February 5, 2011

Dear Friends:

For more than 50 years Stanley Dashew has been a champion of world peace and international understanding. He believed that the university setting was an ideal place to foster the interaction that is essential to global harmony and commerce. Stan’s visionary determination to see his dreams of peace realized, contributed to the development of the Dashew Center for International Students and Scholars at UCLA. This organization has been very successful in fostering cross-cultural understanding and bonds among students and within the community. Stan wants to assure that this important work is sustained long after he is here to guide it.

To honor Stan’s extraordinary commitment to the Dashew Center and to celebrate his 95th birthday on September 16, 2011, we are pleased to announce the launch of the funding initiative to establish the Stanley Dashew Endowment.

The Dashew Center has become world renowned for its commitment to providing vibrant and robust programs and activities that give UCLA international students and scholars the opportunity to meet and interact socially with one another and with their domestic colleagues. It is an essential enhancement to the academic relationships being formed in the classrooms and labs. And, as in Stan’s original vision, it is housed in a world-class university located in a truly twenty-first century international city.

The array of carefully and creatively designed student programming described in more detail in the attached brochure, has evolved to meet the needs and aspirations of today’s international students. The English Conversation Program, Host Siblings, and local travel opportunities are but a few of the current offerings. Co-sponsorship of some programs with academic departments and other student groups enables the Dashew Center to expand its reach and accomplish its mission of encouraging interaction between international students and the UCLA community at large.
However, these programs come at a cost that cannot be covered by diminishing state funds. Additional financial support is necessary to sustain the long-term viability of the center's programs. Further, it is expected that twice as many international students will be coming to UCLA in the next few years, thereby increasing the needs and the opportunities.

Please consider helping us celebrate Stan's dream of sustaining this essential organization. You can be part of this legacy by investing in our international and domestic students and scholars and help to secure a bright future for them and for our world.

Our goal is to create an endowment in Stan's name by raising $950,000 by Stanley's 95th birthday - "950K by 95". Stan is challenging others to join him in establishing this important endowment. He has generously pledged a gift of $95K which will match dollar-for-dollar your gifts. In essence your $1 becomes $2 and it is invested for the long term. Your contribution to the Stanley Dashew Endowment will help to support the Dashew Center programs by bridging the gaps in funding. As an endowment, it is a gift that continues to give for years to come!

Enclosed with this letter is a brochure describing the Dashew Center for International Students and Scholars and the range of ways you can participate in supporting the Stanley Dashew Endowment. You can also go to our website (http://www.internationalcenter.ucla.edu) and learn more about the center's great work there...and even contribute online.

Thank you in advance for your commitment to helping achieve international understanding and peace and to honoring Stan and the work of the Dashew Center for International Students and Scholars.

With best wishes,

Leslie Dashew, Committee Chair

Anne-Marie Spataru, President of the Board