OUR PAST
Juan Felipe Herrera B.A. ’72 spent his first six years in migrant worker camps in the San Joaquin Valley. His mother read to him whenever she could, and he learned to love the sound of language. Thinking he’d become a social worker, he earned his UCLA degree in anthropology. But he also immersed himself in the Chicano movement, traveled to Mexico for research and founded a theater group. Into his plays he wove the influences of the jazz, modern dance and experimental theater he saw at UCLA. Herrera earned an M.A. from Stanford and an M.F.A. from Iowa Writers’ Workshop. He published 30 books of poetry and prose and taught creative writing. Herrera is the first Latino to be named U.S. Poet Laureate. • Like Herrera, Gates Millennium Scholar Antonio Rosales Villagrana (Latino) is interested in social science and the arts. He dances with Grupo Folklórico, studied abroad in Europe and volunteered as an AVID tutor. He majors in political science and does research on education and social justice: Antonio Rosales Villagrana.
1. The 2011 National Medal of Science belongs to mathematician Richard Tapia (Chicano), a transfer from LA Harbor College who earned three degrees at UCLA: B.A. ’61, M.A. ’66, Ph.D. ’67 Mathematics.

2. Lisa Fernandez B.A. ’95 (Cuban and Puerto Rican descent) is a UCLA coach and legendary pitcher; she won gold medals in three Olympics.

3. In 2005 Antonio Villaraigosa B.A. ’77 (Chicano) became the first modern-day Latino Mayor of Los Angeles.


5. Ethnomusicology students perform the music of Mexico under the direction of Grammy winner Jesús Guzmán, born in Sonora.

6. Art student Oscar Magallanes (Chicano) created this prize winning cover for the student newsmagazine La Gente.

7. Grupo Folklórico de UCLA presents an annual Fiesta Mexicana cultural show at landmark Royce Hall.

8. This Castillo Family “tree of life” is in the collection of the Fowler Museum at UCLA.

9. Steven Loza M.A. ’79, Ph.D. ’85 (Chicano) is a composer, author and UCLA professor. An influential voice in ethnomusicology, he brought new attention to Latin American music.

10. The Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project, designated a “Bright Spot” by the White House, holds its Los Angeles Institute on the UCLA campus.

11. Since 1969 MEChA has promoted pride, unity and self determination among Raza students at UCLA.

12. Daniel Olivas J.D. ’84 (Chicano) edited this landmark anthology of Southern California Latino writers.

13. Artist Judy Baca (Chicana) is famed for her public art, especially murals. She is on the faculty of Chicano/o Studies.
THE EXCEPTIONAL
Ralph J. Bunche  B.A. ’27 was brought up by his grandmother, who insisted he go to college. He flourished at UCLA — the yearbook lists 20 activities — and graduated summa cum laude in political science. Bunche went on to study at Harvard, and worked with sociologist Gunnar Myrdal on a landmark study of racism in the U.S. His State Department job led to a key role in the establishment of the United Nations. As a U.N. mediator, he achieved the only armistice in the Middle East signed by Israel and four Arab nations. In 1950, Ralph Bunche became the first person of color to win the Nobel Peace Prize. • Like Bunche, Alicia Frison is involved in campus groups and interested in government. She has interned with Congresswoman Maxine Waters and worked for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. She is active in the Afrikan Student Union. Aiming for law school, she participates in mock trial. She has a double major in philosophy and African American studies: Alicia Frison.
1. In 1950, Ralph Bunche B.A. '27 became the first person of color to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

2. Grammy Award winner and jazz great Herbie Hancock teaches at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music.

3. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar B.A. 69, author and leading NBA scorer, created the Skyhook Foundation to bring educational opportunities to under served communities.

4. From 2001 to 2010, Diane Watson B.A. '56 represented the 33rd Congressional District, one of the most ethnically and economically diverse in the nation.

5. Claudia Alexander M.S. '85 was a planetary scientist who managed the Galileo and Rosetta missions for NASA.

6. Tom Bradley, first Black mayor of Los Angeles, enrolled at UCLA in 1937. Bradley International Hall is one of five UCLA buildings named for African American alumni.

7. Founded in 1966, the Afrikan Student Union at UCLA advocates on behalf of Black Bruins and creates opportunities for students.

8. This Yoruba headdress depicting a hunter is on display at the Fowler Museum at UCLA.

9. Students flocked to hear Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. speak at UCLA in 1965.

10. Jackie Robinson, first UCLA athlete to win four varsity letters, broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball. His iconic number “42” is displayed at all UCLA sports-recreation locations.

11. Sy Stokes B.A. '15 created a powerful video that attracted more than two million views and provoked passionate discussion about the experiences of Black students at UCLA.

12. The author of Buck, MK Asante M.F.A. '06, produced and directed the Kwanzaa documentary The Black Candle.

13. “The Black Experience” mural in Ackerman Union was created by UCLA student artists in 1970.
Judy Chu B.A. ’74 earned her degree in mathematics but decided against a career in computer science. Instead, she taught math and psychology in L.A. community colleges. When Monterey Park became a battleground over English-only resolutions, Chu was a school board member. She became a major force behind the Coalition for Harmony — a group dedicated to bridging different races and cultures. The English-only resolutions were defeated, and the multiethnic coalition backed Chu when she ran for higher office. In 2009, Judy Chu became the first Chinese-American woman elected to Congress. Her support for diversity continues: Chu’s official guest at the 2016 State of the Union address was a Muslim leader. • Less than a mile from Chu’s office in the U.S. Capitol is the Smithsonian Institution, where Daniel Ha (Korean American) did a summer internship in statistical finance. One of his passions is problem-solving with statistics; the other is Spanish language and literature. Ha has a double major so he can study both. He helps other students design successful academic plans as a peer counselor: Daniel Ha.
1. The only Congressional Medal of Honor awarded to a Chinese American belongs to Francis Wai B.A. ’40.

2. Allison "Hueman" Torneros B.A. ’98 (Filipina American) creates dramatic street art.

3. Randall Park B.A. ’97 (Korean American) co-founded UCLA’s Asian American theater group LCC.

4. A transfer from LA Harbor College, Benjamin Cayetano B.A. ’68 became governor of Hawaii in 1994, the first Filipino American governor in the U.S.

5. The Nom Nom Truck was created by alumni who met as students in Hapa Club, which celebrates mixed ethnic heritage.

6. Thai Smakom promotes the richness of Thai culture. Among other student cultural groups are Vietnamese, Khmer, Hmong, Indonesian and Filipino.

7. Students launched a photo campaign to protest stereotypes and to signal their unity and strength.

8. This 17th century Buddha from Myanmar is part of the collection of the Fowler Museum at UCLA.

9. George Takei B.A. ’60, M.F.A. ’64 (Japanese American), Mr. Sulu on Star Trek, became a tireless fighter for Asian American and gay rights.

10. This film is the kind of material studied by faculty member and alumnus Dean Ho B.S. ’01, M.S. ’03, Ph.D. ’05 (Chinese American), a pioneer in nanoscale medicine.

11. The Terasaki Life Sciences Building bears the name of Paul Terasaki B.A. ’50, M.S. ’52, Ph.D. ’56 (Japanese American). He created the tissue typing standard that makes organ transplants possible.

12. The textbook Untold Civil Rights Stories was edited by Chinese American alumni Stewart Kwoh B.A. ’70, J.D. ’74 and Russell C. Leong M.F.A. ’90.

13. Born in Saigon, Ham Tran B.A. ’96, M.F.A. ’10 directed the first feature film to tell the stories of Vietnamese refugees, Journey from the Fall.
IS DIVERSE
Patricia Locke B.A. ’51 (Hunkpapa Lakota) came to UCLA as a transfer student. Teaching swimming to pay her expenses, she sometimes struggled academically. But she was determined to earn her degree, and she succeeded. Years later, she returned to UCLA to study public administration. She found her life’s work with the Western Interstate Council on Higher Education. Locke worked tirelessly and traveled ceaselessly in support of tribal colleges on reservations, language preservation and self-determination. In 1991, she was named a MacArthur Fellow for her work as a tribal rights leader. Until her death in 2001, she made her home on the Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota.

• The Los Coyotes Reservation in California is the birthplace and home of David Streamer (Cahuilla), an American Indian Studies major. He directed a youth conference and a fitness initiative for underrepresented student leaders. The first in his family to go to college, he has been joined at UCLA by his younger sister, Minda: David Streamer.
1. In 2003, Professor of Law Angela Riley became the first female justice of the Supreme Court of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She is an expert on indigenous peoples’ rights.

2. Christine Samuel-Nakamura M.S.N. 99 (Diné) worked for Indian Health Service, then returned to campus to earn her Ph.D. in 2013.

3. Duane Champagne (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa), professor of sociology, American Indian studies and law, is one of the editors of American Indian Nations.

4. Prof. Shannon Speed (Chickasaw Nation) teaches anthropology and gender studies.

5. Kevin Hale (Diné) is an engineer who went back to school to study sociology. He’s now an active student leader and director of UCLA Pow Wow.

6. These rattles used for Bird Songs belong to student David Streamer (Cahuilla).

7. Catherine Recinos of the Native American Law Student Association protests Columbus Day.

8. This silver, turquoise and leather belt by Diné artists Helen Long and Philip Long is part of the collection of the Fowler Museum at UCLA.

9. UCLA Film & Television Archive’s Through Indian Eyes: Native American Cinema screened True Whispers by Valerie Red-Horse B.A. 81 (Cherokee).

10. The American Indian Student Association supports and celebrates students and alumni.

11. The UCLA Pow Wow has been held on campus for more than 30 years.

12. Author and faculty member Mishuana Goeman (Tonawanda Band of Seneca) teaches gender studies and American Indian studies.

13. Each graduate in American Indian Studies is given a distinctive blanket as part of commencement ceremonies.
You belong to your family, your neighborhood, your generation. At UCLA, you can belong to a community of scholars, and a student body at home in the global city of Los Angeles. Here you can find — and make — a place for yourself. Like any community, at times we struggle to live up to our values of equity, diversity and inclusion. But we never abandon the pursuit of those values, and we know they are not only compatible with academic excellence, but central to it. Like the students and graduates in this booklet, and many more not named here, you can use your interests and skills to achieve academic success. You can pursue your dreams — and discover new goals, new strengths, new talents. Someday you may hold public office. Create breakthroughs in science or medicine. Join the ranks of filmmakers and artists who shape our culture. Educate young people from your own community and other communities. Raise your voice and tell your story in ways not yet imagined. Start now. Join with others walking in the footsteps of generations of optimists who continue to define and redefine excellence at UCLA.

Pictured on the covers: LULA WASHINGTON B.A. 76, M.A. 84 has touched the lives of more than 45,000 young people at Lula Washington Dance Theatre in South Los Angeles. Among her choreographic credits are the rituals of the native people in the film Avatar. Talented pianist JORDAN DANIELS, a Gluck Music Foundation Scholar, majors in music performance and education. He performs in concerts and competitions, and is earning his teaching credential.
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