Although the 2003-2004 academic year brought continued budgetary challenges, UCLA remained a leader among institutions of higher learning as we continued to fulfill our threefold mission of teaching, research, and service.

We received a record 44,941 applications for undergraduate admissions, more than any other university in the nation. In fall 2003, we welcomed 4,300 new freshmen and more than 3,400 transfer students, all of them outstanding.

Our students’ many accomplishments confirmed UCLA’s ability to recruit and retain the very best and brightest. For example, UCLA senior Saul Villeda, who won a prestigious national science award at the Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students in New Orleans in November 2002, continued to receive widespread recognition for his research on the spinal cord and co-authored a scientific paper published in the *Journal of Comparative Neurology*.

Our faculty members consistently earn recognition for their outstanding scholarship. In 2003-2004, six received fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. This prestigious honor was presented to Stuart Banner, professor of law; Cameron D. Campbell, associate professor of sociology; Judith A. Carney, professor of geography; David Rousséve, professor and chair of the Department of World Arts and Cultures; Jeffrey Vallance, visiting assistant professor of art; and William R. Zame, professor of economics and mathematics.

UCLA continues to innovate in undergraduate education. The *Fiat Lux* and Freshman Cluster programs gave undergraduates access to the diverse knowledge and perspectives of our most distinguished faculty. *Fiat Lux* increased the number of seminars it offered by more than 50 percent, from 126 to 197. Designed to strengthen the intellectual skills of entering freshmen, the Freshman Cluster Program allows students to experience seminars, engage in interdisciplinary study, and learn about faculty research.

Just as we take pride in our students’ and faculty members’ achievements, we also recognize outstanding individuals beyond the University for their exceptional contributions to society. In spring...
2004, we bestowed UCLA’s highest honor, The UCLA Medal, on former U.S. Senator George J. Mitchell and businessman and philanthropist George Aratani.

In athletics, 2003-04 was the year of the UCLA women, with women’s teams earning NCAA titles in gymnastics, golf, track and field, and softball. These victories helped UCLA maintain its top spot in the nation, with a total of 94 NCAA championships.

Campaign UCLA continued at an extraordinary pace, attracting more than $268 million in private gifts and grants last year. We now have raised more than $2.6 billion, exceeding our goal of $2.4 billion; the Campaign continues through 2005.

Recruiting and retaining the very best faculty and students remains a top priority for UCLA. In June, I announced the Ensuring Academic Excellence initiative, an ambitious plan to raise $250 million over the next five years to enable us to continue to attract and retain the finest scholars.

Giving back to the community is an integral part of UCLA’s mission. In 2003-2004, our Center for Community Partnerships made 32 grants to Los Angeles and campus organizations, further confirming our commitment to partnering with the people of Greater Los Angeles.

The following pages illustrate UCLA’s fiscal soundness. We look forward with confidence to the continuing success of our students, faculty, staff, and programs. With the continuing support of our alumni and friends, UCLA will remain one of the premier universities in the nation.

Albert Carnesale
Chancellor