



# WOODBURY TODAY

Vol. VI, No. 2 Winter 2012

## An Era of Excellence

### Dr. Kenneth R. Nielsen Announces His Retirement

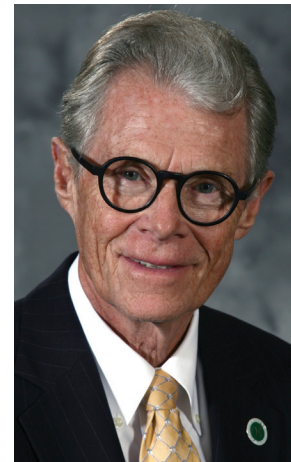
Kenneth R. Nielsen, Ed.D., will retire as president of Woodbury University on June 30, 2012. Dr. Nielsen has led Woodbury University since 1996 and will continue for a year as an advisor to the new President and the Board of Trustees until June 2013.

Last Spring, in preparation for Dr. Nielsen's retirement, the Woodbury Board of Trustees appointed an eight member committee assisted by a separate campus advisory committee including faculty, staff, administrators and alumni to lead the selection process for a new president and prepare for a seamless transition of leadership. The University has retained Academic Search, Inc. -- a top ranked presidential search firm in higher education—to assist in a comprehensive, nationwide search for an innovative, accomplished, ambitious, and energetic

person who has gained distinction as an educational leader, administrator, and successful fundraiser.

Robert W. Kummer, Jr., chair of the Woodbury University Board of Trustees said, "Ken Nielsen's influence on Woodbury over the last 16 years has been transformational, as the University grew to become one of the most outstanding institutions of professional education in the nation. He will be sorely missed by our students, faculty, administrators, staff and the Board of Trustees as well as our alumni and many friends in the community."

Under Dr. Nielsen's leadership, Woodbury University has achieved unprecedented success. The University has launched new master's and bachelor's degree programs, faculty appointments have more than doubled, enrollment has



grown by 52 percent, and the endowment has reached an all-time high.

"Our University is much more than enrollment growth, endowment, buildings, and financial

security; rather it is a family, a cadre of caring, committed people who are united in the common cause of bettering lives through education," says Dr. Nielsen. "It has been a great honor and privilege to serve this institution."

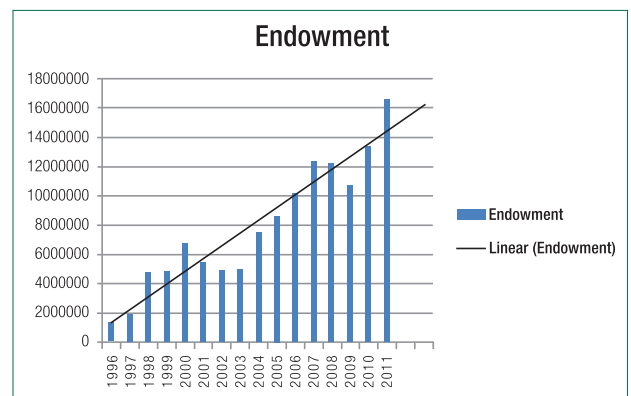
Woodbury's future has also been made more secure through efforts such as the establishment of the Pop Whitten Heritage Society, which today boasts 96 members who have pledged to leave approximately \$30 million in gifts from their estates. Dr. Nielsen insisted on balanced operating budgets and the transfer of money annually from the operating budget to the endowment.

"As I look back at the remembrances, reflections, reviews, and retrospectives, they've all been important to me because of my basic respect for each and every person," says Dr. Nielsen. "The University is a better place. Woodbury has a great Board, a wonderful faculty, and an outstanding learning community. The past 16 years have been challenging, rewarding, exciting, and important for Woodbury and her future. Now, it is on to the next chapters that will be written by future generations of students, faculty, administration, donors and trustees."



# Among the major milestones accomplished during Dr. Nielsen's 16-year tenure:

- Historic rise in the academic talent of the student body
- Development of an award-winning faculty and increased number of full-time professors
- Record increases in the endowment, annual giving, and alumni relationships
- Record increases in enrollment
- Transformation of the campus through major construction projects, School of Business and School of Architecture, along with major improvements to the Design Center, Kirby Hall, Pop Whitten Student Center, New Woody's Cafe, Enkeboll Courtyard, and Isaacs Faculty Center
- Campus beautification renovations including planting 80 trees and placing 85 outdoor tables and 45 benches, resulting in a park-like environment that is conducive to learning
- Establishment of news master's (architecture, organizational leadership) and bachelor's (organizational leadership, filmmaking, media technology, game art design) degree programs
- Establishment of a San Diego campus offering both bachelor's and master's degree programs in architecture
- Accreditation for academic programs and 9-year WASC reaccreditation
- Designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution, leading to more than \$15 million in federal grants to improve educational opportunities for minority students
- Establishment of the Pop Whitten Heritage Society
- Gifts from major philanthropic foundations in Los Angeles, as well as several national foundations
- Establishment of the Julius Shulman Institute and Arid Lands Institute
- Strengthened reputation in the region and increased outreach activities (e.g., President's Executive Council, Library Associates)
- Establishment of Founders' Week, an annual celebration of Woodbury's past, present, and future
- Formation of Boards of Advisors in the Schools of Business and Architecture



Honoring President Kenneth R. Nielsen, Ed.D.: *A Celebration of 16 Years at Woodbury University*

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, June 23, 2012  
 The Jonathan Club  
 For more information,  
 please contact  
 James Morse at 818.252.5248



# Woodbury 1996 vs. Woodbury 2012

	1996	2012
Full-time faculty	24	72
Enrollment	1066	1624
Endowment	\$1 million	\$16 million
Master's programs	1	5
Campuses	1	2 (Burbank, San Diego)
Woody's dining	67 seats	300 seats

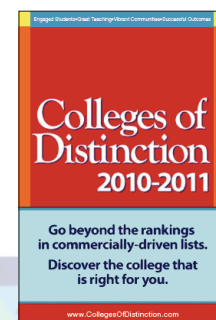
Dr. Nielsen's tenure as Woodbury's 12th president of Woodbury University is one of the most influential in the university's long history. Embracing the university's tradition of entrepreneurship, Dr. Nielsen's bold leadership vision and collaboration with students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors, and friends has strengthened academic quality, increased enrollment, provided a strong financial base through an endowment that has grown to record levels, and transformed the scenic campus with construction of new facilities for the School of Business and the School of Architecture.

President Nielsen has upheld academic excellence as his first priority. This focus has led to doubling of the number of full-time faculty; establishment of a San Diego campus; and numerous national and international awards for students and faculty. Woodbury's success led to its recent inclusion in Colleges of Distinction, a publication that identifies the 200 U.S. colleges and universities that make a difference in students' lives.

Under Dr. Nielsen, Woodbury has become the university that is educating the next generation of Southern Californians, with students representing the incredible social, ethnic, and economic diversity that makes the region such a dynamic place. Consider that more than 70% of undergraduates are first generation college students, and that approximately 56% of students are minorities. Approximately



94% of Woodbury students, one-quarter of who are over age 25, receive some form of financial aid. Most importantly, all Woodbury students learn the tools they need to flourish both personally and professionally. This sound educational foundation changes the lives of students and families in a way that benefits the entire community.



# WOODBURY UNIVERSITY

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*“He has reminded us that our true mission is to prepare our students and hone their skills to effectively interact in a global environment.”*

*“As chairman of the board of trustees and chairman of the presidential search committee, 16 years ago I hired Ken Nielsen as President of Woodbury. It is the most significant thing I have done during my 20 years as a trustee. Under Ken’s leadership, Woodbury has risen to a new dimension of academic and professional excellence. He has reminded us that our true mission is to prepare our students and hone their skills to effectively interact in a global environment. Ken has put a footprint on Woodbury that will guide us to even greater heights and instill in our students a sense of pride to be part of the Woodbury family.”*

Richard King, Chairman Emeritus

