the power of playwriting and theater — to make a profound difference in the world,” Schwartz says.

To help UCLA TFT set the stage for groundbreaking stories, contact Frederick Bush at 310-206-5999 or fbush@tft.ucla.edu.
Fall 2018 brings complementary good news to UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs — a new undergraduate major in public affairs and a new endowment to support undergraduate scholarships at the school.

In memory of his best friend and life partner, and with funds added by the chancellor’s match, Richard Lieboff endowed the Gene Dudley Centennial Scholars Undergraduate Scholarship. With expansive resources in public policy, social welfare, and urban planning and a clear public service ethos, UCLA Luskin teaches students to translate research into public policy and turn theory into action that improves lives.

The undergraduate major in public affairs, in which every class will be focused on societal problems, is unique in the University of California system and will make Luskin’s training and expertise available to a much wider circle of UCLA students. And Lieboff’s gift will expand that access even further.

Says UCLA Luskin Dean Gary Segura: “Richard’s generosity will allow UCLA Luskin to provide students in financial need with the resources to access education that would have otherwise been out of reach.”

Dudley ’67 studied political science at UCLA and went on to dedicate his life to public service during a 25-year career with the City of Los Angeles. He worked with the aging, community development, and housing departments, whose work — which UCLA Luskin helps advance — continues to be critical.

“Gene Dudley spent his life making the world a better place,” says Lieboff. His gift will help current and future Luskin students follow in those footsteps.

Let your legacy be a better society. Contact Nicole Payton at 310-206-3059 or npayton@support.ucla.edu.

A Shot in the Arm for Public Health

Fellowship support is critical for graduate students who are pursuing important research, focusing on professional development, or serving in their communities. For students at UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, it’s usually all three. So the Jean Balgrosky and Parker Hinshaw Fellowship recently created at the school stands to benefit all of us.

The prospect of large student loan debt often means talented, committed students are less likely to pursue a degree in public health or work in the most underserved areas after graduation. Fellowships fuel interest in and access to a public health education.

Created with a $2 million contribution, with an additional $1 million from the UCLA Chancellor’s Centennial Scholars Graduate Scholars Match, the fellowship will help recruit students with a strong desire to work in underserved communities. Beginning in 2019–2020, it will assist with tuition and living expenses for public health students facing financial challenges. The support Balgrosky ’74, MPH ’80, PhD ’15 received as a student inspired her and Hinshaw to endow the fellowship. A Fielding alumna, Balgrosky was the very first recipient of the Raymond D. Goodman Scholarship Fund. “The scholarship provided significant assistance on my journey from public health student to a successful health care chief information officer,” she says. A member of the school’s advisory board and a lecturer in the Department of Health Policy and Management, Balgrosky remains deeply committed and connected to the school.

A successful entrepreneur, Hinshaw has focused on the intersection of health care and technology, and he and Balgrosky founded Bootstrap Venture Partners to support innovative and technology-enabled solutions to health issues nationwide.

Through their generosity, they’re also supporting the next generation of public health professionals.

To help students who aim to help others, contact Tal Gozani at 310-267-0447 or tgozani@support.ucla.edu.
Students come to UCLA to cultivate diverse talents and turn passions into successful careers. But even though Samantha Smith, MBA ’19 knew that UCLA Anderson School of Management could help her pursue analytic and artistic ambitions on one professional path, she had no idea how fulfilling the journey would be.

“I am loving L.A. and UCLA Anderson and can honestly say I haven’t been this happy in ten years,” Smith says.

It’s been a long road just getting to this point. After studying math/economics and music as an undergraduate, Smith wanted to pursue technical analysis and creative expression. So she became an investment risk analyst at Wellington Management Company while launching her own company, BestVoiceoverGirl.com. Although both endeavors met with success, Smith wasn’t satisfied: “I had yet to find a way to combine these skill sets.”

Fortunately UCLA Anderson’s entertainment entrepreneurship focus, top-notch career center, and Los Angeles location were the perfect fit. And thanks to The Queen’s Road Foundation Fritz Demopoulos ’97 Fellowship, which enabled Smith to accept the school’s offer, a career in new media is on her horizon — whether starting an entertainment technology company or innovating at an online streaming corporation.

“For the first time in my life, I can pursue a version of my passion that is both technical and creative,” says Smith. “I can’t wait to see where I end up post-graduation.”

To help ambitious students pursue their passions at UCLA Anderson, contact Cathy Fuller at 310-267-4700 or catheryn.fuller@anderson.ucla.edu.
Across the country, 250,000 people live with spinal cord injury. The paralysis that often results has been thought permanent. But UCLA’s pioneering experts aren’t satisfied with the status quo: They’re pursuing promising approaches that could lead to groundbreaking treatments.

One inspiring innovator is Dr. Daniel Lu. His research combines basic science and clinical testing, exploring a variety of stimulation methods to activate the spinal cord and restore function and mobility.

“The spinal cord contains alternate pathways that it can use to bypass the injury and get messages from the brain to the limbs,” says Lu, director of the UCLA Neuroplasticity and Repair Laboratory and UCLA Neuromotor Recovery and Rehabilitation Center. “Electrical stimulation trains the spinal cord to find and use these pathways.”

Lu’s work already has helped the small sample of patients involved in his studies thus far. Two individuals improved finger mobility, grip strength, and ability to perform everyday tasks, thanks to a stimulator implanted next to the spinal cord. Another five regained bladder control and improved quality of life through noninvasive magnetic stimulation of the lumbar spine.

Now philanthropy will enable Lu to take the next step toward turning these successes into reality for thousands hoping for treatment. A $3 million gift from The Louis and Harold Price Foundation, which has supported UCLA for more than five decades, will expand Lu’s studies with the goal of repeating results with larger patient groups and securing new resources for further development. Findings will advance the field toward new therapies — whether proving that treatments are effective or allowing doctors to narrow their focus to the methods that work best.

“The Price Foundation had many opportunities to fund different approaches to working on spinal injury,” says President Bonnie Vitti. “We chose UCLA because we are excited by Dr. Lu’s preliminary findings, and we have confidence in the university’s quality of research.”

Investing in that potential, the foundation is eager to see UCLA lead the way on the West Coast. And with the university’s expertise in neuroscience — from cerebral palsy and traumatic brain injury to stroke and Alzheimer’s disease — there’s no telling what other fields might benefit from the results.

Move UCLA and spinal cord injury treatment forward by contacting Karen Colimore at 310-267-0496 or kcolimore@support.ucla.edu.