



HELEN S. & ALEXANDER W. ASTIN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARS

PROGRAM & RECEPTION

MONDAY, MAY 20 • 4:00 PM
COLLINS CONFERENCE ROOM
JAMES WEST ALUMNI CENTER

THE UCLA CENTER FOR COMMUNITY LEARNING

UCLA



UCLA CENTENNIAL AND THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY LEARNING

UCLA's Centennial offers an opportunity to reflect on the civic purposes and community engagement that have marked the past 100 years. From its origins to prepare future educators, UCLA's generations of graduates have contributed to every field of human endeavor. UCLA's alumni are civic leaders, public servants, and leaders in the non-profit sector. We are truly an institution that is committed its mission "to serve society through both teaching and scholarship, to educate successive generations of leaders, and to pass on to students a renewable set of skills and commitment to social engagement."

UCLA was one of the first universities in the country to be recognized for its outstanding work to realize its civic mission by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. In 2005 and again in 2015, UCLA received the Community Engagement classification for its "alignment among campus mission, culture, leadership, resources, and practices that support dynamic and noteworthy community engagement."

Leading the way through its mission, programs and service to the university, the **UCLA Center for Community Learning** promotes opportunities for community engaged scholarship, teaching and learning at UCLA in collaboration with communities and organizations in Los Angeles and beyond. The Center strives to make community-engaged learning a cornerstone of undergraduate education through its work with faculty in academic departments across campus.

The Center supports community-engaged courses that both provide learning experiences and research opportunities relevant to their fields of study and create value for our community partners. The Center itself offers undergraduates a variety of learning and research opportunities: community-engaged courses and internships, the Civic Engagement minor, the Astin Fellows program, two AmeriCorps programs--Jumpstart and JusticeCorps, and, of course, the Astin Scholars program, which we celebrate today.

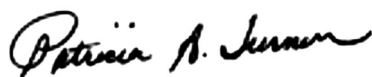
The marking of our Centennial offers an opportunity to envision a new era of civically engaged work at UCLA, one that connects the myriad individual programs and projects to amplify the potential for positive social impact. As we begin our next century, community-engaged scholarship will be more visible—to ourselves on campus and within the Los Angeles community. Students will find pathways to link their passion for community service or social entrepreneurship with deeper, more critically informed community engagement. Faculty will find it easier to identify, and connect with, colleagues who are working on related issues or working in common community contexts. Community partners and neighborhood residents will better see what work UCLA is doing in their neighborhood, will gain greater access to such resources, and will have a greater voice in shaping the future of this work. We look forward in great anticipation of how UCLA and Los Angeles will continue to grow as one.

WELCOME

On behalf of the Division of Undergraduate Education, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Astin Scholars Program. Community-engaged research has long been a top priority at UCLA, and I am thrilled to celebrate ten years of Astin Scholars as a highlight during Undergraduate Research Week here on campus.

UCLA also turns 100 years old this month, a once-in-a-lifetime milestone that compels us to reflect on our past achievements and look ahead to the future. I am truly grateful to Sandy and Lena Astin for their vision, leadership, and commitment to our scholars and the larger community. It is because of programs like the Astin Scholars that Bruins have been able to conduct groundbreaking research and make critical contributions to our society in its first century, and will continue to do so into its second.

Congratulations to this years scholars, I commend your hard work and know that this experience will propel you forward in your academic career and beyond.



Patricia A. Turner
Senior Dean and Vice Provost
UCLA Undergraduate Education





**On behalf of the Center
for Community Learning,**

I am delighted to welcome friends, colleagues, alumni, our current cohort of Astin Scholars, and community members to the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Astin Scholars Program.

This extraordinary program is steeped in the pioneering and visionary scholarship of Lena and Sandy Astin. In their own words, “Civic engagement is a powerful means for developing our students’ knowledge and values, and for creating leaders who are prepared to deal with society’s most pressing problems.”

Today, we commemorate a decade of Astin Scholars and “premier” a very special video showcasing Astin Scholar Alumni reflecting on their unique and meaningful experiences in the program. Having had the privilege to take part in conversations with our alumni scholars (and the shooting and editing of the video), I am deeply impressed with the lasting impact the Astin Scholars program has had on their life trajectories. As you’ll soon see, their participation in the program afforded them a depth of new knowledge, instilled a deep commitment for community engaged research and social change, and ultimately shaped their career choices.

You will also meet the 2019 Astin Scholars, who have, for the past year, developed thoughtful research for social change with our community partner, the Mar Vista Family Center. I would like to extend our deepest thanks to Lucia Diaz, the CEO of Mar Vista Family Center. Lucia has created an incredibly rich and collaborative environment at the Family Center, welcoming our students into their important work. The meaningful partnership between our programs has had a tremendous impact on our students, which we are confident will extend beyond their time here at UCLA.

Our program will conclude with an opportunity for you to circulate among our current Astin Scholars, read their research posters, and learn more about their individual research projects. Don’t miss the chance to meet this next generation of scholars who follow in the footsteps of Lena and Sandy Astin.

Thank you for your interest and support!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shalom D. Staub".

Shalom D. Staub, Ph.D.

Director

UCLA Center for Community Learning

THE ASTINS' SCHOLARSHIP ON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The Astin Scholars Program is named for visionary UCLA higher education scholars Helen (“Lena”) and Alexander (“Sandy”) Astin to honor their nationally recognized body of research in the area of civic engagement.

Lena and Sandy Astin are among the most cited authors in the study of higher education, particularly in regards to the development of students while in college. Indeed, their scholarship helped to shape the field, and much of what we know today about the faculty and student experience is informed by their decades of research. This includes the responsibility of colleges and universities to strengthen democracy by preparing the next generation of civic leaders and creating conditions for the building of community. The Astins’ prolific research addresses the effects on students’ civic engagement through such activities as service-learning and community service, documenting how those activities affect students’ spiritual and character development, and what we know about how students go on to participate in civic life after graduation. Their social change model of leadership development is foundational to modern student affairs practice.

Our celebration of 10 years of undergraduate community-engaged research builds on this foundation of Lena and Sandy’s scholarship.



PROGRAM/ORDER OF SPEAKERS

Welcome

Patricia Turner,
Senior Dean and Vice Provost,
Undergraduate Education

Helen and Alexander Astin's Research on Civic Engagement in Higher Education

Elaine Ikeda,
Executive Director,
California Campus Compact

Evolution of the Astin Scholars Program

Doug Barrera,
Associate Director,
Center for Community Learning

2018-19 Astin Scholars' Research Presentation

Response to Scholars' Research

Lucia Diaz,
CEO,
Mar Vista Family Center

Alexander Astin

Special Recognition: Honoring Alexander Astin

Shalom Staub,
Director,
Center for Community Learning

Poster Presentation Reception with 2018-19 Astin Scholars

ASTIN SCHOLARS CLASS 2019

The Astin scholars program funds a select group of upper-division students who demonstrate a strong, ongoing commitment to community engagement and social change. Under the guidance of the Center for Community Learning, students collaborate with a community partner organization to produce a comprehensive research project.



Dominic Guidry

"Evaluating the Normative View
on Parental Involvement"



Jerzy Messan

"Community Engaged
Family Involvement in
Student Success"



Juan Muñoz

"Critical Consciousness and
Direct-Service Nonprofits"



Nazaret Nuñez

“Participatory research for nonprofit programming: Community engagement and needs assessment at Mar Vista Family Center”



Krystsina Shabanava

“Locating ‘Community’ in Community Gang Reduction”



Anycia Reyes

“A Shared Responsibility: A Community Center’s Role in Children’s Character Development”

MAR VISTA FAMILY CENTER AND ITS PROGRAMS

The mission of the Mar Vista Family Center (MVFC)

is to provide low-income families with quality early-childhood education, youth enrichment, and educational tools to create positive change in their lives and their communities. Every program adheres to the basic premise that it is critical to empower children, teens, and adults to play vital and responsible roles – as decision makers, community leaders and advocates, mentors, classroom volunteers, and fundraisers – at MVFC. MVFC utilizes a whole-family model of engagement to make positive change in its community, encouraging parents and their children to participate from the early stages of life, into preschool education, and continuing through various youth programs meant to enrich a child's development at all stages through the high school years (and beyond). In support of their mission, the Center focuses on achieving three goals: development of leaders, educational enrichment, and the promotion of personal growth.

Serving the Del Rey neighborhood just west of Culver City and east of Marina del Rey, Mar Vista Family Center is located just a block from Mar Vista Gardens, the westernmost housing project operated by the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles. Through its unique Shared Responsibility Curriculum Model, MVFC has helped transform a community once filled with urban gang violence and unsafe streets into a thriving, healthy community — and given its residents a safe space in which to learn, grow, and lead.



ASTIN SCHOLARS 2010-2018

TEHYA BAXTER (2011)

Major: World Arts & Cultures

Project: Effectiveness of dance movement to further the verbal development of English language learners

Faculty Sponsor: Barbara Drucker (School of the Arts & Architecture)

Community Partner: UCLA Community School

GABRIELLE BONDER (2015)

Major: World Arts & Cultures

Project: Teaching multiculturalism through the lens of the Holocaust

Faculty Sponsor: Anne Gilliland (Graduate School of Education & Information Studies)

Community Partner: Museum of Tolerance

AUDREY MEI YI BROWN (2017)

Major: Geography

Project: Rewriting food justice narratives: An oral history project

Community Partner: Meet Each Need With Dignity (MEND)

ALEXIS BRUUN (2010)

Major: World Arts & Cultures

Project: Benefits of arts programming for adults experiencing homelessness

Faculty Sponsor: David Delgado Shorter (World Arts & Cultures)

Community Partner: Lamp Art Project

CHRISTOPHER BUTLER (2013)

Major: History

Project: The impact on college students of tutoring youth who are incarcerated

Faculty Sponsor: Mary Corey (History)

Community Partner: Fred Miller Camp School

CYNTHIA CARVAJAL (2013)

Major: Political Science

Project: Exploring the intersection of undocumented students' identities and their college aspirations

Faculty Sponsor: Robert Chao Romero (Chicana/o Studies)

Community Partner: Woodrow Wilson High School

LI-TSUNG (ALYSSA) CHEN (2010)

Major: Political Science

Project: Comparison of self-help legal programs

Faculty Sponsor: Susanne Lohmann (Political Science)

Community Partner: Inglewood Self Help Legal Access Center

DANA CHRISTENSEN (2017)

Major: Anthropology

Project: Straight from the third grade: Student engagement with a culturally relevant literature program

Community Partner: Read to a Child

HOWARD CHUNG (2015)

Major: Study of Religion

Project: An analysis of the impact of a faith-based rehabilitation program for ex-offenders on their transition back to community life

Faculty Sponsor: Robert Chao Romero (Chicano/a Studies & Asian American Studies)

Community Partner: Prison Fellowship

CAILIN CROCKETT (2010)

Major: Pre-Political Science

Project: Empowerment and career readiness for women experiencing homelessness

Faculty Sponsor: Patricia Gándara (Graduate School of Education & Information Studies)

Community Partner: Working Wardrobes for a New Start

SASHA DAVILA (2013)

Major: Art History

Project: Examination of the relationship between community cultural development and muralism in Los Angeles

Faculty Sponsor: Judith Baca (Chicana/o Studies)

Community Partner: Social & Public Art Resource Center (SPARC)

BRYAN DEAN (2018)

Major: Political Science

Project: The charity of political empowerment: Rethinking nonprofit organizational structure

Community Partner: Meet Each Need With Dignity (MEND)

SAMANTHA FELDMAN (2018)

Major: Psychology

Project: Psychological impacts of MEND's Diabetes Health Education Program

Community Partner: Meet Each Need With Dignity (MEND)

JESSE FLORES (2017)

Major: Geography

Project: Community building with care farming at John R. Wooden High School

Community Partner: Kindred Spirits Care Farm

CARISSA GARCIA (2013)

Major: World Arts & Culture

Project: An analysis of the impact of an arts-based sex education program on high school dropout rates

Faculty Sponsor: David Gere (World Arts & Culture)

Community Partner: The HEART Project

ANDREA AVILA GORDILLO (2012)

Major: Latin American Studies

Project: Exploring the experiences of domestic workers' efforts to organize

Faculty Sponsor: Leisy Abrego (Chicana/o Studies)

Community Partner: Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)

HALEY HOOD (2015)

Major: Anthropology

Project: Creative writing community: Impacts of creative writing on elementary school students' attitudes towards literacy

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Tyrone Howard (Graduate School of Education & Information Studies)

Community Partner: Nora Sterry Elementary School

DEMI KIM (2017)

Major: Psychology

Project: Labor relations in Koreatown, Los Angeles: Narratives of Latino workers

Community Partner: Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance (KIWA)

RADHA KUMAR (2015)

Major: Sociology

Project: Music and self-esteem: Examining changes in students' self-esteem after participating in a guitar workshop

Faculty Sponsor: Jeffrey Prager (Sociology)

Community Partner: Create Now

COLLEEN MA (2013)

Major: Geography/Environmental Studies

Project: An evaluation of a community organizing campaign in Los Angeles to maintain affordable housing

Faculty Sponsor: Michael Lens (Urban Planning)

Community Partner: People Organized for Westside Renewal

TERESA MELENDREZ (2010)

Major: Women's Studies

Project: Student perspectives of the effectiveness of sex education programs in high schools

Faculty Sponsor: Grace Hong (Asian American Studies)

Community Partner: The Venice Family Clinic

DEBORAH MEMBRENO (2014)

Major: International Development Studies

Project: Examining the development of college aspirations among under-represented students in an educational outreach program

Faculty Sponsor: Leisy Abrego (Chicana/o Studies)

Community Partner: Early Academic Outreach Program

KIMBERLY MENDOZA (2011)

Major: International Development Studies

Project: Examination of the health needs of day laborers

Faculty Sponsor: Abel Valenzuela (Chicana/o Studies and Urban Planning)

Community Partner: Instituto de Educacion Popular del Sur de California (IDEPSCA)

ANDREA MURRAY (2014)

Major: English

Project: Analysis of how public policy changes impact nonprofit organizational strategy

Faculty Sponsor: Tony Tolbert (Law)

Community Partner: People Assisting the Homeless (PATH)

ALMA NUÑEZ (2013)

Major: Sociology

Project: Exploration of how to engage marginalized high school students in math education

Faculty Sponsor: Megan Franke (Graduate School of Education and Information Studies)

Community Partner: Sylmar High School

LIDIA OROZCO (2016)

Major: Spanish Community & Culture

Project: Cultivating critical consciousness in urban youth through narrative photography

Community Partner: Compton YouthBuild

JOCELYN PACHECO (2011)

Major: Sociology

Project: Impact of mediation on middle school students

Faculty Sponsor: Wellford Wilms (Graduate School of Education & Information Studies)

Community Partner: Mark Twain Middle School

CINTHIA PADILLA (2018)

Major: Political Science

Project: A Study of empowerment: The effects of ESL beyond language acquisition

Community Partner: Meet Each Need With Dignity (MEND)

MELISSA PAMPANIN (2012)

Major: Sociology

Project: Assessing the connection between participation in transitional programs and the development of educational aspirations for students with developmental disabilities

Faculty Sponsor: Kathy O'Byrne (Center for Community Learning)

Community Partner: Pathway at UCLA Extension

SANDRA PARRA (2016)

Major: Dance

Project: The Latina-ship: Exploring the dance between identity and Hip-Hop

Community Partner: Godinez Fundamental High School

DANIELLE PEREZ (2016)

Major: English

Project: Volunteer-based differentiation techniques to address variant student needs

Community Partner: 826LA in Mar Vista

LINH PHAM (2014)

Major: Psychobiology

Project: Exploring the use of bilingual pedagogy in preschool classrooms

Faculty Sponsor: Alma Cortez (Psychology)

Community Partner: Bessie Pre-gerson Child Development Center

TUANH PHAN (2013)

Major: Psychobiology

Project: Exploration of how preschooler participation in the growing of fruits and vegetables affects their desire to eat what they produce

Faculty Sponsor: Elisheva Gross (Psychology)

Community Partner: Bessie Pre-gerson Child Development Center

TIFANNI PRATER (2016)

Major: Political Science

Project: The lost ones: A case study of continuation high schools in Los Angeles

Community Partner: United American Indian Involvement (UAI) and Central High School

EDGAR ROMO (2011)

Major: Sociology

Project: Evaluation of conflict resolution program for high school students

Faculty Sponsor: Val Rust (Graduate School of Education & Information Studies)

Community Partner: Hamilton High School

ELENA SALAZAR (2010)

Major: World Arts & Cultures

Project: Exploring the feasibility of a municipal ID program in Los Angeles

Faculty Sponsor: Raul Hinojosa-Ojeda (Chicana and Chicano Studies)

Community Partner: Alliance for Immigrant Rights

JUDITH SAUNDERS (2016)

Major: Anthropology

Project: Grow Together: A food desert intervention program that gives families access to fruits and vegetables

Community Partner: Meet Each Need with Dignity (MEND)

NOAH SHEPARDSON-BREWSTER (2018)

Major: Philosophy

Project: Poverty attitudes within a poverty relief organization

Community Partner: Meet Each Need With Dignity (MEND)

JUAN TORRES (2016)

Major: History

Project: Building immigrant power through organized labor

Community Partner: The Immigrant Organizing Project with the American Federation of Labor- Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)

FREDDY YUSUF (2010)

Major: Psychobiology

Project: Benefits of Tai-Chi programs for older adults

Faculty Sponsor: Sarosh Motivala (Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Science)

Community Partner: Culver City Senior Center

FRIENDS OF ASTIN SCHOLARS

The Astin Scholars Program gratefully recognizes and celebrates its major benefactors. We thank you for a decade of commitment to supporting the research of our future community leaders.

Adelman, Clifford	Cress Ph.D., Christine	Komives, Susan	Rockenbach Ph.D., Alyssa
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Clark, Adele	Kim Ph.D., Dongbin		
	Kim Ph.D., Mikyong Minsun		



YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

The Astin Scholars program represents a capstone community-engaged research opportunity offered by the UCLA Center for Community Learning. The Center's work directly addresses Chancellor Block's priority to make a difference in the civic life of Los Angeles and positively impact communities locally and globally. The Center's staff work with faculty across the university to support community-engaged teaching throughout the curriculum. Along with such university-wide work, the Center offers the Chancellor's Award for Engaged Scholarship, the Civic Engagement Minor, Internship Courses, and two AmeriCorps programs: Justice Corps and Jump Start.

You can join us in our work to provide undergraduate students access to community-engaged coursework.

- Become a community partner
- Provide financial support for students' transportation costs to community sites
- Fund an Astin Scholar
- Provide scholarship funding for summer internship courses
- Support the development costs for new community-engaged courses

To support Astin Scholars and other community-learning programs please contact us at mloftollahi@support.ucla.edu and (310) 206-8786



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