When Laurie and Steven Gordon care about issues, they invest in the people who are working to address them. At UCLA they have done that for years for an array of investigators in many areas, including Parkinson’s disease research. And now they have put $25 million into UCLA’s effort to cure this debilitating disease.

“I have seen Parkinson’s strike people I love and many more,” says Steven Gordon. “This is a cause I am passionate about and proud to champion.”

The gift from the Steven Gordon Family Foundation empowers and inspires UCLA scientists by funding research; establishing five endowed faculty chairs in fields related to Parkinson’s; and supporting a new lab with positron emission tomography (PET) scan and MRI technology, where researchers can closely examine the mechanisms of the disease. The new funds complement the Gordons’ previous giving to Parkinson’s disease research at the university.

The Gordons’ service to UCLA goes beyond financial contributions. Steven is on the Centennial Campaign executive committee and on boards for Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, UCLA Health System, and UCLA Ziman Center for Real Estate. He and Laurie, chair of the board of advisors of Stewart and Lynda Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA, have been steadfast advocates for funding neuroscience training and research, including in depression.

“One of the most fulfilling aspects of our philanthropy is its ability to inspire hope in families who have been affected by diseases of the brain,” Laurie Gordon says.

Now UCLA is home to the Laurie and Steven Gordon Commitment to Cure Parkinson’s Disease at David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, the Laurie and Steven Gordon Neurosciences Research Building, and the new imaging laboratory named for the couple. And home to hope.

To invest in those finding cures for diseases of the brain, contact Karen Colimore at 310-267-0496 or kcolimore@support.ucla.edu.
By Purpose

Athletics
$289,251,940 of $260 million

Health Sciences
$1,693,066,983 of $2 billion

By Unit

The College
$502,247,549 of $400 million

Student/Faculty Support
$788,971,151 of $1.5 billion

Programs/Research
$2,212,547,033 of $1.65 billion

Capital
$687,914,696 of $800 million

Campuswide
$659,810,606 of $178 million

Professional Schools
$1,409,785,034 of $1.487 billion

Designated Discretionary
$864,729,232 of $250 million

Progress charts here: lettherebe.ucla.edu/progress
Data as of 02/11/2019

SPEAKING OF THE CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

Commitment Inspires Confidence

It’s easy to be inspired at UCLA. Nearly everywhere you look, someone is doing work that promises to improve lives. One of my passions is the promise of neuroscience, and I so admire and appreciate experts in UCLA Health Sciences who are discovering avenues of hope for people with depression, Parkinson’s disease, and other diseases of the brain. We are especially excited to support the future generation of neuroscientists at UCLA, who will continue this great work.

Steven and I choose to give to places and people who inspire confidence that our contributions will make a meaningful difference. UCLA is an easy choice. We have witnessed firsthand how committed UCLA researchers are to their work and how much they desire to bring hope and healing to patients and their families. They take on new challenges every day, and we hope that our philanthropy gives them the freedom to tackle each challenge and discover new ways to help every patient.

Your philanthropy can, too.

— LAURIE D. GORDON
Chair, Board of Advisors of Stewart and Lynda Resnick
Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA
Founder, Max Gray Fund for Treatment of Mood Disorders
Member, UCLA Depression Grand Challenge Leadership Council

Progress Report

BY UNIT

Health Sciences $1,693,066,983 of $2 billion

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Philanthropy and Family

This issue of the newsletter distills the scope of UCLA’s calling and the deep confidence donors have in how we carry out that broad mission. It also demonstrates that UCLA attracts family philanthropy from UCLA graduates and non-graduates, all of whom are part of the Bruin family. Take the two $25 million gifts featured on the front and back covers: One is to health, one to humanities. One represents generations of alumni, and one is from non-alumni who recognize how important this university is to Los Angeles. Their stories and others remind us that although no institution can be all things to all people, UCLA comes close.
Health and Humor

“Nice guys finish first,” comedian, writer, and actor Garry Shandling famously said. “If you don’t know that, then you don’t know where the finish line is.”

As a surgery patient at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, Shandling lived up to this quote. At the time, he impressed doctors with his intellect, wit, and desire to help others and openly expressed his gratitude for their best-in-class care. Following his passing in 2016, that gratitude continued in the form of a major gift Shandling left to further the UCLA Health mission.

Most of Shandling’s bequest of more than $15 million to David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA will be used at the discretion of the school’s dean. Such flexible funding for medical research is rare and has potential to drive the next healthcare innovations, enabling researchers to pursue emerging ideas and translate scientific discoveries into community care more quickly.

“Garry Shandling’s contribution will enhance the innovative research being undertaken by our exceptional team of physicians and scientists,” says Dr. Kelsey C. Martin, the school’s dean and Gerald S. Levey, MD, Endowed Chair. “His generosity will ensure that we have the resources to pursue promising therapies that dramatically improve our patients’ quality of life.”

The remaining funds are designated specifically to support exploration of endocrine surgery, infectious diseases, and pancreatic diseases. Recognizing this important investment in well-being, UCLA has named the Garry Shandling Learning Studio, a 6,400-square-foot multipurpose space in Geffen Hall, in his memory.

Laughter is the best medicine. Through Shandling’s gift to UCLA researchers, that becomes true in more ways than one.

To follow Shandling’s lead in supporting medical research at UCLA, contact Gretchen McGarry at 310-794-4746 or gmcgarry@support.ucla.edu.

A Career of Giving

A UCLA education is formative. Just ask Naomi Ellison, DDS ’81.

“There has not been a day when I didn’t love being a dentist,” says Ellison, who established a successful private practice while taking leadership roles with the California Dental Association and other organizations. “UCLA prepared me to be the best clinician I could be.”

Ellison’s UCLA experience also foreshadowed her philanthropy. As a student, she made her first gift to UCLA School of Dentistry to help underserved patients. Since then, she and her husband, Jim, have given to causes ranging from scholarships to facility improvements, equipping tomorrow’s dentists to deliver top-notch care. The couple’s latest gift of $1 million creates the Naomi and Jim Ellison Endowed Chair to recruit and retain a top faculty member in restorative dentistry who will train future leaders for years to come.

“Any time you reap the benefits of something that has afforded you a successful career, it’s your responsibility to ensure those same opportunities are available to others,” Ellison says. “I always intended to give back to the school and feel fortunate that I can in several capacities.”

Those capacities include chairing UCLA Dentistry’s board of counselors for 25 years, serving as a Centennial Campaign cabinet member, and being immediate past president of Women & Philanthropy at UCLA and an emerita of The UCLA Foundation board of directors.

“I see what UCLA has done for Naomi, and if it weren’t for this world-class university, she wouldn’t have had such a fulfilling career,” says Jim Ellison. “I hope this gift inspires other alumni to give back.”

Help UCLA continue to train the dental leaders of the future by contacting Mallory Gompert at 310-206-6079 or mgompert@support.ucla.edu.
Experience: A Gift

A UCLA education extends beyond the classroom. The university opens doors to hands-on opportunities that prepare students to flourish on their professional paths.

Generous donors help pave the way: UCLA College Department of Economics recently received $2 million from Kevin Albert ’74, MBA ’78 to establish the Albert Family Career Development Endowed Fund. The resources will strengthen the Sharpe Fellows Program, which facilitates internships, mentoring, and other activities to prepare economics undergraduates for finance and consulting jobs.

Launched in 2008, the Sharpe Fellows Program has equipped hundreds of students with real-world experience. Every Sharpe Fellow has secured a summer internship, with many going on to full-time employment at prestigious companies. For example, program alumnus Brandon Watkins ’10 serves as vice president for Goldman Sachs Group and was a Forbes “30 Under 30” finance leader in 2017.

The program also involves multiple generations of Bruins. Each year, 45 to 50 third-year fellows benefit from résumé and interview training, networking activities, guest speaker events, and industry exposure. Meanwhile, fourth-year former fellows coach the next cohort, and alumni volunteer as mentors and selection committee members.

“Thank the Sharpe Fellows Program helped me secure an internship that led to a full-time offer and launched my investment management career,” says David Buck ’10, vice president of Oaktree Capital Management.

Albert, too, is an engaged alumnus. A professional with more than 35 years of experience in private equity, he has given back to UCLA as a longtime donor and member of the UCLA Economics Board of Visitors.

His example — in career and contribution — is a passion and a privilege furthered by philanthropy.

To give UCLA students the chance to connect with success, contact Peter Evans at 310-825-8633 or pevans@support.ucla.edu.
Fueling Imaginations Worldwide

Donors to the arts at UCLA find creative ways to give. Their recent contributions — from cash pledges to matching gifts supporting students, performance space, and programs — are increasing UCLA’s local and global influence in visual, musical, and performing arts.

An Artistic Education

More aspiring artists will get the chance to hone their talents at UCLA thanks to A&M Records co-founder Jerry Moss. He gave $1 million, combined with $500,000 from the chancellor’s match, to endow the existing Moss Scholars Program that provides full-ride scholarships in UCLA School of the Arts and Architecture and The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music. In 15 years, the program has supported 30 undergraduate and graduate students, nurturing diverse voices to speak to the artistic community and the world at large.

Refik Anadol, MFA ’14 is one of the program’s alumni. Hailing from Turkey, he couldn’t afford to come to UCLA — until he received a Moss scholarship to study media arts. Since graduation, his many innovative achievements include collaborating with the Los Angeles Philharmonic to celebrate its centennial with a light display on downtown’s Walt Disney Concert Hall.

A Star Venue Makes a Comeback

Scholarships aren’t the only gifts instrumental in helping UCLA students. Major contributions from actor, writer, and director Susan Bay Nimoy and an anonymous donor have helped UCLA acquire Westwood’s iconic Crest Theater, which will be renamed to honor Leonard Nimoy.

Returning the historic site to its performing arts roots, the new, old venue will offer an intimate Westside space for students, recent alumni, campus groups, community partners, local practitioners, and national and international visiting artists to showcase their work under the auspices of the Center for the Art of Performance at UCLA. The anonymous donor also contributed a matching gift of up to $2.5 million to spur support for renovations befitting a state-of-the-art facility for theater, music, digital media, spoken word, dance, and other contemporary forms.

A distinctive addition to UCLA’s cultural resources, the UCLA Nimoy Theater enhances the university’s public arts programming, expanding access for artists and audiences beyond campus into Los Angeles and beyond.

Worldwide Reach

Philanthropy also plays a role in extending artistic conversations to other states and countries. In 2018, Mexican art collector and advocate Eugenio López gave lead support to the Hammer Museum at UCLA, backing shows like Made in L.A. 2018 and Radical Women: Latin American Art, 1960–1985. López’s generosity, and that of the newly formed Hammer Museum Global Council, enabled the Hammer to take Radical Women to the Brooklyn Museum in New York and Pinacoteca de São Paulo in Brazil. Across the two sites, more than 230,000 people saw the groundbreaking genealogy of feminist and radical art practices, bringing recognition to a deserving group of artists — and to UCLA’s commitment to promoting them.

Thanks to philanthropy, all the world really is a stage for UCLA.

Spread UCLA’s artistic influence by contacting James Gallo at 310-794-2369 or jgallo@support.ucla.edu.
Context can be everything. And disciplines within the humanities provide invaluable cultural and historical context that helps us make sense of — and make better — an increasingly complex world.

Yet support for the humanities in higher education and elsewhere has dwindled in recent decades. In response to that, business leaders across the country have come to the disciplines’ defense, verbally and financially. Among those leaders are Jordan Kaplan, MBA ’86, along with his wife, Christine, and his longtime business partner, Ken Panzer, P ’22, whose support for the humanities has come in the form of a $25 million gift to UCLA College — $20 million to support the philosophy department and $5 million to launch the Humanities Centennial Matching Gift Opportunity and support graduate students in humanities.

The contribution is the largest gift ever to UCLA’s humanities division and one of the largest ever to any university philosophy department. It honors Jordan’s parents, Renée ’53, MA ’58, PhD ’62 and David ’56, PhD ’64 Kaplan — UCLA faculty members for almost 60 years — and recognizes his father’s contributions to the study of philosophy.

“We hope this gift will encourage others to recognize the importance of humanities and philosophy and join us in providing them with very much needed support,” says Jordan Kaplan.

The study of philosophy has been a cornerstone of Western education since the ancient Greek era and a cornerstone of the humanities at UCLA since the campus was founded in 1919; the first endowed chair in UCLA history was established in 1928 in philosophy.

“Philosophical issues touch on every aspect of life,” says professor and philosophy department chair Seana Shiffrin, “including issues about what sort of creatures we are and could become, what we can know of ourselves and others, how we should treat one another, whether we are capable of forming a better society and what that would look like, and the significance of our mortality.”

This significant contribution will help generations of humanities and philosophy scholars explore what it means to be human and how to have more humanity.

To strengthen the underpinning of human understanding at UCLA College, contact Sarah Murphy at 310-794-9005 or smurphy@support.ucla.edu.