Mattel, Inc. started making children happy with its creations in 1945, just a few years before the founding of UCLA Department of Pediatrics in 1950. And the two keep growing — together.

UCLA Mattel Children’s Hospital was born in 1998, when the company’s charitable arm, Mattel Children’s Foundation, made a visionary $25 million contribution. At the time, it was among the largest-ever corporate cash gifts. Now, thanks to a new $50 million gift from Mattel to the hospital, the partnership and children everywhere will be healthier and stronger than ever.

“Like UCLA, Mattel is a purpose-driven organization with a long history of giving back to communities around the world,” says Richard Dickson, Mattel’s president and chief operating officer. “An important goal for Mattel is increasing the hospital’s international reach, and this gift will maximize and increase opportunities for the healthy development of children in the U.S. and overseas, including Asia and South Africa.”

Dr. John Mazziotta, vice chancellor, Health Sciences, and CEO, UCLA Health, reports that UCLA will use the Mattel gift to fulfill mutual goals in pioneering new treatments for childhood diseases and serving more children and their families. “Mattel’s generosity helps us deliver life-changing discoveries and health care of the highest order to children every day,” he says.

Johnese Spisso, president of UCLA Health and CEO of UCLA Hospital System, which includes Mattel Children’s, says, “This remarkable gift from Mattel enhances our ability to deliver superior pediatric care. The leading-edge discoveries here will benefit children in Los Angeles and well beyond.”

U.S. News & World Report recognized UCLA Mattel Children’s Hospital last year for excellence in all ten specialties measured in the annual “Best Children’s Hospitals” national rankings. Mattel’s new investment will make the hospital even stronger.

To be a superhero for children, contact Molly Moursi at 310-271-1826 or mmoursi@support.ucla.edu.
Speaking of the Centennial Campaign

Sparking Success

From the time I was in seventh grade, when I built an AM/FM shortwave radio as a class project and was so excited that sound actually came out of it, I’ve known electrical engineering is my passion. Thanks to UCLA, I have turned that passion into great success.

After Susan and I created the Samueli Foundation, giving back to the university was a natural choice — number one on our list of philanthropic priorities. Both of us come from middle-income families, so we had no wealth at all when we started. We owe our success entirely to the education we received in the UC system. I loved school at UCLA, which is why I went there for nine years, from my undergraduate years through a Master’s degree and a PhD.

I give to UCLA to create educational opportunities like the one I had for young people from all walks of life. Because somewhere there is a young man or woman whose interest in engineering has been sparked and who, with the right support and encouragement, will become an innovator, a leader, a world changer. That’s what The Centennial Campaign for UCLA is about — creating leaders in areas about which you are passionate.

— Henry Samueli ’75, MS ’76, PhD ’80

Progress Report

BY UNIT

Health Sciences $7,192,830,547 of $2 billion
Professional Schools $925,558,518 of $1.487 billion
The College $325,164,017 of $400 million
Athletics $206,379,415 of $260 million
Campuswide $353,134,768 of $178 million

BY PURPOSE

Student/Faculty Support $540,931,129 of $1.5 billion
Programs/Research $1,418,992,916 of $1.65 billion
Capital $507,325,203 of $800 million
Designated Discretionary $534,818,019 of $250 million

See how it all adds up at giveto.ucla.edu/our-progress.
Data as of 02/08/2017

Ride the Wave

The next few months will bring a wave of momentum to the Centennial Campaign, with events scheduled to anticipate UCLA’s 100th year in 2019. The celebratory tide will come in to Orange County March 23 before shifting to San Diego for an April 8 event. Up and down the coast, alumni and friends of UCLA will come together to recognize a century of achievements, to honor the mutually beneficial relationships among the university and its widespread communities, and to shore up support for the next century of excellence.
Lead Role

Hollywood’s 2017 awards season features a marked increase in the diversity of nominees, and UCLA has played some role in that progress.

Directed for 15 years by Darnell Hunt, the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA and its Hollywood Diversity Report continue to have profound influence on the entertainment industry, which is so instrumental in shaping attitudes.

The brainchild of Hunt, the report is cited everywhere. “It certainly has influenced discourse,” he says.

Garnering funding for the first issue was an uphill battle. “But because we have demonstrated to industry partners that diversity is linked directly to their bottom line, they’re eager to support us,” says Hunt. “They really want to know how they’re doing compared with their peers.”

Sony, Time Warner, and ABC are among the top supporters, but many other entertainment organizations contribute. So that no one sees the project as partisan, the center limits the amount of support from any one entity.

UCLA also educates professionals committed to an entertainment industry that reflects the real world. School of Theater, Film and Television alumna Channing Dungey ’91, president of ABC Entertainment Group, is the first black president of a major broadcast network. Other UCLA alums at ABC include Tim McNeal ‘83, VP of Creative Talent Development & Inclusion at Disney/ABC, and Christine Cadena ’84, VP of Multicultural Initiatives.

Funding is essential to producing the report, which is as labor intensive as it is influential.

To help the Bunche Center keep Hollywood in full color, contact Amani Roland at 310-206-6639 or aroland@support.ucla.edu.

Answering “the Needs of the Many”

What does Mattel, Inc. (featured on the front cover of this issue) and a recent pledge to UCLA have in common? Mr. Spock. Well, Leonard Nimoy, to be exact.

Mattel is a licensee for Star Trek-related merchandise and last year introduced a Spock doll marking the 50th anniversary of the beloved entertainment franchise. And UCLA Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine recently benefited from a $250,000 pledge made by the late Nimoy and his widow, Susan Bay Nimoy. She aims to advance chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) research at UCLA and memorialize her late husband, who suffered with the disease.

The contribution will establish the Leonard Nimoy COPD Research Fund and provide significant resources for pulmonary disease specialist Dr. John Belperio. In a famous scene from a 1982 Star Trek film, Mr. Spock says, “Logic clearly dictates that the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.” This gift will help UCLA fulfill the needs of many COPD patients.

Susan Bay Nimoy and Leonard Nimoy also have a long history of supporting university arts programs, from the Center for the Art of Performance to the Hammer Museum. Their multifaceted giving reflects Leonard Nimoy’s own versatility. He was an actor, director, photographer, author, singer, and songwriter.

Over the years, Star Trek has entered the UCLA galaxy in other ways, too. UCLA Library Special Collections has had the Gene Roddenberry Star Trek Collection among its holdings since Roddenberry, the show’s creator, generously donated a treasure trove of primary sources.

Sometimes the world is, indeed, small, and UCLA is at the center, making a big difference with the help of philanthropists.

To support the UCLA COPD enterprise, contact Gretchen McGarry at 310-794-4746 or gmcgarry@support.ucla.edu.
Eager for Adventure

Whether in Westwood or around the world, Bruins share a spirit of adventure. Michael Ybarra ’90 was an avid world traveler, broadening his horizons while working as a journalist. After he passed away in 2012, colleague Bret Israel memorialized his friend through the Michael Ybarra Scholarship at UCLA. In fitting tribute, the funds enable English, arts, and music undergraduates to study abroad.

Following in Ybarra’s footsteps, these scholars are now forging their own interesting paths. Recipient Andrea Henthorn, a junior English major and first-generation college student, found plenty to explore at UCLA, joining the Daily Bruin and dance team and participating in clubs and events. But in true Bruin fashion, she didn’t stop there.

After taking an Italian class to connect with her family’s heritage, Henthorn spent a semester abroad in Florence with the help of the Michael Ybarra Scholarship. In addition to immersing herself in the city’s rich culture and improving her language skills, she got a taste of research through a Medici Archive Project internship — a valuable introduction for the prospective graduate student and teacher.

Even with her hefty résumé of campus involvement, Henthorn calls the semester her “most enriching experience thus far at UCLA,” a sentiment Ybarra would appreciate. Lasting beyond his lifetime, his passion is empowering today’s students to embark on their own journeys.

An investment in scholarships is an investment in UCLA’s most valued asset: students. The UCLA Chancellor’s Centennial Scholars Match aims to add $150 million to endowed student scholarships and fellowships during The Centennial Campaign for UCLA. Qualifying gifts to undergraduate scholarships of $75,000 to $1 million will be matched at 50 percent.

To join Marion Anderson by lending your name to progress, contact Margaret Krebsbach at 310-825-1561 or margaret.krebsbach@anderson.ucla.edu.

Building for the Future

A 21st-century education demands 21st-century spaces — and UCLA Anderson School of Management is rising to the challenge, thanks to Marion Anderson’s visionary investment.

Featured in issue 4 of this newsletter, Anderson’s $100 million gift included $40 million in seed funding for the new Marion Anderson Hall. The facility will support the concept of “One Anderson,” a place for all students to share success and become perpetual members of the Anderson community.

In addition to accommodating UCLA Anderson’s prodigious growth, the building will integrate upgraded technology and flexible work areas to encourage exciting new teaching strategies. Spaces are designed for collaboration — a hallmark of the Anderson experience, which prepares students for robust professional environments.

As construction nears, Anderson hopes her gift will motivate others to contribute. Prospective donors can consider a variety of indoor and outdoor naming opportunities, from student services to event spaces and from classrooms to career interview suites. Connectivity and cooperation are key themes throughout the building, linking students, alumni, faculty, and partners to advance UCLA Anderson’s mission.

One alumna who answered the call is Luis Serrano, MBA ’02, who donated $1 million to name a classroom in memory of his late wife, May Hasso Serrano, MBA ’02. This gift toward the building celebrates an unforgettable first for the couple — their meeting on the first day of class.

With such support, Marion Anderson Hall will serve as a foundation for leaders who think fearlessly, launching them into future careers that drive change around the world.

To make a UCLA education even more of an adventure, contact Melanie Burzynski at 310-983-3341 or mburzynski@support.ucla.edu.
A Catalyst for Progress

Seeing the world differently can make a world of difference, especially in engineering. Given demand for diverse thinkers, Susan and Henry Samueli ’75, MS ’76, PhD ’80 have pledged $20 million through their foundation to help UCLA Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science recruit the pioneers of the future.

Diversity is deeply needed in the field. Across the nation, top programs struggle to enroll women and minorities, losing unique perspectives that drive progress. UCLA faces similar challenges; Dean Jayathi Murthy says, “The full promise of UCLA Engineering will not be realized unless we are inclusive and diverse.”

The school aims to grow by 50 faculty and 1,000 students in the next five to seven years. Having endowed faculty chairs last year, the Samueli Foundation has turned its focus to recruiting the very best students, regardless of their financial capacity. The gift endows scholarships for up to 50 freshmen, which leaders hope will increase access and attract underrepresented groups. Funds also will launch a summer research program, engaging recipients in the UCLA Engineering family and exciting them about future careers.

If current students are an indicator, inspiration won’t be limited to the laboratory. After graduation, senior Melissa Moz will help underrepresented students like her enter college and STEM careers. “Being able to pay it forward to other students is important,” she says, “especially since I’ve been so fortunate to have an amazing support system here at UCLA.”

The generosity of Henry and Susan Samueli continues to catalyze innovation and leadership in UCLA Engineering and more generally in the field of engineering — a discipline that increasingly crosses all disciplines.

Returning the Favor

One gift can go on giving. Fifty years ago, Ronald Sugar ’68, MS ’69, PhD ’71 received a scholarship to join UCLA Engineering. After earning three degrees from the school, he built a successful career in the aerospace, defense, and automotive industries, most notably with Northrop Grumman Corporation. Today, he says, “My UCLA undergraduate and later graduate education set the foundation for both a career and a fulfilling life, and for this I am forever grateful.”

In appreciation, Sugar and his wife Valerie ’71 endowed a faculty chair in 2011 and have just treated UCLA Engineering to an even sweeter gift. Their recent contribution of $5 million establishes an endowment for the dean’s highest priorities, which include educational technology, research, and entrepreneurship.

In addition to new resources, the school’s dean will have a new designation to recognize the Sugars’ gift. Jayathi Murthy, the first Ronald and Valerie Sugar Dean of UCLA Engineering, praises the couple’s generosity, saying, “We have big plans to grow over the next few years, and the resources that Ron and Valerie have made available will be invaluable in these efforts.” The Sugars also fund a distinguished speaker series at the school.

As an alumnus who experienced the power of a UCLA Engineering education, Sugar is anticipating great things to come. “We look forward to seeing the school continue to build on its tradition of excellence with future generations of faculty and students,” he says.

To give a gift that keeps on giving, contact Brandon Baker at 310-206-5303 or bbaker@support.ucla.edu.
The legendary Kenny Burrell is a UCLA icon. A much-beloved figure on and off campus, Burrell has spent nearly four decades at UCLA since launching Ellingtonia, the nation’s first college course on Duke Ellington, in 1978.

A prolific musician, he has produced 97 albums and played alongside jazz greats Dizzy Gillespie, John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Louis Armstrong, and Ray Charles, to name just a few. Although his résumé alone enhances jazz education at UCLA, Burrell has brought much, much more to the school. As the founding director of the Jazz Studies Program, he passes down his musical knowledge and passion for jazz to his students, serving as teacher and mentor for current stars like Gretchen Parlato and Kamasi Washington.

He also has been a dedicated advocate for jazz as a professional pursuit, founding the Los Angeles Jazz Orchestra Unlimited to increase paid performance opportunities for postgraduate musicians. Several of his former students play in the band, a model Burrell hopes to replicate in other cities to strengthen patronage for this great American art form.

Burrell’s efforts have drawn praise from industry greats, including famed trumpet player, philanthropist, and UCLA School of Music namesake Herb Alpert. Reflecting on Burrell’s influence, Alpert says, “Kenny plays such an important role at UCLA in helping to establish a new paradigm for music education and the future of jazz.” In honor of his trailblazing, the Herb Alpert Foundation gave a lead gift of $500,000 toward the Kenny Burrell Chair in Jazz Studies, which will support faculty work, scholarships, and jazz performances at UCLA.

To contribute to the $1 million goal, UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music held a concert December 3, 2016, drawing nearly 1,000 students, faculty, staff, and community members to Royce Hall. Burrell opened with an arrangement of the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic “My Favorite Things,” fitting for a UCLA favorite.

Commemorating Burrell’s 85th year and his enduring place in the UCLA family, the celebration was hardly Burrell’s final coda — it was simply a heartfelt interlude in a continuing composition.

To riff on the legacy of Kenny Burrell by supporting jazz studies, contact Ava Sadripour at 310-206-5645 or asadripour@schoolofmusic.ucla.edu.