CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
Charles E. Young, M.A. ’57, Ph.D. ’60
DECEMBER 30, 1931 – OCTOBER 22, 2023
I have had the opportunity to talk to many Bruin alumni and without exception we all know that Chancellor Young was the cornerstone that propelled UCLA to become the academic jewel of the present.

RALPH M. OCHOA ’63, J.D. ’69
Chuck was incredibly kind to me as an associate dean of students in CPAO in the ’70s and ’80s and wrote a great letter of rec that helped me get into Harvard Law when UCLA turned me down. He was an extraordinary leader.

SHEILA KUEHL ’62
He was that rare individual truly born to be a leader: highly intelligent, wise in a meaningful sense of the word, articulate while not wasting words, always focused on the key issues and not wandering off into irrelevancies, decisive while not impulsive, very willing to listen to the counsel of others, having the “vision” thing, that is, able to see the big picture, both currently, and into the future, and above all, a person of true integrity, while also being pragmatic when needed.

NORMAN ABRAMS

A Tribute to Chancellor Charles Young
I feel very fortunate that Chancellor Young was at UCLA when I became the first woman to receive a full athletic scholarship to UCLA and have his support for both my brother David and myself. Chancellor Young always had great vision and had an ear to listen to the students. He certainly impacted our university and made a Big Difference!

ANN MEYERS DRYSDALE ’79
I will always remember the way President Young (at the University of Florida) stood tall and supported me during a challenging time. He showed courage, integrity and empathy at a time when other leaders were afraid. He will always be my hero.

JULIE SINA
A Tribute to Chancellor Charles Young
He will be remembered forever at UCLA — not simply because his name is emblazoned on the Charles E. Young University Research Library, on Charles E. Young Drive, and on the Charles E. Young Grand Salon, but because of what he accomplished during his lifetime to champion UCLA, to elevate it to the top echelon of elite universities worldwide, and to create greater access to UCLA by diverse students of all socioeconomic, racial, religious and ethnic backgrounds.

STEVEN D. SANN '83, J.D. '91

A Tribute to Chancellor Charles Young
Thank you for everything Grandpa Chuck. Love you forever!

LISA RENDIC
His academic and financial acumen and leadership made UCLA the #1 public university in the country. He was a giant of higher education. He was also a very nice guy.

MARC MAYERSON ’72, M.A., ’72, ED.D. ’00
I worked in the Chancellor’s Office in 1979 for John Sandbrook. Chuck had both a charming and commanding presence. I transferred after a few months, but he always remembered me and greeted me warmly. That meant a lot to me – that he was so friendly to both secretaries and dignitaries. It said a lot about his character.

DAVIDA SIWISA JAMES ’92
Chancellor Young transformed UCLA, and much of the UC system, creating a model educational system that included many seats at the leadership table.

ANNETTE YU ’83 AND JOHN EMERSON ’80, M.S. ’84

A Tribute to Chancellor Charles Young
In California, in 1970, the men who administer universities find themselves besieged. On one hand, the student activists desire to remake the university into an institution which he considers to be more relevant to the times and more able to cope with the needs of society as he sees them. On the other, the public and the state legislature are disturbed and alienated by the excesses of campus radicals and by the University’s continued and emphatic support of the traditionally liberal academic concepts of free speech and free inquiry. They desire to exercise a more pervasive and restrictive control over the functions and attitudes of a community which they support financially while suffering the brunt of that community’s criticism.

At UCLA, Chancellor Charles E. Young is very much the man in the middle. Caught between the idealistic demands of youth and the financially and politically more conservative demands of the state legislature and the University’s Board of Regents, Chancellor Young must seek to mediate some sort of course for the University which takes into consideration the essential role of an educational institution, as well as the imperatives of the conflict within which the University finds itself enmeshed. The difficult job of university administrator is made more difficult by the various social and political demands and pressures now being directed at institutions of higher education. Groups like the Board of Regents, traditionally and constitutionally designed to protect the University of California from undue political pressure, have found this an increasingly difficult role and as a result, the Chancellor’s office is experiencing greater pressures from both sides of California’s educational conflict.

Chancellor Young feels that the hope of the University lies in a student activism which he believes has become less violent and more responsible and that in response to this change, society at large and the governmental institutions that administer the people’s desires and demands will come to view the educational process with a clearer, less political eye. Chancellor Young is quick to admit that in California, in 1970, at UCLA, the university administrator must be, above all, an optimist, contending with the conflicts generated when individuals within a given system are being taught not what to think but simply to think.

A Tribute to Chancellor Charles Young
What a man, what a legacy, what a friend...

LEO BUNNIN
He was a true visionary and an inspirational leader. The initiatives he sponsored during his time as chancellor have made a substantial impact on the lives of students (e.g., the Housing Master Plan, which has led to guaranteed housing for new freshman for the extent of their matriculation), faculty and staff (e.g., funding the Emeriti and Retiree Resource Center), just to name a couple of examples.

SUSAN ABELES ’73
Chuck demonstrated that no just cause was too small to be defended, no person unworthy of being listened to, no fight for right ever abandoned. He was a great and good man with a common touch. At my age, I never expected to be mentored in such a lovely way.

DAN GUSTAFSON

A Tribute to Chancellor Charles Young
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I remember when Chuck Young made the bold decision in fall 1982 to move the UCLA Football team from the Coliseum to the Rose Bowl. That was a brave and farsighted decision that he made in the face of intense political pressure (including from Mayor Tom Bradley), but it proved to be of one of most brilliant decisions he made to ensure the long term success of UCLA Athletics and the Bruin football team.

STEVEN D. SANN ’83, J.D. ’91

A Tribute to Chancellor Charles Young
I applaud his commitment to diversity and the advancement of underrepresented students.

CLAUDIA PRADA ’88, M.F.A. ’94, M.A. ’97
Through his patience, insight, directness and sheer love of the University, Chuck transformed UCLA.

CHRISTOPHER NORLIN ‘88, M.ED. ‘93
Chuck and Judy became close friends when they moved to Sonoma. Chuck helped the community in many areas, particularly in K-12 education. He was always a voice of reason and a problem solver. We will miss him.

LES VADASZ
Charles E. Young was truly a great man; I do not use that term lightly. His passing is a great loss, but all of our many memories of him, the enormous impact that he had on UCLA and the other institutions he led, and his influence on so many, many people, means that he lives on in all of our hearts and minds. In that sense, he is not gone.

NORMAN ABRAMS
To My Dear Mentor – your guidance and friendship helped to make my life worthwhile. You will be missed, but will be remembered as the great man that you were and for all that you did for so many people. Rest in peace, my friend.

BOB MICHAELS ’67, J.D. ’70
I remember meeting him during my freshman reception in ’84. He had this “rock star” quality to him, making you feel how special the UCLA experience and community were, and how my own personal journey as a Bruin would make a difference.

MITCHELL SODIKOFF ’89
A Tribute to Chancellor Charles Young
A mind without a peer, a leader who set the gold standard, a phenomenal public speaker, an advocate for change and a fearless champion for big University. I played golf with him a few times and faked calm — I knew I was in the presence of a great man.

GLENN TOTH ’76
It was my pleasure to be a part of his team that brought UCLA to where it is today! He was also a dear friend from his first day on the job at UCLA to the day he passed away!

ADRIAN HARRIS
Longstanding admiration for his courage, integrity and vision as an academic leader — and as a colleague who supported so many and so much. Chuck embodied a level of dedication to the educational enterprise and to society as a whole that was exceedingly rare. His legacy will live on for ages, as well it should. We all were lucky to have him as a leader, a mentor and a friend.

JONATHAN VARAT
His commitment and sheer determination made UCLA the outstanding institution it is today. He will always be viewed among the likes of Clark Kerr as one of the greatest leaders in the history of the University of California and in the history of higher education throughout the world.

JOHN CUMMINS
You were and continue to be an inspiration to me. What I value the most, you exemplify: You are a kind soul. You are a man of integrity. You are a wise and caring leader... In my heart, my life’s journey would be meaningful and complete if only I achieved a fraction of the positive impacts you’ve had for countless lives. All I can say is, thank you!

FRED CAMPBELL
Chancellor Young had been a great force in advancing UCLA even after retirement. His efforts and leadership in establishing the Women’s Resource Center (which is now the Student Resource Center), supporting student-dominated governance of the Student Union, which included the UCLA Store and food services, and supporting the UCLA Faculty Center were typically not recognized as important in building a great research university, but critical to those who in fact are part of making UCLA great.

JANE PERMAUL, ED.D. ’70
He could captivate an entire room of attendees with his presentations focused on the future direction of the institution. I remember a personal story that one of his speechwriters shared with me. He claimed that some of his best speeches occurred when he went off script (to the chagrin of some of the writers).

ROGER WAKIMOTO
I’ll never forget the warmth of his handshake, the twinkle in his eyes as he recalled personal events years later, or the way he could turn any conversation into an adventure. I feel lucky to have spent time with him.

SCOTT HUTCHINSON ’87, M.F.A. ’93
His passion for everything UCLA was evident every day and rubbed off on those who served him. No one will ever be able to approach all that he brought to the campus. In addition to being a great mentor, he was a great friend. I miss him beyond words can express.

JOSEPH MANDEL
A Tribute to Chancellor Charles Young
I’m convinced that no one ever loved UCLA more, nor ever will. Chancellor Young was a towering figure in the life of UCLA; the entire campus community owes him an enormous debt of gratitude.

KAREN S. MACK ’79
Through the years he supported me when I served as president of the UCLA Staff Assembly and then chair of the systemwide UC Staff Assembly. He was always supportive when I spoke to the Board of Regents and served as a mentor to me on many occasions. I am not unique because Chuck assisted many of us who supported UCLA.

AL AUBIN, ED.D. ’71
For students in college in Los Angeles with parents and family living in Northern California, Chancellor Young was a fatherly figure... And like a good dad, he handled UCLA public affairs and community politics with grace and character befitting the University.

EDWARD WIN ’89
I was surprised to be named the outstanding graduate student of the year in 1986. You spoke at the ceremony and referenced the speech I made which was reassuring then and forever. It made my immigrant parents very happy which mattered a lot to me and I sensed to you. I am taking a UCLA trip with the daughter who was 7 then. We had to write a short bio and to my happy surprise she referenced that ceremony so many years ago... You and the University live on in generations now and to come.

MARY LOUISE CONTINI GORDON, ED.D. ’86
Chuck generously let us use his sailing yacht to learn offshore sailing, for which I will always be grateful. He was also the most photogenic chancellor ever! His good looks made every picture I took of him for the Daily Bruin beautiful.

SAUL ROE, MBA ’78
As a lifelong Bruin from student to faculty for the last 55 years, I have witnessed the growth of UCLA from being one of the youngest major universities to its current global prominence. There is no question that leadership for almost three decades by our beloved Chancellor Charles Young played a most important and pivotal role.

KA KIT HUI ’71, M.D. ’75

A Tribute to Chancellor Charles Young
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Chuck was a mentor when I was a student. He is directly responsible for me attending Harvard Law School. He changed my life in a positive way. I will always owe him a debt of gratitude. He was a remarkable leader and a great man. I will miss him.

VIRGIL ROBERTS ’68, M.A. ’69
As a student worker in the Office of the Chancellor from 1974-76, I genuinely revered Chancellor Young. His service inspired me to seek a career in higher education and to eventually serve 15 years as an administrator in the LA Community College District.

KENNETH B. TAKEDA ’74, M.P.A. ’76
While a UCLA student, one of the jobs I had was as a driver for UCLA Fleet Services. I drove Chancellor Young several times to and from his campus residence and LAX. Once, right before the 1980 presidential election, I drove him and a few other leaders from other top universities to a meeting with then-candidate Gov. Reagan at the Reagans’ Pacific Palisades residence. Chancellor Young was always pleasant and polite to me, and would ask how I was and how I was doing in school.

TIMOTHY MCGIVERN ’85
Dr. Young left a great legacy that nobody can replace. This giant man dedicated his life until the last minute toward changes in our society that created an everlasting effect on our lives.

SHEHANI DE MARSEILLE
I was a new immigrant and at the time one of the few Hispanics who attended and graduated from the school of engineering; much later my older daughter also graduated from UCLA. I believe that Chancellor Young was instrumental in creating the policy that enabled the University to grow and include all in the city to be able to attend such a great institution. Because of that that we are very grateful.

JORGE RODAS ’71
We will always remember his huge heart, sparkling intellect and wry wit.

JEANETTE AND BRETT NEWMAN
A Tribute to Chancellor Charles Young
I had the pleasure of interfacing with Chancellor Young almost daily. He was such a visionary and in multiple meetings with Vice Chancellor Wilson, he was willing to “think outside the box” for UCLA’s influence into the Black community.

VICKI R. DONKIN ’75, MBA ’79

A Tribute to Chancellor Charles Young
As a student we fought over affirmative action in ’83–’89 and you changed your mind later in the 1990s and you became a leader for diversity and affirmative action. This shows you are a wise man who is open minded and a great man and leader for UCLA and the world.

REGINALD CHUN ’86, J.D. ’89
I always looked forward as a student frequently working as a server at the Chancellor’s garden parties at the on-campus residence. The money was helpful, but conversations with the Chancellor and his guests during the events were a strong influence and an important balance to my education during those chaotic years. Thank You!

JAMES TAVERNAKIS, D.D.S. ’70
I will always remember his leadership as inspirational and a source of pride for me as an undergraduate, a graduate student and as an alumnus. His legacy is formidable and he is most deserving of the high regard with which he is held. He presided over my graduation in 1972 and I couldn’t be more proud.

CARL B. JOHNSON ’72
Chancellor Young was a man of “good people” and improved the lives of many “numa” (people) of those less fortunate and many more. Prayers for a good and comforting “star walk” Chancellor Young!

MERVIN HESS, CERT. ’10
Chancellor Young is the rock star that put UCLA on the map and set us off on the trajectory that Bruins find themselves now.

STEVE YU ’95, MBA ’03

A Tribute to Chancellor Charles Young
I am forever grateful to Chancellor Young for co-founding California Campus Compact (now LEAD California) in 1988 with Stanford President Donald Kennedy. He demonstrated his commitment to community service and engagement and student leadership by hosting the organization at UCLA from 1988-1997. We honored him in 2012 at our 25th anniversary celebration.

ELAINE K. IKEDA, M.A. ’96, PH.D. ’99
He embraced the institution and its workers, faculty and students alike. He cared deeply about every part of this magnificent center of higher learning, research and health care.

M. BELINDA TUCKER & RUSSELL STOCKARD, MBA ’83
I had the privilege of being one of a small group of students for a seminar he conducted in his office way back in 1966. Impressed me then and still does. A giant, and a giant with character.

MICHAEL DAN ’66, J.D. ’69
Chuck was a valued friend, role model and a great leader. Chuck’s vision for UCLA was clear, and made every decision on what was best for the University in the long run—not the short term or politically easy choice.

SHERIE AND DON MORRISON

A Tribute to Chancellor Charles Young
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As a land grant institution, the UCLA Alumni Association acknowledges the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (the Los Angeles basin and Southern Channel Islands).

We pay our respects to the Honuukvetam (Ancestors), ‘Ahiihirom (Elders), and ‘Eyoohiinkem (our relatives/relations) past, present, and emerging.