He broke racial barriers in sports and society with his athletic and scholastic talents. So far, he has been the only African-American man to win Wimbledon, the US Open, and the Australian Open. He was the first African-American man to be selected for the United States Davis Cup team. And he was a Bruin.

UCLA has been chosen to steward the legacy of one of its most illustrious alumni, Arthur Ashe ’66. Throughout his life, Ashe ardently advocated for equality, from establishing mentoring programs in disadvantaged communities across the U.S. to protesting apartheid in South Africa. UCLA, too, is an advocate for equality: The Academic Advancement Program (AAP) in UCLA College is the nation’s largest university-based diversity program helping students historically underserved by higher education.

Now their efforts toward equality will advance together, thanks to public and private donor giving spearheaded by Ashe’s widow, Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe. Ashe himself received a tennis scholarship to attend UCLA — and the new Arthur Ashe Scholarship Fund will serve up opportunity for AAP students who represent his ideals to grow as leaders on campus and beyond.

“UCLA meant the world to him and is the perfect place to safeguard his legacy,” Moutoussamy-Ashe says. “I am excited to see his inspirational example shared with students, faculty, and visitors.”

To that end, collective contributions also have established the Arthur Ashe Legacy Fund to support projects and maintain exhibit materials, such as a vibrant portrait in the Arthur Ashe Student Health and Wellness Center. Complementing the collection, freshmen can learn more through special Centennial Fiat Lux seminars dedicated to Ashe and to AAP.

With his legacy and the philanthropy of generous friends, UCLA can continue to help promising students get off on the right foot for success.

To return Ashe’s service with a gift of your own, contact Hayley Roberts at 310-794-5650 or hroberts@support.ucla.edu.
Debt Free and Giving Back

The day I graduated from UCLA, I remember thinking, “Wow, I just graduated from UCLA with no debt. How can I give back to my community?” Then I thought about my peers and friends who graduated that day and instead were thinking, “Paying back my student loans starts right now.”

I started UCLA when I was in tenth grade. Well, not really, but that’s when I was recruited to participate in the UCLA Vice Provost Initiative for Pre-College Scholars (VIPS), which set me on the path to becoming a Bruin.

The scholarship money I received through VIPS, part of the Academic Advancement Program, and the amazing network of mentors and peers it exposed me to were absolutely deciding factors in my choosing UCLA over other universities I’d been accepted to. Not having to work full time or put a financial strain on my family made room for my academic and personal accomplishments.

I am so grateful, and now I want to help UCLA continue its public mission of creating access for deserving students from all walks of life. With a small inheritance from my grandmother, an educator who taught me the importance of education, my family and I are starting the Ernestine V. Austin Foundation. Our first act will be creating a scholarship at UCLA.

— KAYLIN WESLEY ’17

Above and Beyond

UCLA has a history of exceeding expectations — going beyond the call of duty and the bounds of campus to fulfill its public mission and better the world. Our gratitude also knows no limits, and neither does the influence of your generosity. As we enter the giving season and approach the end of the year, we offer our thanks and a reminder that your gifts to the Centennial Campaign, represented in the graphs above and animated by the stories in this newsletter, will sum up to success and progress for decades to come.
More Than Medicine

A serious — often scary — diagnosis demands a host of experts and resources to help the patient and family members cope and even thrive. The Simms/Mann – UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology helps ensure that people living with cancer receive essential psychosocial support, from the time of diagnosis into survivorship and beyond.

At the Simms/Mann Center, that psychosocial support is made possible by generous financial support, including from Shelby Notkin, former chairman of private client services at The Capital Group, who recently endowed and named the directorship of the center in memory of his late wife.

Founding director Anne Coscarelli, PhD, is the first Darcie Denkert Notkin Director of Psychosocial Oncology Care at the Simms/Mann Center. Coscarelli, who has received awards for her work in psychosocial oncology and psychology, developed a unique quality of life tool to assess the diverse needs of individuals with cancer. Made known worldwide by medical and psychological publications, her work has helped make the Simms/Mann Center a national model for holistic care.

This gift is the latest in a long history of philanthropy that makes it possible for UCLA to support patients and families facing cancer. In 2015 and 2016, the Notkins gave challenge funds to inspire others to give.

“Darcie herself was an inspiration,” says Notkin.

Ronald Simms and Dr. Victoria Mann Simms established the center more than 20 years ago to relieve physical and psychosocial suffering and to optimize wellness through integrative care. They remain dedicated and integral to the center to this day through their annual philanthropy and the Founders Board.

Darcie Denkert Notkin was a visionary — a pioneer female entertainment lawyer, MGM executive, Broadway producer, and philanthropist. She was also a breast cancer patient who learned firsthand that the best health care embodies much more than the body.

To help cancer patients receive wraparound care, contact Margaret Steele at 310-794-5244 or mrsteele@mednet.ucla.edu.

Stroke Care on the Move

It’s hit the road! In a previous issue of this newsletter, you read about the UCLA Arline and Henry Gluck Stroke Rescue Program, established through the couple’s generosity. It features a mobile stroke unit equipped with a CT scanner that immediately determines whether a patient needs a clot-busting drug and can administer the drug en route to a hospital. The pilot program, part of a national clinical trial on mobile stroke units and the only one on the West Coast, officially launched September 11.

On average, 50 people suffer a stroke in Los Angeles County every day. According to UCLA interventional neurologist Dr. May Nour, who oversees the program, “Beginning treatment in the crucial first hour can be the difference between a father being with his children as they grow up or spending the rest of his life in a nursing facility.”

In a case of private giving that gave rise to grants, L.A. County contributed funds so that the two-and-a-half-year pilot program, which currently serves Santa Monica, will expand to serve other parts of Los Angeles County. Possible areas include Compton, Carson, Long Beach, and Westwood.

The Gluck Stroke Rescue Program, a collaboration among the Arline and Henry Gluck Foundation, the Santa Monica Fire Department, and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, is another example of work at UCLA that reaches well — and does good — beyond campus.

To get behind a program that helps people get ahead of complications from stroke, contact Ellen Haddigan-Durgun at 310-206-3878 or ehaddigan@support.ucla.edu.
An Asset to the Arts

From drawing and painting to photography and sculpture, UCLA alumni and faculty are making their marks across the art world. What’s more, they’ve united their individual talents to strengthen the art world right at their own university.

More than 60 art department faculty and alumni generously contributed pieces to benefit UCLA’s Master of Fine Arts (MFA) students and renovate the new UCLA Margo Leavin Graduate Art Studios. Works by alumna Anne Collier, MFA ’01; former professors John Baldessari and Ed Ruscha; current faculty Catherine Opie and Lari Pittman; and many others drew 300 attendees to a June exhibition sale that raised more than $700,000 — including nearly $115,000 for scholarships. Fittingly, the event took place near the graduate art studios at 3Labs in Culver City and coincided with the department’s semi-annual open studios showcasing the next generation of emerging artists.

These students are eagerly awaiting their new workspace, initiated last year with a lead gift from Leavin ’58. Scheduled to open in 2019 as UCLA celebrates its centennial, the newly designed building will provide 40 percent more space, from individual studios, media labs, and classrooms to an exhibition gallery and artist-in-residence suite — many of which offer naming opportunities for interested donors.

“A new facility means new possibilities, an enhanced capacity for us to make our best work, and a larger affirmation of our developing practices,” says MFA student Alex Anderson.

“It means our community will continue to grow for generations.”

And if new generations follow in their predecessors’ footsteps, they, too, will contribute to that community and keep UCLA creating leaders who influence the art world in Los Angeles and abroad.

To join UCLA artists in transforming studios for talented students, contact Jennifer Wells Green at 310-825-2059 or jwgreen@arts.ucla.edu.

Learning Out of This World

In Westwood and around the world, Bruins break barriers and build new understanding. Farther afield, the UCLA Galactic Center Group is bringing outer space within the bounds of knowledge, too.

To study the Milky Way’s central stars and supermassive black hole, the team uses Hawaii’s Keck Observatory, home to the world’s largest and most scientifically productive optical and infrared telescopes.

Co-owned by the University of California, the telescopes have benefited from enhancements developed at UCLA. And the Galactic Center Group is taking full advantage.

Its efforts also capitalize on diverse talent, including undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Nearly half are female — a rare ratio in the field — largely because of the achievements and advocacy of the group’s director, Dr. Andrea Ghez, a passionate champion for young girls and women in science.

Her work also inspires those outside science. Lauren B. Leichtman and Arthur E. Levine ’73, MBA ’76 recently added a gift to the chair Ghez holds, creating a $5 million Centennial Chair. Their support has strengthened her resolve to nurture new generations while delving deeper into the universe’s mysteries. “I am incredibly grateful to them for their belief in me and in the importance of this work,” she says.

Further donations will fund hardworking students, secure cutting-edge technology, and develop new viewing strategies as the group prepares for an exciting year. Next summer, the star S0–2 will be at its closest point to the black hole, giving researchers a new way to probe how gravity works — and providing a singular opportunity to test Einstein’s general relativity.

With extraordinary discovery on the horizon, the force of your philanthropy can empower students, faculty, and partners to find new frontiers.

To help the Galactic Center Group as it reaches for the stars, contact Brooke Sanders at 310-794-9045 or bsanders@support.ucla.edu.
California Collaborates

UCLA is part of a university system whose campuses share healthy competitive and collaborative spirits — the kind that lead to solutions and successes. The latest example of that is the UCLA Initiative on Security and Religious Freedom, launched by the UCLA Burkle Center for International Relations and intended to find solutions to security challenges while preserving civil rights and liberties. The initiative, which UC President Janet Napolitano says “could not be more timely,” will operate across the UC system’s ten research universities from its base at UCLA.

Drawing on the system’s shared strengths, the initiative will facilitate interdisciplinary research in law, public policy, technology, and other fields. It also will host seminars and clinics at multiple campuses, engaging students and faculty in learning and improving inclusive approaches to security.

A generous donation from Imaad Zuberi, vice chairman at Avenue Ventures Group, made the initiative possible. Haroon Azar, JD ’08, who previously served in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, will serve as program director and will join retired Army General Wesley Clark as senior fellow at the Burkle Center.

Set to involve community and faith-based groups as well, the statewide initiative also fits the local landscape. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says, “Los Angeles’ unique character is defined by a diversity of cultures and beliefs. The initiative reflects those values.”

They’re values that UCLA hopes will inform national policy. Says Burkle Center Director Kal Raustiala: “I could not think of a more opportune or important policy question for California and the nation than how to ensure that our communities remain secure while our citizens’ rights remain respected and protected.”

To advance justice for all through UCLA, contact Aaron Cervantes at 310-206-1718 or acervantes@international.ucla.edu.

Inspired to Aspire

Offering educational opportunities is the best way to promote equality and well-being across demographics — meaning more people prosper. Toward that end, one of UCLA’s main missions is to help people from all walks of life walk onto campus and a path to success.

Scholarship support lays that path for students of merit without the means to attend the university. One such student is Celeste B. Gomez ’20, a first-generation college student and the eldest of three children who grew up in Los Angeles. “I am inspired by my family to put all the hard work and effort into my studies,” she says. Thanks to that hard work — and to the power of philanthropy — Gomez received TheDream.US Scholarship and the Doucette-Yakut Scholarship, enabling her to attend her “perfect choice.”

Now Gomez is making the most of her time at UCLA, exploring a plethora of interests and disciplines, from economics to English to political science. “I look forward to learning so much more at UCLA,” she says. “I am not yet completely clear about what career I will pursue, but I know I want to be someone with a bright future who can give back to others and create change in the world.”

Those are noble aspirations, and UCLA will nurture them all the way.

To support students with big dreams, contact Melanie Burzynski at 310-983-3491 or mburzynski@support.ucla.edu.
Sometimes two passions come together in just the right way. The story of Leslie Koepplin, PhD ’71 is an example.

Koepplin’s grandparents were German immigrants who arrived at Ellis Island at the turn of the 20th century. “I first came to understand immigration through the eyes of my grandparents,” he says. “I began to realize that to understand this nation you must understand its immigrants, and that history is the best path to that.”

The first in his family to attend college, Koepplin earned his doctoral degree in history with the help of the Senator William Andrews Clark Graduate Fellowship. “I was fortunate to receive that fellowship, and I want graduate students to enjoy the same support I had during my time at UCLA,” he says.

That is why Koepplin and his wife, Linda, gave $300,000 to establish the Leslie W. and Linda L. Koepplin Graduate Fellowship in U.S. Immigrant History. Their gift could not have come at a better time, according to department chair Stephen Aron. Understanding American immigration history will help students and society grasp today’s challenges and shape future policies.

Koepplin has supported scholars in other ways, too. He spent 25 years in Washington, D.C. working with several administrations, Congress, and higher education associations to maximize funding for students and research. Following retirement, he taught capstone seminars for UCLA’s history department and still returns to campus to share his policy expertise with graduate students at Career Center events.

For all its foundation in history, the Koepplins’ gift is also a first — UCLA College’s first fellowship to secure funds through the Chancellor’s Centennial Graduate Scholars Match, which added $150,000 to their donation. “I am extremely grateful to the Koepplins for their generous and well-directed gift,” Aron says. “This is a wonderful investment in the UCLA history department, whose continued excellence depends on our ability to attract the best graduate students.”

To that end, the Koepplins are eager to meet their first fellow in the 2018–2019 academic year. Their gift — inspired by looking back — will keep UCLA moving forward.

To add your own chapter to the history books of student support, contact Peter Evans at 310-825-8633 or pevans@support.ucla.edu or Melanie Burzynski at 310-983-3491 or mburzynski@support.ucla.edu.