Rebecca Epstein, Communications and Academic Programs Officer at the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center
PhD, Film & Television, UCLA, 2006

Rebecca Epstein holds an MA and PhD in film and television studies from UCLA. She worked as an arts and culture journalist, editor, and publicist before returning to campus, where since 2011 she has served as the Communications and Academic Programs Officer at the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center.

Lisa Felipe, Director, Excellence in Pedagogy and Innovative Classrooms (EPIC) Program at UCLA Humanities Division
PhD, Comparative Literature, UCLA, 2013

Lisa B. Felipe received her PhD in Comparative Literature from UCLA in 2013. She has over ten years’ experience teaching at UCLA and Occidental College, specializing in writing and research courses on transnational and world literature, race and gender studies, and Asian Pacific Rim literature and film. In 2016, she began working as the Director for the Excellence in Pedagogy and Innovative Classrooms (EPIC) Program, an initiative from the UCLA Humanities Division that seeks to innovate pedagogy and curricula in the humanities.

Natalie Garrett, Self Employed Tech Consultant
MA, Higher Education and Organizational Change, UCLA, 2010

Natalie is morally & ethically against perpetuating the status quo. Her tech career is built on a foundation of ten years in relationship building, marketing, efficiency improvement, and strategy in higher education. Natalie challenges the status quo to increase efficiency. She initiates software solutions, builds trust, trains non-technical colleagues, and manages solutions to full implementation to ensure lasting success. Until the next new technology comes along...
May the 4th be with you.

Hong Chen, Librarian at UCLA
PhD, History, UCLA, 1990

PhD in History and MILS in Library & Info Science from UCLA, as an international student from China; Starting a library in private for-profit higher-education, then working as a librarian in Chinese studies at UCLA; Interest in academic research & publishing; Activity in international academic exchange.

Joseph Watson, Professor of Psychiatry/Neuroscience and Associate Dean at UCLA Graduate Division
PhD, Chemistry/Biochemistry, UCLA, 1985

Joseph Watson is a basic scientist with many years of experience in NIH and private funded research in neurodegenerative disorders. He also has years of academic administrative experience as an Associate Dean.
Melanie Arias, History Department Chair at the Windward School
PhD, History, UCLA, 2013

Melanie Arias, who joined Windward's faculty in 2013, is the History Department Chair. Prior to Windward, Melanie taught courses at UCLA while completing her PhD. She designed courses in the General Education Cluster program and with the History department focused topics including urban history, social justice, and migration. At Windward, she teaches courses including U.S. and World History, Comparative Government, and the Senior Research Seminar. In 2015, Melanie discussed the opportunities and joys of teaching at an independent school when she was featured in the American Historical Association’s “Member Spotlight.” Melanie is also active on Twitter (@20thC_Melanie), where she enjoys sharing the creativity and curiosity of her students.

Marissa DeSiena, Interim Director of the Upper School at the Westmark School
MA, History, UCLA

Marissa DeSiena earned her Master’s degree in American history from UCLA and began to teach in independent schools in the Los Angeles area. She has worked as a classroom teacher and is currently the Upper School Director at Westmark School in Encino, CA. Westmark is a school for students with language-based learning differences.

Yalda Tehranian-Uhls, Adjunct Professor, Author at UCLA
PhD, Psychology, UCLA

Yalda Tehranian-Uhls spent over 15 years as a content developer and a senior film executive at studios such as MGM and Sony, and then earned a PhD in psychology from UCLA where she researched the impact of media on children. This unique background informs her perspective.

Les Koepplin, Director Federal Relations (retired)
PhD, History, UCLA

Les Koepplin’s career has been in university administration, focusing on campus relations with foundations, business, and the federal government. He worked in Washington for 25 years on policy formulation and advocacy, primarily in the areas of scientific research and development. He believes he could be of most help to students interested in university administration and/or working in Washington.

Cassie Rauser, Director, Sustainable LA Grand Challenge at UCLA
PhD, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UC Irvine, 2005

Dr. Rauser is the Director of UCLA’s Sustainable LA Grand Challenge. She has extensive experience strategically developing and funding major research and training programs across campus, and formerly worked abroad building partnerships among private companies, local and national government and the community to create a public-private nature preserve in the tropics. In her current position, Dr. Rauser is working to advance a campus-led Grand Challenge project at UCLA to transform Los Angeles into the first fully sustainable megacity in the areas of energy, water, and ecosystem health. She is using her demonstrated ability to build relationships and forge collaborations among diverse groups to identify challenges specific to the LA region, and implement solutions with the goal of creating a more equitable and livable world.

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Samantha Matamoros-Rangel, Director of Human Capital at Green Dot Public Schools

Samantha Matamoros-Rangel became the Director of Human Capital for Green Dot Public Schools in July of 2013 after serving as Principal for one of Green Dot's founding schools, Ánimo Venice Charter High School. Prior to her work as a school leader, Samantha was a Spanish teacher for several years focusing on the language, culture and diversity of Spanish speaking countries. She is the daughter of Honduran immigrants and was the first in her family to graduate college. Mrs. Matamoros-Rangel holds a BA from the University of California, Los Angeles where she majored in Spanish Literature and minored in Public Policy. In her undergraduate studies she was afforded the opportunity to explore the inequities of public education in urban communities, and this sparked a deep passion for education reform and a desire to be a part of a movement that is impacting students across the country. She currently resides in the city of Hawthorne in Southern California with her 2 sons and husband.

Lisa Nichols, Recruiter at Green Dot Public Schools
MA, Communications Management, USC, 1991

Since 2006, Lisa Nichols has been a Recruiter for Green Dot Public Schools – a non-profit, charter management organization operating college preparatory middle and high schools in the highest need communities of Los Angeles, Memphis and Seattle-Tacoma. She is passionate about the need for education reform and equal access for all students to a high-quality public education, regardless of cultural or economic status. Lisa is primarily responsible for the sourcing and rigorous selection of teachers who share this mission, for Green Dot's 21 Los Angeles-area schools. Prior to her tenure at Green Dot, Lisa spent over 15 years in the advertising industry, as both an agency account management professional and in the realm of freelance staffing and direct recruitment. Her years in account management saw her rise from Assistant Account Executive to Vice President, Management Supervisor at such agencies as Larsen-Colby, NW Ayer, Campbell-Ewald and Ketchum Advertising. Her accounts included well-known companies in the technology and travel/tourism industries, as well as pro-bono work for non-profits. With her move into advertising/marketing recruitment, she was initially the Director of Resource Management for Paladin, and later for Digital People. Lisa is also a wife (to another Bruin!) and mother to a 15-year-old daughter. Lisa holds a BA in English from UCLA, as well as an MA in Communications Management from USC.

Michelle Christie, Founder, Executive Director at No Limits for deaf children
EdD, Educational Leadership, UCLA, 2013

Michelle Christie, Ed.D, is the Founder and Executive Director of the nonprofit, No Limits for deaf children (www.nolimitsfordeafchildren.org), that teaches low income children with hearing loss the skills to succeed in school and in life through its Educational Centers and national theatre group. Dr. Christie is the author of the book, Silent NO MORE, as well as the writer and director of over 100 productions nationwide, including a recent performance at Carnegie Hall this past December. Dr. Christie has received countless honors and awards for her work, including the Humanitarian Award by the Starkey Foundation alongside President George W. Bush. She has changed the landscape of deafness by her endless passion to change the status quo in education for children with disabilities.

Beth Greene, Research Communications and Projects Manager at University of California Humanities Research Institute
PhD, History, UCLA, 2013

Beth Greene is responsible for scholarly communications at the University of California Humanities Research Institute, overseeing UCHRI’s social media, web presence, and related programming initiatives. Beth holds a PhD in History from the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research focused on consumerism and popular culture in state socialist Hungary during the long 1960s.
Norma Mendoza-Denton, Associate Dean at UCLA Graduate Division
PhD, Linguistics, Stanford, 1997

Susan Ettner, Associate Dean at UCLA Graduate Division
PhD, Economics, MIT, 1991

Dr. Ettner is an Associate Dean in UCLA Graduate Division and a Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research in the Geffen School of Medicine and in the Department of Health Policy and Management in the Fielding UCLA School of Public Health. Dr. Ettner obtained her Ph.D. in Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1991 and was on the faculty of Harvard Medical School in the Department of Health Care Policy prior to joining UCLA in 1999. Her research focus is mental health and substance abuse services and policy.

Deena Williams, Co-Founder at Mind Hatchery
MBA, Marketing and Strategy, UCLA Anderson School, 2002