In 2006–2007, UCLA continued to emerge from several years of severe state budget cuts and to consolidate the resulting gains. As a result of visionary planning and sound fiscal management, the university continued to advance its mission and remained a leader among the world’s top research universities.

In fall 2006, UCLA enrolled 4,809 new freshmen out of 47,317 applicants and 3,286 of the 13,137 transfer students who applied for undergraduate admission. During the 2006–2007 academic year, we awarded approximately 11,000 bachelor’s, master’s, doctoral, and professional degrees. The number of Ph.D. degrees awarded increased from 671 the previous year to 689, and non-Ph.D. doctoral degrees rose from 704 to 738.

Through their achievements, our dazzling students continued to demonstrate not only their academic ability but also their dedication to making the world a better place. Three UCLA students received the 2007 Charles E. Young Humanitarian Award for their extraordinary contributions and commitment to public service: Leopoldo Daniel Gonzalez has helped establish the DREAM Scholarship for undocumented UCLA students; Lucero Chavez tutors low-achieving high school students to help them prepare for college; and Diana Tehrani works with the UCLA Mobile Clinic to bring medical aid and mental health services to the homeless.

Once again, UCLA undergraduates at all levels participated in the creation of knowledge. Sixty percent of UCLA undergraduates engage in some form of research or creative activity. For example, Bella Zagh, a senior anthropology major, is conducting research with professor-in-residence Dr. Beth Karlan, who runs the nation’s largest ovarian-cancer tumor bank. It is Bella’s dream to find a cure for ovarian cancer, which took her grandmother’s life.

During 2006–2007, UCLA received $913.86 million through competitively awarded grants and contracts, placing us fourth in the nation in the amount of research funding won by faculty. Not surprisingly, our world-class faculty continued to win prestigious acclaim. Professor Terence Tao became UCLA’s first faculty member to receive the Fields Medal, the equivalent of the Nobel Prize in mathematics; he was also awarded a “genius” grant from the MacArthur Foundation. Five professors received Guggenheim fellowships: Jennifer Bolande, professor of new genres in the department of art; J. Arch Getty, professor of history; Peter Nabokov, professor in the departments of world arts and cultures and American Indian studies; J. David Neelam, professor of atmospheric and oceanic sciences; and Teofiló F. Ruiz, professor of history.

In our medical enterprise, we completed construction of the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and dedicated the facility in June 2007. The center is scheduled to open in spring 2008. The UCLA Medical Center was ranked among the nation’s top three hospitals and for the 18th consecutive year was named “Best in the West” by U.S. News & World Report.

The university’s community engagement continued to grow, helping to improve the quality of life in Los Angeles while informing our own research and learning. UCLA’s faculty, staff and students are engaged in partnerships with more than 200 civic organizations through our UCLA in LA initiative alone. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching selected UCLA for its new Community Engagement Classification, which recognizes universities with outstanding community-based curricula, outreach and partnerships. UCLA was the only campus in the UC system and the only Los Angeles–area research university so designated.

As we do every year, we recognized a number of outstanding people for their contributions to society. In 2007, we bestowed the university’s highest honor, the UCLA Medal, on Chien Chung Pei, architect; Morgan Chu, attorney; Norman Y. Mineta, former U.S. secretary of transportation; and Antonio Villaraigosa, mayor of Los Angeles.

On campus, more and more capital programs reflect UCLA’s majestic architectural tradition. This year, we completed and dedicated the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Center and opened the Billy Wilder Theater at the UCLA Hammer Museum. Also completed this academic year, and dedicated later in 2007, were the California NanoSystems Institute Court of Sciences Building and the Orthopaedic Hospital Research Center and UCLA Biomedical Sciences Research Building. We also completed seismic retrofitting of the Geology Building and Campbell Hall.

In May 2007, the women’s water polo team won UCLA’s 100th NCAA team championship, making UCLA the first school to win 100. This was the team’s eighth NCAA title and their third in a row. The Bruins continue to lead the nation with 121 total national championships. We look forward to our 101st title in the near future.

The largest donation to UCLA in 2006–2007 was the Broad Foundation’s $20 million gift for stem cell research. The Cotsen Institute of Archaeology also received a $10 million pledge from Lloyd Cotsen. Gifts and pledges totaled $373 million, an impressive sum for a non-campaign year.

In 2006–2007, the funds pledged toward our five-year Ensuring Academic Excellence initiative reached $241.4 million. The goal of the initiative is to raise $250 million to enable us to continue to attract and retain the finest faculty and graduate students by establishing endowed chairs, scholarships and fellowships.

We take pride in UCLA’s continuing leadership among elite research universities, despite the fiscal constraints imposed upon public institutions. We are confident that with thoughtful and visionary stewardship, along with the generous support of alumni and friends, UCLA will serve as a model of what a great public research university can be in the 21st century.

Gene D. Block
Chancellor