During 2005–2006, UCLA began to emerge from several years of severe state budget cuts. The fact that the University remained strong and poised for greatness despite the cuts attests to our sound fiscal management, as documented in this report. UCLA continued to advance its mission of education, research and service across the University in the community, and to be one of the world’s top research universities.

In fall 2005, we enrolled 4,422 new freshmen out of 42,227 applicants and more than 3,000 of the 13,189 transfer students who applied for undergraduate admission. In spring 2006, we awarded a record number of doctoral degrees — more than 700.

Our students’ accomplishments continued to confirm both their academic ability and their dedication to making a difference in the world. Eight students wrote and published Switzership: Raves: Asian Americans in the Garment Industry, the first book to focus on the plight of these workers in Los Angeles. And 20 students taught English to immigrant day laborers twice a week as part of the Day Laborer Project.

Our first senior-class survey, with responses from 80 percent of the graduating class, revealed seniors’ strong satisfaction with their academic experience, campus life and the intellectual challenges presented by the curriculum and the faculty.

UCLA undergraduates at all levels once again participated in the creation of new knowledge. Sixty percent of recent graduates of the College of Letters and Science engaged in some form of research or creative activity.

During 2005–2006, UCLA ranked second in the nation in the amount of research funding won by faculty through competitively awarded grants and contracts. UCLA faculty members also gained more recognition. Four received fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation: Michael Heim, professor of Slavic languages and literatures; Ju-Ming Liu, professor of electrical engineering, Anthony Pagden, distinguished professor of political science; and Laurence C. Smith, professor of geography.

In our medical enterprise, construction of the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center is nearly completed. And for the 17th consecutive year, UCLA Medical Center was named “Best in the West” by U.S. News & World Report, which also ranked it among the nation’s top five hospitals.

The University’s community engagement as part of UCLA in LA continued to grow, helping to improve the quality of life in Los Angeles while informing our own research and learning. This year, our Center for Community Partnerships established its 100th partnership in engaged scholarship, representing total funding of more than $2 million.

As we do every year, we recognized several outstanding people for their contributions to society. In 2006, we bestowed the University’s highest honor, the UCLA Medal, on Robert Wilson, executive with Duckett-Wilson Development Co., and his wife, Marion Wilson, past president of Women and Philanthropy at UCLA; film producer Samuel Goldwyn Jr.; and Eli Broad, founder-chairman of SunAmerica Inc. and KBI Home, and his wife, Edythe Broad.

On campus, more and more capital programs reflect UCLA’s majestic architectural tradition. During this year, we completed construction on the Humanities Building and the Weyburn Terrace apartments, which accommodate more than 1,000 graduate students. (Today, half of all UCLA students live within a mile of campus.)

The UCLA Bruins still lead the nation with 99 NCAA championships and 120 total national championships, two of which belong to this year’s men’s volleyball and women’s water polo teams. We are poised to celebrate the 100th title.

In December 2005, we concluded Campaign UCLA, the largest and most successful fundraising effort in the history of higher education. The campaign raised more than $3 billion in private gifts and grants. 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 made this campaign such a dramatic success.

In 2005–2006, the funds pledged toward our five-year Ensuring Academic Excellence initiative reached $168.4 million. The goal of the initiative is to raise $250 million to enable us to continue to attract and retain the finest faculty and students by establishing endowed chairs, scholarships and fellowships.

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