The 2002-2003 academic year was one of great accomplishment. Despite the challenges we faced due to the State of California’s fiscal crisis, UCLA continued to excel in carrying out its threefold mission of teaching, research, and service for the benefit of our local community and beyond.

Because UCLA is a public university, we have a special obligation to serve our region. To enhance our ongoing community engagement, I initiated the UCLA in LA program and, in fall 2002, I established the Center for Community Partnerships (CCP) as the central element of this vital program. Under the leadership of Professor Franklin J. Gilliam, associate vice chancellor for community partnerships, the CCP instituted its Community Grants Program, which began funding a number of exciting new partnerships between UCLA and organizations throughout Los Angeles County.

UCLA is steadfast in its commitment to compete successfully with the best public and private universities, and our stellar faculty are integral to maintaining that status. Consider Eli Yablonovitch, professor of electrical engineering at the UCLA Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science. Elected to the prestigious National Academy of Sciences, Professor Yablonovitch also was elected, along with two of his colleagues, to the National Academy of Engineering. Other renowned members of our faculty who received honors in 2002-2003 were geography professor William A. V. Clark, who was among four UCLA scholars elected to the 2003 Class of Fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Eric W. Fonkalsrud, professor of surgery and emeritus chief of pediatric surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, who was elected to the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars.

UCLA continues to attract the best and brightest students, who also are key to our remaining competitive. Of the nearly 45,000 applicants for some 4,300 places in the fall 2003 freshman class, almost 19,000 boasted high school grade-point averages of 4.0 or better. Achievement on the part of our applicants is mirrored by the success of our students. For example, three UCLA undergraduates – Diana Libuda, Kayvan Zainabadi, and Heather Coleman – were selected by the Council on Undergraduate Research to present their original research on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Just as UCLA is delighted by the accolades awarded our students and faculty, we are pleased to honor individuals for their outstanding contributions and achievements. During the 2003 commencement season, we bestowed the UCLA Medal, the University’s highest honor, on former Indiana Congressman Lee H. Hamilton and California Congresswoman Lois Capps.

Ensuring that our faculty and students have world-class facilities in which to work, study, and perform also is a top priority for UCLA. Among the many capital projects that commenced in 2002-2003 were the Southwest Housing and the Northwest Campus Housing projects, which together will provide more than 3,300 beds for UCLA students, along with dining, program, and parking spaces. In February, we broke ground for the new California NanoSystems Institute facility. And the state-of-the-art Westwood Replacement Hospital, which will be the new home of the UCLA Medical Center, is quickly taking shape as another I.M. Pei masterpiece.

As state resources decline, alternative sources of support assume even greater importance. To that end, I am happy to report that in fiscal year 2002-2003, UCLA received $278.1 million in private gifts and grants through Campaign UCLA, marking the fifth consecutive year in which UCLA’s gift total has surpassed $250 million. This figure brings the total for the Campaign to more than $2.3 billion, which is 96 percent of the Campaign’s $2.4 billion overall goal, with a full two years remaining.

The data on the pages that follow offer confirmation of the University’s fiscal soundness. These difficult economic times for our state and for the University of California illuminate the need for public-private partnerships, which are vital for the future of UCLA’s programs and facilities. Through the generous support and dedication of our alumni and friends, UCLA will remain among the very best universities for generations to come.

Albert Carnesale
Chancellor