The Bruin family is about to get bigger. To help more students get an engineering education and lead tomorrow’s groundbreaking research, UCLA Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science aims to grow to nearly 250 faculty and 7,000 students by 2028. It’s an ambitious vision — made possible by one of its own.

Henry Samueli ’75, MS ’76, PhD ’80 and his wife, Susan, have given their largest contribution to UCLA: $100 million from their family’s Samueli Foundation. The gift will advance research to solve societal problems, attract a wide range of star faculty, and expand entrepreneurship programs and facilities that bring innovative ideas to market, all things the Samuelis know a lot about.

“Susan and I are thrilled to support continued expansion,” says Henry Samueli, who graduated from UCLA engineering student to research professor to Broadcom-founding entrepreneur. “It is exciting to see UCLA’s significant commitment to grow students, faculty, research, and entrepreneurship within the school.”

The couple already has helped his eponymous school make major strides, giving more than $188 million to UCLA overall. Since their 1999 gift of $30 million to name UCLA Samueli, enrollment has increased from 3,500 students to more than 6,100 in 2018, boosted by a $20 million contribution for scholarships in 2017. And the couple’s $10 million matching gift for chairs in 2016 has furthered faculty growth: Over the past three years, the school hired 36 new faculty, bringing the current roster to a record 180.

The family’s latest gift will galvanize even greater progress toward making UCLA Samueli the best engineering institution possible. It also sparks a spirited start to UCLA’s second century, lighting the way not only to a stronger school but also to a stronger society.

To help UCLA Samueli engineer change, contact Melanie Burzynski at 310-206-5303 or mburzynski@support.ucla.edu.
SPEAKING OF THE CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

The Future of History

As a historian, I am keenly aware that the past is not really behind us — it’s within us, and it permeates the present. History, if we pay it heed, also helps us shape a better future. Philanthropy does that, too. As the inaugural holder of the Nickoll Family Endowed Chair in History, I am privileged to put private funding to work on a range of undertakings, including a long-term project on the history of racial violence in America, that will help uncover and analyze forgotten stories that are crucial to understanding and improving human relations. The generosity of donors like you is so important for such research initiatives, which bring the past off the pages and to life.

— BRENDA STEVENSON  
Nickoll Family Endowed Chair in History

Progress Report

BY UNIT

Health Sciences $1,743,098,012 of $2 billion
Professional Schools $1,455,764,279 of $1.487 billion
The College $520,917,437 of $400 million
Athletics $312,360,743 of $260 million
Campuswide $675,343,295 of $178 million

BY PURPOSE

Student/Faculty Support $823,033,173 of $1.5 billion
Programs/Research $2,287,512,228 of $1.65 billion
Capital $718,438,715 of $800 million
Designated Discretionary $878,499,648 of $250 million

Progress charts here: lettherebe.ucla.edu/progress  
Data as of 05/17/2019

Giving at Every Turn

The Centennial Campaign is so named because it will conclude at the close of UCLA’s hundredth year, which began in May. A campus celebration kicked it off, and events throughout the year and throughout the city will bring our party to the people of L.A. Looking back on its first century, we know the university has much to celebrate. From life-saving discoveries to athletic excellence to leading the nation in breaking cultural barriers, UCLA has helped the world turn a lot of corners. As we approach the turn of our century, the campaign is about looking forward and preparing for an even more phenomenal future — with the help of donors like you.
HEALTH CARE FOR THE AGES

Bringing Research to Life

UCLA delivers. That’s especially true when it comes to high-quality health care, thanks to experts translating the latest developments from laboratories to patients’ lives. And thanks to a $20 million gift from the W.M. Keck Foundation, the university will be able to invest in and improve the entire spectrum.

Part of the foundation’s gift will fund competitive biomedical research grants at UCLA. The rest will renovate the UCLA Medical Plaza, enhancing one of Southern California’s busiest outpatient care centers and improving the patient experience. To honor the generous contribution, the area around the plaza’s three main buildings will be named W.M. Keck Court.

“UCLA is proud to continue its decades-long partnership with the Keck Foundation,” says Chancellor Gene Block. “Its visionary investments have helped accelerate groundbreaking discoveries that have improved countless lives.”

Those investments have totaled more than $165 million to University of California campuses, including $55 million to UCLA. The result: Scientists have picked up the pace of progress in fields ranging from epigenetics to engineering. Past grants have enabled faculty to pursue novel approaches to tumor biology; analyze molecules that could yield new ways of controlling Zika virus and dengue fever; and research neural activity in virtual environments, which could inform treatments for Alzheimer’s disease and post-traumatic stress disorder.

“Our relationship with UCLA and the University of California has been a source of great pride for both institutions,” says W.M. Keck’s grandson Robert Day, the current foundation chair and CEO who also has personally given more than $22 million to UCLA. “We believe this partnership with UCLA will continue to fund outstanding research to expand the boundaries of medical knowledge and improve quality of life for many.”

To advance UCLA research and enhance care, contact Joe Donahoo at 310-983-3538 or jdonahoo@support.ucla.edu.

Generosity for Geriatric Medicine

Patients of every age find care and comfort at UCLA. But as the baby boomer generation grows older, meeting the needs of the elderly takes on particular urgency. According to the Population Reference Bureau, the number of Americans 65 and older will more than double from 46 million today to 98 million by 2060.

That’s a daunting figure, and it makes the recent $5 million pledge from James Collins ’50 and Carol Collins to endow a fund for geriatric medicine at UCLA especially important. Since meeting as undergraduates, the two have been staunch advocates for UCLA, including supporting its work with older adults.

One immediate priority is enhancing current programs that provide care and support services. For example, the UCLA Alzheimer’s and Dementia Care Program has developed personalized care plans for nearly 2,700 individuals with the disease, reducing nursing home admissions, behavior issues, and patient and caregiver depression. Another successful initiative is Generation X-change, which engages older volunteers in South Los Angeles classrooms. In addition to benefiting young students, this program helps volunteers reduce blood pressure, weight, and loneliness while making new friends.

The Collins fund also will back innovative research and replicate proven programs beyond UCLA. It also will expand the professional pipeline, strengthening the university’s fellowships, residencies, and training programs for future geriatricians. Such education is essential: According to the American Geriatrics Society, fewer than 250 fellows completed geriatrics programs nationwide in 2016–2017.

From volunteer leadership to more than 55 years of giving, the Collins family has advanced UCLA’s mission of education, research, and service. Their latest gift will support all three to help a burgeoning group of Americans.

Help enable UCLA patients to age well by contacting Karen Colimore at 310-267-0496 or kcolimore@support.ucla.edu.
Angels Among Us

According to estimates, fewer than ten percent of America’s foster youth will graduate from a four-year university. UCLA is committed to nurturing those numbers upward, and Twanna Rogers and her husband, Tim Rogers, are upping the ante. “My inspiration is my mom, who was abandoned and in the foster care system most of her life,” says Twanna Rogers. “She was very smart but got moved to a group home and then to more foster homes. I want to support those kids who have the drive and ability to get to the higher education door.”

The Rogerses have given more than $1.1 million to support students who are a part of the Bruin Guardian Scholars (BGS) — a UCLA program for former foster youth.

BGS provides summer and holiday housing, emergency funding, one-on-one tutoring, mental health services, and a strong social network and community events. It also offers help traditionally provided by family — move-in day supplies and assistance, holiday celebrations and gifts, groceries, toiletries, and other essentials throughout the year.

Perhaps most important, BGS is a place for students to find unconditional support and feel a positive connection to others with similar backgrounds, often for the first time in their lives.

Says former Guardian Scholar Yennifer Padilla ’19, “The program gave me a feeling of love and security that I no longer had at 16.” That love is palpable at BGS luncheons, where current and former scholars gather. “You see how the scholars have grown stronger under your watch, and the students have bonded,” says Rogers. “My heart is full as I listen to them say they are on their way and how grateful they are for my help.”

BGS is projected to grow to approximately 200 students by the end of the 2018–2019 school year. Rogers is confident they will pay it forward one day. That’s a lot of guardian angels.

To leave your own legacy for the next generation of UCLA scholars, contact Nicole Dunn at 310-267-4063 or ndunn@support.ucla.edu.

Blazing a Trail for Future Bruins

In the late 1940s, many saw the West Coast as a scientific desert compared to the East, home to Harvard and Yale. But Sidney and Clara Szego Roberts felt otherwise as they drove across the country to UCLA. “It was a wide open place and had a lot of opportunities,” said Sidney Roberts, who recalled helping launch the medical school and Brain Research Institute in an oral history kept at UCLA.

Campus has changed over the years, and even more opportunities abound — especially after the late professors emeriti left $10.5 million for undergraduate scholarships at UCLA, where they taught and researched for more than three decades. They knew the importance of student support, benefiting from scholarships in their college days before establishing careers in endocrinology.

“I’ve been a lifelong student,” said Szego Roberts in her own oral history, “and I’m a passionate believer in respecting the determined student, the one who really wants to participate.” The couple’s generosity will enable those students to pursue their passions in science or art. The combination is striking but perhaps not surprising: The two were true Renaissance scholars, enjoying drawing, painting, writing, and music alongside their vocations as scientists.

These interests are reflected in their other bequests to UCLA: $1.5 million to endow a chair in molecular and cellular endocrinology at David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a Sohmer grand piano that will support The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music’s community outreach. Partners in life, learning, and legacy, the Robertses have opened even more opportunities to advance excellence at UCLA.
Equalizing Opportunity

Whether creating a chair or funding research, philanthropists make academic pursuits possible. Many faculty recognize that generosity and become donors themselves to continue the cycle of giving and success.

Among them is history professor emeritus Ellen Carol DuBois, who recently gave $600,000 for undergraduate scholarships. The contribution — a planned gift via insurance policy — is rather unique. So, too, is the story behind the gift.

Grateful for her colleagues and concerned for the future of her field, DuBois originally wanted to support faculty in her home department. But as others endowed chairs, she found herself considering those at an earlier stage of their education. A scholar of gender history, she’d spent plenty of time thinking about equality. And she knew that many prospective students — especially those transferring from community colleges — face financial barriers to attending UCLA.

To level the playing field, the new Ellen Carol DuBois Endowed Scholarship will support transfer students from Santa Monica College and other local community colleges. After teaching thousands of students, DuBois appreciates the perspective and passion that transfers — many of whom are first-generation undergraduates — bring to the classroom.

“Almost to a student, my best and most beloved students were transfers,” she says. “I was really concerned that no money was going to the people I’d experienced as the foundation of California’s higher education system.”

UCLA enrolls more transfer students than any other UC campus, accounting for one-third of all undergraduates. A variety of on-campus resources — from the Transfer Student Center to the First to Go program — helped UCLA top Money’s “Best Colleges for Transfer Students” list in 2018.

A first-generation college student herself, DuBois made the most of her opportunity, becoming a UCLA faculty member and donor. Now she’s giving others the same chance.

Plan ahead to help new Bruins get ahead by contacting Nicole Dunn at 310-267-4063 or ndunn@support.ucla.edu.

Developing Careers and Communities

Students enroll in UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs because they are passionate about solving society’s most pressing problems. The commitment continues as graduates go out into the world — and use all their assets to make a difference.

Cecilia Estolano, MA ‘91 and Jennifer LeSar, MA ‘92, MBA ‘93 are co-founders and CEOs of Estolano LeSar Advisors, an urban planning and public policy firm. They are also co-donors to UCLA Luskin after establishing the Estolano LeSar Advisors Summer Internship Award. Each summer, a stipend will enable a graduate student to gain experience while sharing expertise at a nonprofit working in affordable housing, sustainability, transportation, land use, or workforce development. Because internships are often unpaid, the award gives students opportunity to learn without financial hardship.

Estolano and LeSar’s generosity already has helped Michael Loper, MPH/MURP ’20. Alongside his dual degrees, he is completing a certificate in food studies, and the Estolano LeSar Advisors Summer Internship Award allowed him to intern at the Los Angeles Food Policy Council last summer. Loper devoured the hands-on experience, which saw him writing case studies, promoting a local market program, and finding potential partners, and he is eager to continue helping residents access healthy foods.

The internship award is not the only way Estolano and LeSar contribute. Their firm is “growing vibrant communities” across California, and it hires several employees and interns from UCLA Luskin, proving the pipeline’s success in turning students into society’s change-makers.

Through all of their efforts, Estolano and LeSar are furthering UCLA’s vision for its graduates and for the greater good.

To equip UCLA students to transform society, contact Ricardo Quintero at 310-206-7949 or rquintero@luskin.ucla.edu.
The Centennial Campaign has helped UCLA reach a lot of milestones leading up to the big one: the university’s 100th birthday. Recently UCLA established its 500th endowed faculty chair.

Established by donor Iris Cantor, the Iris Cantor Endowed Chair in Women’s Health was matched by a $2 million commitment from members of the Iris Cantor Women’s Health Center community advisory board. The chair, the second Cantor has created, will enhance the progress she has facilitated in addressing gender-based health disparities and providing world-class care for women.

Faculty chairs are critical to UCLA’s continued and growing excellence. They help attract and retain the world’s best faculty, who are heavily recruited by other institutions, by supporting their scholarship and discovery.

Perhaps no one knows the significance of these recruiting tools more than Ralph Shapiro ’53, JD ’58 and Shirley Shapiro ’59, whose family, to date, has funded more than 20 endowed chairs at UCLA — more than any other donor — in a wide range of disciplines. They include the arts, dentistry, disability studies, law, nursing, pediatrics medicine, and more.

The first endowed chair established at UCLA was in the philosophy department in 1928. So far during the Centennial Campaign, UCLA has secured 132 endowed chairs, including:

- Kenneth N. Trueblood Endowed Chair in Chemistry and Biochemistry, held by Neil Garg, recognized for discovering new chemical reactions, many of which are used in medicines, and for his creative, accessible, and engaging approach to teaching.
- Marcia H. Howard Term Chair in Literary Studies, held by Ursula Heise, a leader in the field of environmental humanities and a professor in UCLA’s Institute of the Environment and Sustainability and the English department.
- Mickey Katz Chair in Jewish Music, held by Mark Kligman, a renowned expert on Jewish music and a faculty member in UCLA School of the Arts and Architecture and UCLA College.
- Nickoll Family Endowed Chair in History, held by Brenda Stevenson, a historian whose research focuses on the history of slavery, particularly enslaved women.

There are plenty more seats to fill as UCLA fulfills its mission to teach, research, and serve with distinction.

To help UCLA sustain faculty excellence, grab a chair by contacting Laura Lavado Parker at 310-794-2304 or AVCDevelopment@support.ucla.edu.