During 2004-2005, UCLA maintained its commitment to excellence, engagement with the community, and expansion to meet California’s growing needs.

We received 43,197 freshman applications and 13,676 transfer applications for undergraduate admissions, more than any other university in the nation. In fall 2004, we welcomed 3,723 new freshmen and more than 7,000 transfer students, all outstanding.

Our students’ many accomplishments confirmed UCLA’s ability to recruit the brightest and most dedicated. This year, UCLA boasted three winners of the highly competitive Jack Kent Cooke national scholarships (totaling as much as $30,000 per year for up to six years), which provide support for students going on to professional or graduate training. Harun Mehmedinovic, an aspiring filmmaker and survivor of the war in Sarajevo, is attending the American Film Institute Conservatory; Khattaab Khan, who is dedicated to sustainable development, is studying international economics and diplomacy at the University of Cambridge; and Corey Chapman, who teaches creative writing to children, is enrolled in New York University’s Steinhardt School of Education.

Our faculty members consistently earn recognition for their outstanding contributions. In 2004-2005, four received fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. This prestigious honor was presented to three members of the World Arts and Cultures faculty—Professor Donald J. Cosentino, Assistant Adjunct Professor Simone Forti, and Professor Victoria E. Marks—and to Professor of English Harryette Mullen.

We continue to innovate in undergraduate education. At UCLA, undergraduates at all levels can contribute directly to the creation of new knowledge. Forty percent of all recent UCLA College graduates have engaged in some form of research. Through our two undergraduate research centers, nearly 200 students are being funded to conduct advanced research, and thousands more are receiving training and support for their research interests. One center is devoted to the life and physical sciences, the other to the humanities and social sciences.

Undergraduate campus life is changing too. Thanks to the construction of new student housing, UCLA’s transformation from a commuter institution to a residential campus is nearly fulfilled. Today, more than 90 percent of incoming freshmen live on campus.

Research is another area of expansion. During 2004-2005, UCLA received $821 million in research funding through competitively awarded grants and contracts, placing us among the top research universities in the nation. Much of this goes toward science, engineering, and medicine—areas in which UCLA is widely known for landmark research advances.

UCLA’s engaged scholarship helps improve the quality of life in Los Angeles. In 2004-2005, our Center for Community Partnerships selected 13 community-campus collaborations for grant awards, continuing our commitment to partner with the people of the Greater Los Angeles area.

Every year, UCLA recognizes outstanding individuals for their exceptional contributions to society. During commencement ceremonies in June 2005, we bestowed the University’s highest honor—the UCLA Medal—on six people from a wide range of professional spheres: Terry Semel, chairman and CEO of Yahoo; Jane Semel, founder of jane.inc; architect Frank Gehry; scholar and author Umberto Eco; and educator James Banks.

During this UCLA Year of the Arts, we opened the spectacular Glorya Kaufman Hall. The rebirth of this building (formerly the Dance Building and, even earlier, the Women’s Gym) was made possible by a generous gift from Glorya Kaufman—the largest single donation to dance in America, and probably the world. This exquisite facility brings together a major performance venue, studios, classrooms, labs, and an outdoor pavilion theater. It further enhances UCLA’s reputation as a world-class center for the arts and provides an environment where students can explore links between performance, community engagement, and diverse artistic traditions.

In athletics, the UCLA Bruins still lead the nation with 97 NCAA championships and 118 total national championships, three of which came from this year’s men’s and women’s water polo teams, and the men’s tennis team.

Last year, I launched the five-year Ensuring Academic Excellence initiative to generate new funds that will enable us to continue to attract and retain the finest faculty and students by establishing endowed chairs, scholarships, and fellowships. By the end of the campaign’s first year, more than $100 million had been pledged toward our $250 million goal.

Meanwhile, Campaign UCLA—the most ambitious fund-raising effort ever undertaken by a public university—continued at an extraordinary pace, attracting more than $287.5 million in private gifts and grants in fiscal year 2005. Launched in 1997, Campaign UCLA has raised a total of $2.85 billion, more than doubling our original goal of $1.2 billion, and continues through December 31, 2005. These funds will make an enormous difference in meeting the needs of our growing campus through new facilities, enhanced academic programs, increased support for research, and more. We are deeply grateful to the many individuals and institutions whose contributions have made this campaign such a dramatic success.

I take pride in UCLA’s sustained momentum in so many areas. I am confident that with the generous support of our alumni and friends—and the continued fiscal soundness demonstrated in this report—UCLA will remain a premier university.

Albert Carnesale
Chancellor

Historic facades conceal innovative interiors. Kaufman Hall (left) began life as the Women’s Gym; now the building is home to state-of-the-art dance theaters and video labs. Similarly, the old Men’s Gym became the Student Activities Center (right).