

Investing in Excellence

The Campaign for Pacific Surpasses Goal

By Cynthia Kincaid

In October 2007, University of the Pacific celebrated the successful close of a seven-year comprehensive campaign, raising more than \$330 million. The original \$200 million goal for *Investing in Excellence: The Campaign for Pacific* was surpassed a full year before the planned end of the campaign.

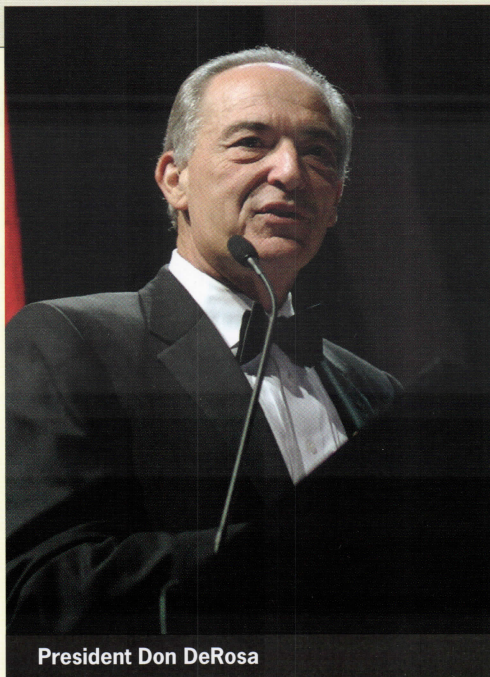
Since its launch in 2000, more than 23,000 of Pacific's extraordinary alumni, staff, faculty, students, parents and friends have contributed to the campaign.

"The Investing in Excellence campaign has been a collaborative effort that has involved the entire Pacific family and has exceeded all expectations," says University President Don DeRosa. "We have made great strides toward our mission of providing a superior, student-centered learning experience that will prepare tomorrow's leaders. In addition, these resources are raising the national visibility of Pacific through the strengthening of our distinctive academic programs.

"The story of this campaign does not lie in the grand total of dollars raised, or even in the tremendous buildings, scholarships, endowments and programs that have been made possible by those dollars," says Ted Leland, vice president of University Advancement. "The real story is the hearts and souls of the Pacific community, the volunteers, faculty and staff who have worked tirelessly for so long to create the best possible Pacific for tomorrow, and for them, I am incredibly thankful."

Many of the gifts were earmarked for various campuses and departments throughout the university, including more than \$10 million for Pacific McGeorge.

"For the law school, this was the first time that we entered into a capital campaign, successfully setting [and attaining] our goal," says Charlene Mattison, assistant dean, Office of Advancement at Pacific McGeorge. "It really tells us that our alumni are behind us. And it tells us we are ready to continue



President Don DeRosa

to engage in our community and engage with our alumni, as we look forward and grow."

Among the key campaign milestones was a \$100 million estate gift by Jeannette and Robert C. Powell, respectively current and former regents of the University. The largest estate gift in the University's history, it is also among the top 50 in U.S. history and will be used primarily for scholarships. In all, more than \$179 million in endowments was secured, some in the form of estate gifts.

Mattison emphasized that the success of the campaign was due in large part to the commitment of the Pacific family: students, parents, the community and alumni. "For them to show their support in this way, and to tell us we are doing the right things and taking their institution in the right direction, is such a positive message," she says.

This broad spectrum of donors, foundations, corporations, individuals, alumni, and friends of the school have and will continue to have a far-reaching impact on Pacific and, specifically, the law school.

"We will continue to encourage investment in the law school campus," says Mattison. "One specific project will be the upcoming renovation of the [Gordon D. Schaber] Law Library. We will also be looking to endow centers and create chairs in specific areas of faculty scholarship and in teaching."

Ultimately, a successful campaign such as this will give University of the Pacific a chance to even more fully engage its already active alumni. "We know what they are doing and how successful they are," Mattison says. "But, likewise, they know what we are doing, and they are engaged in the process."

People are willing to invest so long as you have something that they can invest in," she says. "[Our donors] stepped forward and supported us at a transformational time for our university, and specifically for the law school campus."

Photography: Adrian Mendoza