



About the Center

In 2009, the UCLA Volunteer Center was launched by its first project: UCLA Volunteer Day on September 22. Since that year, Volunteer Day has become the nation's largest service project for new university students. A project that began with 4,000 participants with eight service projects has grown to involve more than 8,000 UCLA community members at sites that reach every major community in the city.

The Volunteer Center has expanded to organize many other unique annual programs and events that involve the greater Bruin community in civic engagement. Through its website and use of social media, the Center also serves as a hub for information about community involvement, featuring how-to guides, the recognition of campus and community leaders, and an interactive database of volunteer opportunities in Los Angeles.

The Volunteer Center also serves as a model for the planning, design, implementation, and management of large-scale community projects that can be replicated by other universities, companies, and organizations.

Mission

The mission of the UCLA Volunteer Center is to inspire the more than 400,000 members of the extended UCLA family, as well as the community at large, to create social change through lifelong participation in volunteer programs and civic engagement.

Current Priorities

During the 2014-2015 academic year, the Volunteer Center built upon existing programs to expand opportunities for UCLA community members to become involved in civic engagement and volunteerism. The following were the principles and priorities guiding the Center's work.

- **ENGAGEMENT:** Connecting members of the UCLA community to UCLA Volunteer Day, One Bus, One Cause, Non-profit Networking Night, and other service opportunities in various districts throughout Greater Los Angeles, working closely with community partners and elected officials to identify areas of greatest need
- **LEADERSHIP:** Cultivating students to become lifelong advocates for social change through leadership programs such as the Volunteer Center Fellows, Social Media and Marketing Internship Program, Project SPELL, and the Volunteer Leadership Program
- **COLLABORATION:** Fostering relationships with campus and external partners which result in holistic, productive, and meaningful experiences for volunteers and those being served
- **JUSTICE:** Engaging volunteers in purposeful interactions with disadvantaged youth and adults in order to promote educational equality and social justice
- **TECHNOLOGY:** Creating digital marketing campaigns and utilizing the power of social networks in order to inspire individuals to participate in local, regional, and international service-related activities
- **SUSTAINABILITY:** Contributing to a sustainable future through the planning of environmentally-themed service projects and the implementation of office procedures that comply with University-wide sustainability protocols
- **INNOVATION:** Serving as a model for the planning, design, and implementation of large-scale community projects that can be replicated by other universities, companies, and organizations

In addition to the above highlighted programs, the Center spent months preparing for the 2015 Special Olympics World Games, which took place in July and August. The Games required a large scale recruitment effort resulting in over 900 UCLA volunteers, mostly UCLA employees, giving Olympians and guests a grand welcome during the events taking place on campus.

Events and Programs

Volunteer Day

<http://volunteerday.ucla.edu/>

UCLA Volunteer Day is a cornerstone of the UCLA experience. It is the nation's largest community participation event for new students, occurring during True Bruin Welcome. In September 2014, first year freshmen and transfer students joined together with continuing undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, and community members to visit 48 sites across greater Los Angeles. Participants learned important skills including leadership, task coordination, volunteer recruitment and retention, and event planning. Over 6,200 Bruins participated, creating an immediate impact on both the participant and site.



Events and Programs (continued)

One Bus, One Cause

<http://volunteer.ucla.edu/1b1c>

Using the momentum and enthusiasm for civic engagement that arises from Volunteer Day, One Bus, One Cause sends a bus filled with around 50 volunteers into the community in order to address specific needs in that area. Through partnerships with other non-profits, this program addresses a different cause and organization with each visit, exposing Bruins to a variety of volunteer opportunities and piquing volunteers' interest in programs they could work with on an ongoing basis. One Bus, One Cause projects during 2014-2015 included elementary schools, AIDS Walk LA, the LA Regional Food Bank, veterans organizations, and community gardens

- Saturday, August 23, 2014 – Operation Gratitude
- Sunday, October 12, 2014 – AIDS Walk Los Angeles
- Saturday, October 25, 2014 – Los Angeles Regional Food Bank
- Sunday, November 2, 2014 – Esperanza Elementary School
- Sunday, November 9, 2014 – Veterans Home of West Los Angeles
- Saturday, November 15, 2014 – Monlux Elementary School
- Saturday, November 15, 2014 – Harvard Elementary School
- Saturday, November 22, 2014 – Gault Elementary School
- Monday, January 19, 2015 – Queen Anne Elementary School
- Saturday, January 24, 2015 – Burroughs Middle School
- Saturday, January 31, 2015 – Saturn Elementary School
- Saturday, February 25, 2015 – Nora Sterry Elementary School
- Saturday, April 25, 2015 – Bellflower Bike Trail
- Sunday, May 3, 2015 – Paseo Del Rey Elementary School
- Friday, May 8, 2015 – John R. Wooden High School

Events and Programs (continued)

Project SPELL

<http://volunteer.ucla.edu/project-spell>

Project SPELL, Students for Progress in Employee Language Learning, is a support service for UCLA employees who are non-native English speakers. This program matches UCLA employee learners with student volunteer tutors to accomplish the learners' language learning goals. Volunteer tutors deliver personalized lessons to a UCLA employee twice a week throughout the academic quarter, and they also receive training sessions, ample teaching resources, and a flourishing peer network. For 96% of learners in the program, Project SPELL is their only method of learning English; they are taking no other classes. This year, Project SPELL introduced a technology curriculum to supplement language learning and help learners feel confident using email and the internet. In addition, the Volunteer Center is partnering with the UC Education Evaluation Center to develop a comprehensive logic model outlining the major components of Project SPELL and their short term, intermediate, and long term outcomes. These outcomes will be used to refine existing instruments and formulate a program evaluation to better assess the successes and areas of need throughout the program.



Events and Programs (continued)

Operation Gratitude

<http://volunteer.ucla.edu/operation-gratitude/>

United States military service members in hostile regions around the world receive approximately 6,000 hand-written letters and care packages from UCLA each year in partnership with Operation Gratitude, a volunteer-run non-profit group based in Van Nuys. The partnership strives to demonstrate recognition of, and appreciation for, military members' service and sacrifice. The Center works year-round with campus departments and organizations to introduce students to the program. UCLA is the first large-scale university the organization has paired with to increase these efforts.



Events and Programs (continued)

Volunteer Center Fellows

<http://volunteer.ucla.edu/about/fellows/>

Each spring, a new group of students are chosen to serve for thirteen months as UCLA Volunteer Center Fellows. The Fellows serve as an advisory board that works with the Center to increase the accessibility of community service and civic engagement opportunities by creating and promoting resources, programs, and projects for both campus service organizations and students. Fellows come from a variety of community and leadership perspectives at UCLA and in the Los Angeles community, but all share a commitment to service. The Community Service Commission, Community Programs Office, and Office of Residential Life all select one representative to serve as a Fellow, while the rest of the board consists of at-large members. In 2014-2015, for the first time, the Center offered a \$1,000 scholarship to each student participating as a Fellow.



Events and Programs (continued)

Three Pillars, One University

<http://volunteer.ucla.edu/three-pillars-one-university/>

In 2012, to expose students with special needs to cutting edge research, the Volunteer Center Fellows created a quarterly event called Three Pillars, One University. Three Pillars provides students with special needs from the Pathway at UCLA Extension program the chance to attend a professor research symposium, allowing them to learn about some of the most acclaimed research taking place at UCLA. In 2015, Special Olympics at UCLA became a program partner, and athletes from Special Olympics Southern California were invited to join Pathway students and other community members in the interactive workshops. Presenters during the academic year included the following:

Health and Athletics

- DigUCLA
- Erika Chau, yoga instructor
- Student Wellness Commission Health, Nutrition, and Fitness committee
- UCLA Taekwondo
- Vietnamese Community Health
- Wendy Slusser, M.D., M.S., Associate Vice Provost, UCLA Healthy Campus Initiative

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

- Anthony Friscia, Assistant Professor, Integrative Biology & Physiology
- Vivian Lew, Lecturer, Department of Statistics
- Matthew Malkan, Professor, Physics & Astronomy
- Isaac Yang, Professor, Neurosurgery
- Yoh Kawano, Coordinator, Institute for Digital Research and Education

Arts and Humanities

- Travis J. Cross, Associate Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Music
- Meryl Friedman, Director of Education & Community Programs, Center for the Art of Performance
- Tara Prescott, Lecturer & Faculty-In-Residence, Writing Programs
- Teofilo Ruiz, Distinguished Professor of History
- Dave Wilson, Ph.D. candidate, Ethnomusicology
- SLAM! Student Leader Advocates of Music

Events and Programs (continued)

Mongelli Award for Excellence in Civic Engagement

<http://volunteer.ucla.edu/mongelli-award>

The Mongelli Award for Excellence in Civic Engagement recognizes innovative and inspiring projects created by UCLA student organizations. The Mongelli Award is presented by the Volunteer Center Fellows. Winners of the award receive recognition and support from the Volunteer Center as well as a monetary award. 2014-2015 winners included CityLab at UCLA, Special Olympics at UCLA, Yoga for Flexible Futures, Latinas Guiding Latinas, Happy Feet Clinic, and Project WILD.

Fall Harvest Feast

<http://volunteer.ucla.edu/fall-harvest-feast/>

Fall Harvest Feast is an annual turkey dinner which provides a warm meal as well as food and supplies to take away during the long weekend for up to 100 needy UCLA students and their families. This event has been created and produced through volunteer time of staff and students of UCLA. The food, venue, centerpieces, music, and other supplies are donated through various campus departments, student organizations, and volunteers. The event is supported by the UCLA Volunteer Center, Bruin Resource Center, Community Programs Office, Community Service Commission, Wesley Foundation, University Religious Conference, Residential Life, Swipes for the Homeless, UCLA LGBT Center, and Westwood Village Improvement Association.

Events and Programs (continued)

Volunteer Appreciation Week

<http://volunteer.ucla.edu/vaw/>

National Volunteer Week took place during Week 3 of Spring quarter – April 13-17, 2015 – and once again, the Volunteer Center hosted Volunteer Appreciation Week at UCLA to celebrate and recognize the people, organizations, and community service efforts that make a difference in communities across Greater Los Angeles. The narrative of giving back is a part of UCLA's identity. Students, faculty, staff, parents, and alumni contribute countless hours each year to volunteer projects taking place in local communities. From mentoring children to building school gardens, the myriad of ways that Bruins make a difference is as diverse as the backgrounds of the volunteers themselves. Bruins were invited to participate in Volunteer Appreciation Week at UCLA by signing up for service projects, sharing a volunteer experience on the Volunteer Center's social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), or through any of the below service activities designed to appreciate those who have been involved and to inspire others to serve.

Volunteer Appreciation Week Schedule of Events

Monday, April 13 - Serve-a-Palooza

The Volunteer Center held court in Royce Quad from 10 am to 2 pm for a celebration of service to kick off Volunteer Appreciation Week. Popcorn and prizes were given out to thank volunteers for their dedication and hard work during the 2014-2015 school year. The Center was joined by recent Mongelli Award winner Project WILD, the Community Service Commission, The Bruin Experiment, Bruin Caucus, and Westwood Village Improvement Association.



Volunteer Appreciation Week Schedule of Events (continued)

Tuesday, April 14 - Service Movie Night on the Hill

To celebrate the second day of Volunteer Appreciation Week, the Volunteer Center hosted a screening of the documentary, *Food Chains*, in the De Neve Auditorium. Directed by Sanjay Rawal, *Food Chains* reveals the human cost in our food supply and the complicity of large buyers of produce like fast food and supermarkets. The film focuses on a group of tomato pickers from Southern Florida who are revolutionizing farm labor. *Food Chains* premiered at the 2014 Berlin Film Festival. The film's Executive Producers include Eva Longoria and Eric Schlosser.

Volunteer Appreciation Week Schedule of Events (continued)

Wednesday, April 15 - Volunteer Health Day

Though great volunteers are often thinking of others, it is important to maintain one's own health and well-being. On April 15 from 9:30am – 1pm, the Volunteer Center Fellows treated students along Bruin Walk to personal hygiene items, snacks, bubbles and a lot of puppy love to relieve stress and bring joy to campus.

Thursday, April 16 - Operation Gratitude Letter Writing

The purpose of an Operation Gratitude letter is to let members of the military know that their service is appreciated. On April 16, Bruins were encouraged to help UCLA honor those who serve by writing and dropping off a letter at one of the on-campus boxes or organizing a group writing event. Operation Gratitude has sent over one million care packages since 2003, and UCLA is the first large-scale university that the organization has paired with to increase these efforts.

Friday, April 17 - Student Leader Appreciation

On Friday, April 17, the Center recognized its student leaders, the Volunteer Center Fellows, Student Committee for Project SPELL, Project SPELL tutors, and those students who have served on program committees throughout the year with the Center with a formal reception in the courtyard of the Fowler Museum.

