

College News

An update of events and progress in the UCLA College of Letters and Science.

"A Wonderful Record of Achievement"

UCLA's record-setting fundraising campaign included \$327 million for the College of Letters and Science—twice the original goal.

The UCLA College of Letters and Science raised more than double its fundraising goal for Campaign UCLA—\$327 million for faculty, undergraduate and graduate student support, and programs and research funding.

"The Campaign was a resounding success for the College—the superb result of the partnership among faculty, the deans, our development team and volunteers," said Patricia O'Brien, executive dean of the College of Letters and Science. "We have advanced our academic goals and enhanced our competitiveness in research and education."

Campaign UCLA, a 10-year effort for the university, concluded on December 31, 2005. Campaign UCLA is the largest and most successful fundraising campaign ever in higher education—the only one to surpass \$3 billion.

Some 17,000 donors made gifts both large and small to the College during the Campaign.

"Gifts committed over the course of the campaign have made possible more than 11,200 student support awards for undergraduate and graduate students," said O'Brien. "And, the creation of 38 new endowed chair funds brings the College total now to 63. This is a wonderful record of achievement."

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Campaign. (For other highlights of fundraising for the College, see page 16.)

"We are grateful to all of our donors and volunteers—each gift is important," said O'Brien.

"Private philanthropy has become a vital component in our efforts to ensure that we remain competitive among the nation's premier research universities," said O'Brien. "Even though Campaign UCLA has drawn to a close, we in the College remain committed to pursuing private gifts to enhance our work."

"We will now focus our efforts on the Chancellor's Ensuring Academic Excellence Initiative—which secures resources to attract top-flight scholars and students in the face of widening funding disparities between elite public research universities and private institutions."

For the overall results of Campaign UCLA, visit www.giveto.ucla.edu.

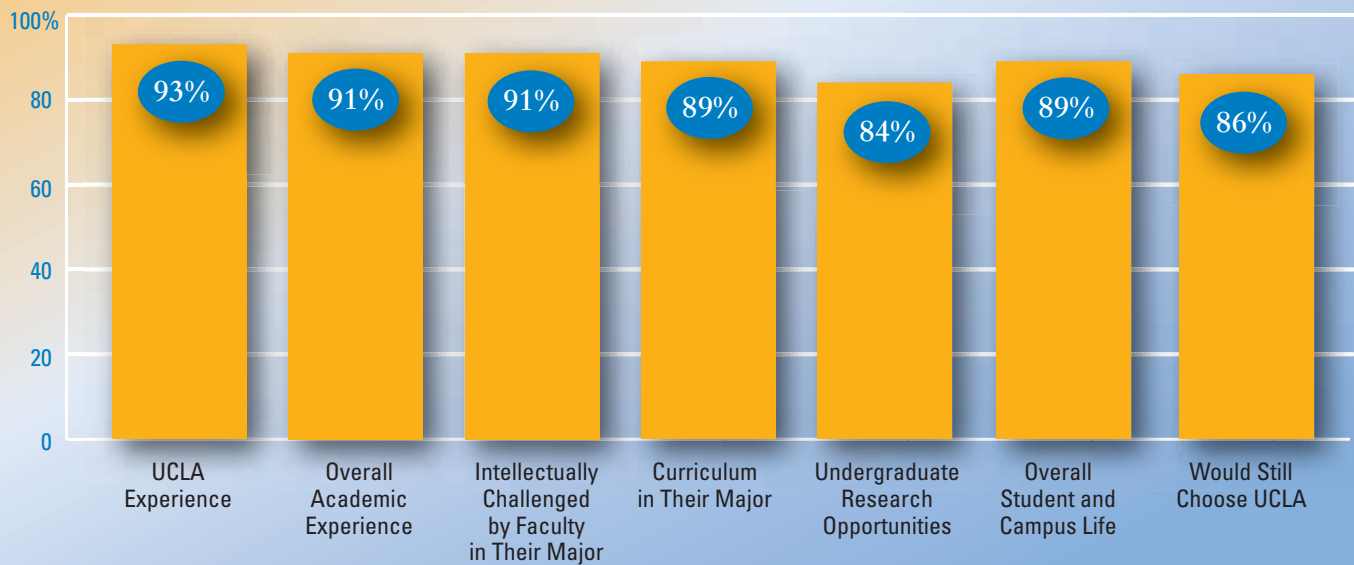
Dedicated donors and volunteers Shari and Garen Staglin received the 2006 Honorary Fellows Award of the College of Letters and Science. The Staglins were recognized at the annual College Awards Dinner on March 6.



Also honored were the six recipients of the Charles E. and Sue K. Young Undergraduate Awards and the Young Graduate Student Awards, which were established with support from Louis and Evelyn Blau in honor of UCLA's former chancellor and his late wife. From left: Indre Viskontas (cognitive neuroscience), Benjamin Wang (ecology and evolutionary biology), Jacqueline Ka-Wan Ng (biology), Albert Cespedes (biochemistry), Sara Culp (English), Matthew Hopper (history).

UCLA Senior Survey

Percent of students who are satisfied/very satisfied by the following:



UCLA seniors gave high marks to the university's academic environment and the intellectual challenges they experienced.

High Marks for the College

A first-of-its-kind study of seniors reveals strong positive views about intellectual challenges and the curriculum in the College.

What do UCLA seniors say about their education at UCLA?

Are they intellectually challenged by the university?

Do they believe they made the right choice in attending UCLA?

In a first-time study of the opinions of UCLA seniors as they prepared for graduation, Bruins reported strong satisfaction with their academic experience and campus life and are intellectually challenged by the curriculum and the faculty.

They also gave high marks to their broader campus experiences, including a wide range of experiences with students from diverse backgrounds.

"Students who come here want to be challenged intellectually and seek new ideas, and the results of the survey show they are getting what they came to UCLA for," said Judith L. Smith, vice provost for undergraduate education.

The survey received responses from 5,800 seniors—more than 80 percent of the graduating class.

The survey found that large majorities of students had high levels of satisfaction with intellectual challenges at UCLA. Among the findings:

- 91 percent of the students reported being satisfied or very satisfied with the intellectual challenges by faculty in their majors.
- 84 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the intellectual challenges of their research opportunities.
- Students also thought highly of the curriculum in their majors and minors. Eighty-nine percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the curriculum in their majors and 87 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of faculty instruction in their majors.
- Among the 1,568 respondents who pursued an academic minor, 93 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the curriculum in their minors, and 81 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of teaching assistant instruction in their minors.

Access to faculty also was commended by the overwhelming majority of respondents. The results show:

- 86 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with accessibility to faculty in their academic major.
- 92 percent who pursued a minor were satisfied or very satisfied with faculty accessibility in their academic minor.

"UCLA is among the top academic institutions in the nation, and we believe intellectual challenges in academics are important," Smith said. "We are gratified that our students expressed such strong sentiments about their satisfaction with their academic experiences."

UCLA plans to conduct the survey annually, and Smith said student feedback over a period of time will be helpful to the Academic Senate when it reviews course offerings and content.

The full survey results can be found at www.college.ucla.edu/seniorsurvey.

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