

# Women & Philanthropy

## at UCLA

### Operation Haiti: UCLA Volunteers Save Lives

In the days following the devastating 7.0 earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010, UCLA nurse Priscilla “Patti” Taylor felt compelled to help. “I’ve always had a passion for helping others in crisis,” explains the specialist lecturer at the UCLA School of Nursing and former Army nurse. “Hundreds of thousands of people are injured in Haiti. It’s almost inconceivable.”



Operation Haiti volunteer Patti Taylor hugs one of the patients at Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA who made Valentines for Haitian earthquake victims.

Joined by more than 75 health-care specialists from UCLA, Patti volunteered to take her skills to Haiti in the immediate aftermath of the catastrophe. The UCLA Health System coordinated the effort using contacts in the military from Operation Mend, an ongoing project supported widely by members of Women & Philanthropy in which UCLA doctors provide reconstructive surgery to wounded soldiers. Working with the U.S. Navy, a new collaboration was launched: Operation Haiti.

Patti was among the first UCLA nurses and doctors to arrive on the island as a part of Operation Haiti. Her experience in the Army, and as chief manager of Operation Mend, made Patti an unofficial team captain. “It may be rocky for some of the younger nurses,” she said before the trip. “The mass injuries, the infections – people are dying because of simple broken bones because they’re not getting the care to prevent infection.”

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#### Dispatch from Haiti



Top row, from left: France (translator), Bob (translator), Kerry Joseph (host), Kayla Vandegrift (UCLA), Dr. Steyn (volunteer). Bottom row, from left: Kerry Gold (UCLA), Joel (translator).

From the blog of Kayla Vandegrift, Haiti volunteer and emergency room nurse at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, March 6, 2010:

*“Sadly, today is our day of departure. Knowing that there is so much more to be done is making today more difficult. Many of the patients have no primary health care.*

*We helped provide some type of care to more than 1,000 patients in a short amount of time. We’re still trying to wrap our heads around the past few days. The devastation of the country and the poverty is unimaginable.*

*The haitian culture is warm, welcoming and resilient. Almost every patient welcomed us with a smile. It is amazing how the people are able to tell us their story of the earthquake in such a calm voice and then continue on with their day. Our interpreters proved these qualities to us daily, constantly laughing and smiling despite their overwhelming losses.*

*I hope to return soon to help this country and its people.”*

**“I COULD NOT IGNORE THE NEED.  
IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.”**

Patti Taylor  
Specialist Lecturer, UCLA School of Nursing  
Unofficial Team Captain, Operation Haiti



# President's Message

Kathleen Flanagan



I am thrilled to join fellow Women & Philanthropy members in congratulating president-elect Marianne Murphy '71. I know that she is deeply committed to advancing UCLA and to elevating the role of women across campus.

Marianne will serve as president during a pivotal time in the life of Women & Philanthropy. Our members have contributed more than \$98 million to UCLA since 1994. We sit on volunteer boards and committees in nearly every corner of campus. And we have enhanced our organization's outreach with a new logo, upgraded newsletter and fresh Web site. Leveraging these advantages and crossing the next threshold – \$100 million raised for UCLA – will require renewed

commitment from longstanding partners and a new generation of women who want to make a difference through philanthropy.

As you'll see in the stories in this newsletter, the opportunities for our shared community to benefit UCLA scholars and programs are manifold. Patti Taylor's experiences in Haiti and Women & Philanthropy board member Tricia Grey's leadership in women's health are great examples. And both are testament to the adage "you get more than you give."

For me, being a member for the past 10 years and sharing experiences with like-minded women has been extraordinarily rewarding. In addition to the special camaraderie and visibility given to our women leaders, I've seen the power of philanthropy as it helps make equitable access to education possible. In the last decade, our members have given more than \$11 million to support students. I look forward to building on that legacy.

An exciting future awaits – join us!



(Left to right) Jordan Auten '10, Teri Schwartz, dean of the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television, Kathleen Flanagan, MBA '00, president of Women & Philanthropy, Marianne Murphy '71, president-elect of Women & Philanthropy, and Robyn Charles '10 at the winter board meeting on January 20, 2010.

**Expanding our reach:**  
[women.support.ucla.edu](http://women.support.ucla.edu)

Let women be more than pass out knowledge  
we're having them CREATE it  
and we're shaping the future of our amazing university

**About Women & Philanthropy**

We Women & Philanthropy are engaged with the UCLA community to help and inspire about the importance of the individual, the group, and the community. We are committed to the success of our members, who are a group of extraordinary individuals.

**Leadership**

**President**  
Kathleen Flanagan

**President-elect**  
Marianne Murphy

**Imagining Change**  
**Inspiring Women**  
**Our Mission**

**Women Making an Impact**

Women are making an impact at UCLA in a variety of ways. They are creating new programs, launching new initiatives, and leading the way in their fields.

**Women's Health**

Women's Health is a program that provides support and resources for women's health issues.

**Women's Leadership**

Women's Leadership is a program that provides support and resources for women's leadership development.





# Coaches for Life: Valorie Kondos Field '87 and Nikki Caldwell

UCLA coaches build leaders and team players; winning, they say, is not the first priority. But Bruin teams still end up on top more often than any other competitor. UCLA's latest NCAA championship – our 105th – was won in April by the women's gymnastics team led by coach and Women & Philanthropy board member Valorie Kondos Field, known to her gymnasts as "Ms. Val." She and UCLA's top-notch women's basketball coach Nikki Caldwell – called "Coach Nikki" by her players – sat down with Women & Philanthropy to share the secrets of their success.

## What draws you to athletics?

Ms. Val: I believe that there is no greater venue than athletics for young adults to learn life lessons like goal-setting, perseverance, discipline and focus – to learn that sacrifice is not a negative, but something that can fuel you with confidence.



Valorie Kondos Field '87, head coach of UCLA Women's Gymnastics

Coach Nikki: We wear a lot of different hats as coaches. I'm a teacher or mentor one day, a big sister or mom the next. It gives me a great sense of reward because we are building character, helping these girls become young women.

## How important is winning?

Ms. Val: I don't believe that the win-loss column is ultimately the measure of your success. Being able to say, "I did my best" is what counts. But don't get me wrong: Winning can be a lot of fun!

Coach Nikki: Let me put it this way: My biggest win is having a 100 percent graduation rate. I tell my students, "One day that basketball is going to stop bouncing, so you are going to need to have an education for your future."

## What is your motto?

Ms. Val: "Life is about choices, and the choices that you make will dictate the life you lead." Some students do not want to acknowledge that how they act and what they think are choices. I explain to them that the mind is the most powerful muscle we have.

Coach Nikki: "Earned, never given." For anything that you do in life, you've got to earn it. You do that through preparation. Then you know you have earned the right to play in that big game or to get an "A" on that exam.

## What is your coaching philosophy?

Ms. Val: If I help our students learn life lessons and become healthy emotionally, physically and mentally, they can become great athletes. Excellent gymnastics is a by-product of that health.



Nikki Caldwell, head coach of UCLA Women's Basketball, and Darxia Morris '11

Coach Nikki: Whatever you are doing, give it your all. Be 100 percent basketball player when that is required. Be 100 percent student when that is required. And give 100 percent of yourself when you are with friends and family.

## What do you want your student-athletes to learn through sports?

Ms. Val: I want to inspire them to be better people. We are all works in progress, so focus on the process, not the outcome.

Coach Nikki: I want to equip my students with the ability to handle adversity – on the court and in life.



# Sparking Student Success: Rose Gilbert '40

For more than 100 UCLA alumni, she is the benefactor who made their scholarships and their degrees possible. For thousands of students at Palisades Charter High School, including several in current Advanced Placement English classes, she is “Mama G,” beloved teacher – one of the longest serving in the nation.

Rose Gilbert is also a deeply committed Bruin. “I came from an impoverished background,” recalls the 1940 alumna. “I got so much out of UCLA. We had good teachers and small classes. I loved it.”

After graduation, Mrs. Gilbert put her burgeoning teaching career on hold when she decided to raise a family with her husband, the late Sam Gilbert. “I wanted to be with my kids,” she says, “but as soon as Maggie was 10 years old, I went into teaching full-time.” By then her sons Michael and Robert were in junior high and high school, and her husband was a successful real estate developer.



The couple generously supported UCLA undergraduate education, arts, athletics, medicine and more. “Sam went to UCLA also,” Mrs. Gilbert explains. “We believed all alumni should give back to the school that gave us our start.”

A Women & Philanthropy Circle member since 1999, Mrs. Gilbert continues to support a broad range of campus initiatives. In 2008, she was recognized for her lifelong dedication to the university with the Honorary Fellow Award from the UCLA College of Letters and Science.

If she’s not on the Bruin campus, she is likely visiting grandchildren or teaching, which still brings her great satisfaction. “I love the interaction with the kids,” she enthuses. “It’s always something new, something refreshing, and it keeps me on my toes.”

She will retire, Mrs. Gilbert says, “when I’m tired. And I’m not tired. I have more energy than a kid.”

## Operation Haiti

*Continued from page 1.*

Patti and fellow Operation Haiti specialists spent 16-hour days for two weeks in land-based field hospitals and aboard the USNS Comfort, a Navy hospital ship. “This is what I call ‘true-grit nursing,’” Patti explains. “You don’t have the fancy hospital and all the supplies, but you can still get the job done with dignity and compassion.”

Haiti’s ambassador to the United States, Raymond Alcide Joseph, visited UCLA in early April to express his nation’s gratitude:

“I’m here to say thank you to all of you who gave your time, your hearts, who gave of yourselves for my people—who have become your people.”

Learn more about ongoing Bruin support and advocacy for Haiti, including nurses’ blogs and video at [women.support.ucla.edu](http://women.support.ucla.edu). To find out how you can assist the University of California system-wide “UC Haiti” relief effort, send inquiries to [uchaiti@gmail.com](mailto:uchaiti@gmail.com).



# Dr. A. Eugene Washington: New Leader of UCLA Health Sciences

An internationally renowned clinical investigator and health policy scholar, Dr. A. Eugene Washington became vice chancellor of UCLA Health Sciences and dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine on February 1, 2010.

He assumes the role during a time of intense national health-care policy debate and ongoing technological innovation. It is an unparalleled opportunity, Dr. Washington recognizes. “I am honored that I am being trusted by the UCLA leadership and the selection committee to lead this great institution at this critical time.”

Dr. Washington intends to build on UCLA’s success in educating the next



generation for practicing medicine of the future and delivering health care of the highest quality. He also plans to enrich efforts to create new knowledge through vigorous investigation and provide public service that improves the state of communities. It is a fitting agenda for this well-known consensus-builder and progressive visionary.

Dr. Washington comes to Westwood after a distinguished career at his alma mater, the University of California San Francisco, where he served as executive vice chancellor and

provost. He also served on the faculty and as chair in the department of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences.

His chosen clinical specialty is women’s health, he explains, because “if you want to transform a society, you need to get women good health care. I saw that in families and communities where change was happening at a grassroots level – it was being driven by women. So ensuring the health of women meant that you could ensure the health of families.”

Dr. Washington views his UCLA appointment “as an outstanding fit, given my interests and experiences. I see that I’m joining and leading an organization with exceptional assets for deepening its impact on the health of local communities, as well as improving health nationally and globally.”

# Tricia Grey: In Pursuit of Women’s Health



“On a recent visit to my doctor I learned that some therapies to treat a change in my health involved risks,” recalls Tricia Grey, Women & Philanthropy board member and newly elected chair of the Executive Women’s Advisory Board of the Iris Cantor-UCLA Women’s Health Center.

“Suddenly, I was confronted with choices for care that I knew very little about.”

Ms. Grey’s personal experience gives her a sense of urgency as she leads the advisory board. “My doctor also provided alternative approaches such as diet and exercise,” she explains. “I know that there are other women who need this kind of health information but do not have access.”

In addition to advancing the women’s health center’s outreach and education efforts, Ms. Grey is intent on expanding seed funding for initial investigations into women’s health. “UCLA provides incredible leverage for philanthropists. We are able to turn modest contributions into millions of dollars by gathering basic research and using that evidence to secure grants from the National Institutes of Health. Researchers can then broaden the scope of their work and benefit women nationally.”

Ms. Grey attributes the center’s success to UCLA’s talented scientists and staff, as well as the close-knit advisory board, which includes many fellow Women & Philanthropy members. “It is very collegial,” Ms. Grey says. “And we are personally connected to the research. Everyone comes together at our ‘Lunch with the Scientists’ events. We learn about what is being funded and what is being accomplished because of that funding.” The latest event, for example, explored the top threat to women’s health: lung cancer.

Of her new role on the advisory board, Ms. Grey says, “I feel blessed with this opportunity to support work that will better women’s lives directly.”

To learn more about the Iris Cantor-UCLA Women’s Health Center, visit [womenshealth.med.ucla.edu](http://womenshealth.med.ucla.edu).



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Visit [women.support.ucla.edu](http://women.support.ucla.edu)

Discover UCLA giving, volunteer and advocacy opportunities.

See Operation Haiti videos and blogs.

Meet Women & Philanthropy members.

*“WOMEN & PHILANTHROPY HAS EXPANDED MY NETWORK OF OPPORTUNITIES AND MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY. THERE ARE SO MANY AREAS, FROM MEDICINE TO THE ARTS, THAT I APPRECIATE NOW WITH NEW EYES.”*

—Coretta Harris, board member