Student Volunteer Awards Lunch 2017

The Auxiliary’s spring general meeting and awards luncheon was held in the California Room at the UCLA Faculty Center on May 3. Myra Porter, chair of the nominating committee, introduced the new Auxiliary Board for 2017-18.

Attendees included volunteers and auxiliary members; UCLA Hospital System CEO Johnese Spisso; Chief Patient Experience Officer Tony Padilla; Office of Patient Experience managers and volunteer services staff; and Richard Azar, executive director of general services at UCLA Health.

The award presenters shared the accomplished, inspirational, and often poignant and touching biographies of the talented group of winners from UCLA School of Nursing students, volunteer students and David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA students. The UCLA Health Auxiliary generously funds the student...
Dear Volunteers,

Summer seems to be whizzing by as we deal with the warm weather and new flow of students in the volunteer office. This year we held another very successful Pre-Med Summer Scholars program, offering a top-notch experience to high school students interested in pursuing a medical career. The group, led by Regina Naanos from the Volunteer Office, was able to participate in many exciting events such as a tour of the UCLA campus, a CPR class, and even watching an autopsy. We have many budding physicians on the horizon!

Thank you to all of our frontline volunteers who have assisted tremendously with the new visitor badging system. The transition has been challenging, and the hospital could not have instituted this new process without the support of our volunteers. Thankfully, we all appreciate the safer, secure environment.

We are continually seeking new volunteers, so please send any interested friends and family our way! Sandra Molina and Auxiliary member Barbara Speiser are working on a very active and involved “Welcome” program for our new volunteers. In Santa Monica, Elaine Eastwood and Talya Katzman, continue to engage their volunteers in fun, social events such as the recent “Voscars.” Enjoy your summer and stay cool!

Carey McCarthy, MPH
Director of Volunteer Services

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In Memoriam – Eva Barcia

Our deepest condolences to the family of Eva Barcia, UCLA Health volunteer since 2010. Eva served over 1,000 hours in the Pediatric Oncology Infusion Center where she assisted patients and performed medical translations. Eva was a kind, caring and selfless volunteer who always reached out to those in need. She will be deeply missed.
awards annually to a very deserving group of talented individuals.

Dr. Linda Sarna, Dean of the UCLA School of Nursing, started the award presentations to UCLA nursing school student awardees Karin Jackson, Martin Vidal, Nam Pham and Nia Ewing. The winner of the Barbara and Bruce Speiser Award was presented to Zenith Rahman.

Carey McCarthy, Director of Volunteer Services, and Silva Thomas, Director of the Care Extender program, presented the volunteer awards portion. These student volunteers complete a minimum of 150 hours per calendar year and receive points from letters of recommendation, quality and length of volunteer service, grade point average and panel interviews. This year, 14 winners were chosen from 19 semifinalists. Awards were presented to Kevin Lee, Nathan Stumpf, Joanna Haffner, Emily Hoffberg, Sharlott Hariri, Aryella Moreh, Justin Soffer, Evan Chen, Nikitha Pothireddy, Stephen Chen, and Joshua Norman. Daniel Cancilla was recipient of the Maddie Katz Memorial Award, the Mary Holmes and Kay Handler Honorary Award was presented to Abdulrahman Almalouhi, and Xenia Levitsky won the Gail Silver Memorial Award.

Dr. Lee Miller, Associate Dean for Student Affairs at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, presented student award recipients. The Dr. Sherman Mellinkoff Award was presented to John Barber, The Martin B. Covel, M.D. Memorial Award was presented to Karissa Britten, and Marquell Craddock won the Barbara and Martin Pops Award.

Dr. Theodore Hall, Associate Dean for Admissions at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and professor of clinical radiology, presented the final portion of the program to student award winners, including Xiao Song, winner of the Ornie and Baldwin Lamson Award, Adrian Hernandez Lopez, winner of the Ann Bauman Emergency Memorial Award, and Kelly Roelf, winner of the Dr. Gerald S. Levey Award.
Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying the summer. It was so nice to see some of you at the annual Student Awards Luncheon held at the Faculty Center last May. This moving and meaningful event is always a joy for the Auxiliary to sponsor.

The Board approved some exceptional grant requests this past fiscal year as well as provided daily patient aid, support for Tiverton House, PAC and many ongoing patient-centric programs.

There is also some not-so-good news to share. As most of you know, with the easy availability of online shopping, retail stores nationwide are trending poorly. The Auxiliary Gift Shops are no exception. This past year we have seen a downturn in revenue, which translates into fewer dollars to give back to the hospital in order to fulfill our mission.

May I count on you, our loyal volunteers, to patronize our shops while on campus and also spread the word to patients, families and visitors that the shops are convenient, beautifully stocked, offer friendly, personalized service, and most significantly, give back to the medical center in ways that truly make a difference? For that, a heartfelt ‘thank you’ in advance!

Enjoy the rest of the season and I look forward to seeing you at the Volunteer Luncheon at the Four Seasons in October.

All the best,

Elinor Green
Auxiliary President

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**Nurses Week with PAC**

This year, PAC volunteers celebrated Nurses Appreciation Week by visiting the UCLA Health nurses with gifts to show their appreciation. During the week of May 7-13, the PAC dogs made special visits to the nursing stations at both Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica. The volunteers gave out thank you cards and dog-shaped pens to the nurses to thank them for their hard work and care. Pictured are PAC Volunteers Donna Perris and Ellen Morrow and their dogs Tommy and Gus with nursing staff in the Emergency Department.

**Summer program**

**Pre-Med High School Summer Scholars 2017**

Congratulations to our 24 amazing high school students who completed the Pre-Med Summer Scholar Program. They spent a full week learning about the many aspects of medicine and health care, became certified in CPR, toured the UCLA campus, and even watched an autopsy!

Representing over 20 schools, the Pre-Med Scholars are all interested in the field of medicine and want to further develop their knowledge and interest in health care. Many are staying through the summer and beyond volunteering their time.
Hairstylists Making a Difference to Our Patients

Patients hospitalized long-term can now request hair-cutting services through the Volunteer Office, thanks to a recent Auxiliary-funded grant which supports the program.

Carey McCarthy, director of volunteers, states, “The patients are enjoying this service immensely. Many indicate how special and positive this experience makes them feel.” The volunteer office recruited licensed cosmetologists to volunteer their services and assist patients who needed haircuts. The services range from a minor hair trim, to detangling matted hair. Some patients even want to have their head shaved as they are going through chemotherapy. The services are available at both the Westwood and Santa Monica hospitals. The stylists find the work rewarding and the patients are very appreciative.

One recent patient even said, “I feel human again,” after receiving a haircut he had been hoping for after months of being hospitalized.

The Auxiliary-supported program utilizes disposable kits, so as not to risk the chance of any contamination or germs being spread. The patient units requesting the most services include the intensive care units, where patients can often be hospitalized for months at a time.

Volunteers include local hair stylists like Jevonne Williams and Roxanne Rice, who have cut dozens of patients’ hair. “The most rewarding thing you could ever do is to give something that no one can ever repay,” is a favorite adage of Rice, who volunteers weekly in the program.

“I am passionate about my career, and this program is tremendously rewarding for me.”

As always, Volunteer Services proudly offers a variety of services to provide that extra special touch and comfort for our patients.

Creative Arts Program Provides Positive Outlet for Patients

The Creative Arts Program has been flourishing at both the Westwood and Santa Monica hospitals, and is being enjoyed by countless patients and families. Over 20 volunteers are involved with the program which includes a mobile art cart that rounds the patient floors.

Popular art kits include mandala comfort coloring, origami, crosswords, doodling and journaling. Patients are allowed up to two kits, and may request volunteer assistance to work on the project together. In addition to patient rooms, the volunteers round the hospital waiting areas, including Maddie’s Room, the Emergency Department, and Surgical Lounge at Santa Monica at Santa Monica. Family members often stop by the Volunteer Office to pick up a card playing kit, or coloring supplies if they happen to miss the mobile art cart.

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and patients comment on what great stress relief the program brings, especially with long hospitalizations and long periods of waiting for loved ones being treated. Plans are underway for incorporating the art program into the bedside tablet project, which will allow patients to personally request and select art kits from their bedside.

Interns and volunteers support the program by continually thinking of new ideas for art, assembling kits, and training volunteers for the art cart. The UCLA Heath Auxiliary has generously sponsored the program for two years, which began in Maddie’s Room at Westwood, and soon expanded to the patient floors and Santa Monica.
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Directors serving 1st Year
Judy Feig
Marjory Sebolsky
Barbara Speiser

Directors serving 2nd Year
Cessie Barbour
Amy Jackson
Stephanie Kingsdale
Natalie Kravec
Jackie Reynolds
Nancy Riley

Directors serving 3rd Year
Molly Coulson
Gail Conway
Shirley Graner
Diane Fantl
Judy Riley
Kay Handler

Directors serving 4th Year
Marina Aronoff
Andrea Korn
Rita Loew
Diane Mandell
Myra Porter
Mary Ellen Schlegel
Clare Suomi

Directors serving 5th Year
Ardi Laessig

Directors serving 6th Year
Joan Curtis
Sandra Stillwater
Cindy Zapel
Irene Weinrot

* Ex officio: Elinor Green, Elaine Mendes, Rachel Dourec, Margaret Churchill