

Letter from Chancellor Gene D. Block

The 2009-10 academic year was marked by tremendous achievements throughout the campus community. Despite a challenging budgetary environment, our faculty, staff and students — in partnership with alumni and friends — moved UCLA forward in exciting and significant ways.

These accomplishments were realized during a year in which UCLA felt the full impact of the recession and California's resulting budget crisis. Due to reductions in funding from the state, the campus faced a shortfall of more than \$117 million while also absorbing increases in employee benefits and other costs not funded by the state.

We responded with measures that helped close the funding gap in the short term, and we began implementing longer-term, structural changes to plan for a future that relies less on volatile state support. We imposed campus-wide 5 percent budget cuts and targeted cuts in certain areas. Faculty and staff took temporary salary reductions in the form of a one-year-furlough program imposed by the University of California, and the continuing decline in state funding prompted the University of California Board of Regents to approve a significant increase in student fees.

At the same time, we conducted a thorough review of our academic programs with the goal of streamlining majors, reducing unnecessary units and courses, and helping students graduate in a timely manner. We also pursued initiatives that will produce new revenue streams, including an enhanced emphasis on translational research, which will deliver more of our faculty's inventions into the marketplace and potentially lead to licensing and royalty revenues for UCLA.

UCLA generated \$1.1 billion in competitive grants and research awards, a record for our campus and a tremendous statement about the breadth and depth of our research enterprise. The Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center was recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of the nation's top three hospitals and, for the 20th consecutive year, the best in the Western United States.

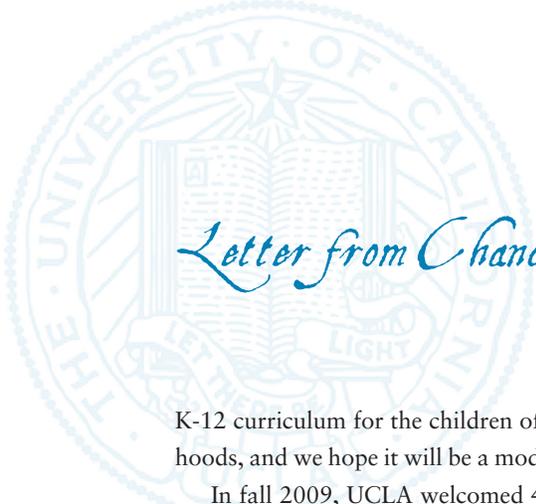
Our exceptional faculty again earned some of the most prominent awards and honors, including election to the National Academy of Sciences, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and Institute of Medicine; five earned Sloan Research Fellowships and four received Guggenheim Fellowships.

In 2009-10, UCLA brought greater focus to our widespread engagement with Los Angeles. The UCLA Volunteer Center, which opened in September, connects students, staff and faculty with service opportunities throughout Greater Los Angeles. Its first major program, UCLA Volunteer Day, saw 4,300 Bruins participating in beautification and repair projects at schools, parks, beaches and other local venues. We also launched the Luskin Center for Innovation, a multidisciplinary think tank housed in the School for Public Affairs that will apply UCLA's intellectual capital to critical issues facing our region.

In cooperation with the Los Angeles Unified School District and community partners, we opened the UCLA Community School. The school provides an innovative

Todd Cheney/UCLA Photography





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K-12 curriculum for the children of one of Los Angeles' most underserved neighborhoods, and we hope it will be a model for other communities across the United States.

In fall 2009, UCLA welcomed 4,472 freshmen from a pool of 55,708 applicants — the most in the nation — and 3,423 transfer students from 16,792 applicants. Freshmen came from 45 states and territories, and 36 countries; transfer students came from 16 states and territories, and 23 countries.

Throughout the year, our students continued to remind us of their talent, compassion and creativity. Matthew Clawson received the prestigious Marshall Scholarship, which pays for graduate study at any United Kingdom university. For their outstanding commitment to public service, four students received Charles E. Young Humanitarian Awards: Abdallah Jadallah, for founding the UCLA Community Program Office's Food Closet, a food pantry for low-income students; Benjamin Moore, for working with Burma Community Builders, which aids Burmese refugees; and Evelyn Wang and Mark Dakkak, for leading Project Literacy, which helps children and adults learn to read.

Students also built upon UCLA's excellence in intercollegiate athletics, earning NCAA championships in softball and women's gymnastics, and bringing UCLA's total number of national titles to 106, more than any other university.

Our success in each of these areas was due in great measure to the generous support of our friends in Los Angeles and around the country. UCLA received more than \$379 million in gifts and pledges in the past year — an especially impressive total given the global economic picture. Among the landmark gifts and pledges we received was \$50 million from Professor Emeritus Paul Terasaki.

During ceremonies throughout the academic year, we presented UCLA Medals to distinguished individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to their professions and to our society. Honorees in 2009-10 were Eugene Rosenfeld, a philanthropist, businessman and UCLA alumnus; Ban Ki-moon, secretary-general of the United Nations; Dr. Gerald Levy, dean emeritus of the David Geffen School of Medicine; and Henry Samuelli, co-founder of Broadcom, philanthropist and UCLA alumnus.

As we begin UCLA's ninth decade, our remarkable institution has never been more deeply engaged in serving California and our society through our world-class teaching, research and service. In the face of significant budgetary challenges, we continued to demonstrate unequivocally the importance of UCLA's innovation, creativity and engagement in transforming lives and communities throughout our society.

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Chancellor

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