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Scholarships — putting education within reach
Faculty wisdom on Washington
Balancing Olympic dreams
Inside

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Cover: More than 70 works by Enrique Chagoya M.A. ’86, M.F.A. ’87 are on display at the Berkeley Art Museum. See Gallery on page 26. On the cover is Hand of Power, 1997; Color lithograph and woodcut on paper, 25 x 37 inches. Photo: Courtesy Shark’s Ink., © Enrique Chagoya.

The Promise of Berkeley, Spring 2008, published by
University Relations, 2080 Addison Street #4200, Berkeley, CA 94720-4200
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Executive Director, Mary Keegan; Managing Editor, Jane Goodman; Art Director, Michelle Frey-Schutters; Lead Designers, Vee Mahoney and Virginia Yeh; Staff Writers, University Relations, Amy Cranch, David Peterkofsky, and Jose Rodriguez; Contributing Designer, Calixto Flores; Contributing Writers, Cathy Cockrell and Valerie Hotz; Production Manager, Carolyn Hughes.


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**New UC president selected**
The UC Board of Regents has appointed Mark G. Yudof as the 19th president of the University of California effective this summer. The chancellor of the University of Texas system, an accomplished legal scholar, and a nationally recognized leader in American public higher education, Yudof was selected after a thorough national search that began last fall. “Throughout his academic and administrative career, he has proven himself to be someone who cares deeply about academic excellence and opportunity, research innovation, the quality of the student experience, and the role of higher education in serving the needs of society,” says Richard C. Blum, chairman of the Board of Regents.

**Six professors win prestigious Guggenheim fellowships**
Six UC Berkeley professors — Margaret Lavinia Anderson (history), Stanley Brandes (anthropology), Giovanni (John) Ferran (classics), Paolo Mancosu (philosophy), Arthur Shimamura (psychology), and Kaja Silverman (rhetoric and film) — were among the artists, scientists, and scholars awarded John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowships this April. The 2008 fellows — 190 in all — were recognized for their distinguished achievement and exceptional promise. They will share awards totaling $8.2 million to further their research, creativity, and work.

**Birgeneau testifies about greenhouse gases**
The U.S. Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works recently heard testimony from three university executives on how higher education is addressing climate change. Chancellor Robert J. Birgeneau addressed senators about Berkeley’s efforts to cut greenhouse-gas emissions.

**Berkeley shines in U.S. News graduate rankings**
In its 2009 rankings of graduate programs, U.S. News & World Report ranked UC Berkeley third in engineering, sixth in law, and seventh in both business (tied with Dartmouth) and education (tied with the University of Washington). Berkeley was rated fourth in clinical psychology (tied with Minnesota), and sixth in both public affairs/policy and social work (tied with Texas). Berkeley’s small master of fine arts program ranked 30th in a new assessment based solely on a survey of art school deans and faculty.

**Hass wins Pulitzer Prize for poetry**
Robert Hass, UC Berkeley professor of English and former U.S. poet laureate, has won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for poetry for his latest book, *Time and Materials*. Hass, who won the National Book Award for poetry in 2007 for the same collection of poems, shares this year’s prize with poet Philip Schultz and his book *Failure*. The prize carries a $10,000 award and is issued for a distinguished volume of original verse by an American author.

For more on these stories and the latest campus news, visit the NewsCenter or subscribe to Berkeley Online at cal.berkeley.edu.
Last December, Harvard announced a groundbreaking effort to use its vast endowment to extend financial aid to students from middle-income families — including those with incomes of up to $180,000. Yale, Princeton, and Stanford soon followed its lead by increasing their financial assistance. Their laudable efforts pose a difficult question: What can be done to keep public universities affordable for low- and middle-income families?

Berkeley’s chancellor, Robert J. Birgeneau, has stepped into the national spotlight as he grapples to find answers to this challenging question. “The vast majority of Americans are educated in public universities that cannot provide the financial aid packages of private universities with large endowments,” he stated in a recent USA Today editorial. “It could become more expensive for a student from a family of low or moderate means to attend a public university than for a student from a well-to-do family to attend a private college. The solution to this dilemma lies in new public-private partnerships to create endowments that will ensure access for all students, regardless of family income.”

The resources gap

“At Cal, it’s all about scale: a far greater number of students need financial aid, and the school has far more limited resources because it doesn’t have an endowment even close to those of its private peers,” says Scott Biddy, vice chancellor for university relations. In other words, Berkeley’s $369 million in estimated scholarship endowments (excluding athletic scholarships) is spread thin because

Chancellor Robert J. Birgeneau (left) chats with scholarship recipient Cesar Valdez at a recent reception to acknowledge scholarship donors.
it must be used to help qualifying students out of Berkeley’s more than 24,600 undergraduate and 10,300 graduate students.

So even though the total cost to attend Berkeley seems low at $25,000, compared to $45,000 at similar private universities, Berkeley’s undergraduates have far less financial aid available to them. “We have less aid to give our students than the privates, so in order to meet their cost of education, Berkeley students have to borrow more money and work,” says Cheryl Resh, director of financial aid.

The cost of higher education is projected to continue rising at a significant rate. At Berkeley, nearly 75 percent of students receive some type of financial aid. “Just five years from now, thousands of undergraduates are expected to be graduating with debt burdens approaching $35,000 — even those who have had work-study jobs throughout their academic careers,” adds Resh.

Preserving excellence
Berkeley’s quest to sustain access to students of all socioeconomic backgrounds does not come at the expense of lowering its academic standards. It is one of the country’s most selective universities; less than a quarter of all applicants are admitted, and 98 percent of incoming freshmen graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school class.

Attending Berkeley has long been a gateway to opportunity for students of all backgrounds, and last year nearly one-third of its undergraduate students came from households with annual incomes of under $40,000. That means about nine...
times more low-income students attend Berkeley than Stanford, says Resh. In fact, Berkeley serves more students experiencing financial hardship than all of the Ivy League universities combined. Even more striking, half of these low-income students — roughly 4,000 — come from families with incomes of less than $20,000.

For many of these young people, higher education — which they can afford only with the help of significant grants and scholarships — is the key to new opportunities that can change their lives.

“It is an unfortunate reality that access to higher education is inherently unbalanced,” says scholarship recipient Cesar Valdez, a junior majoring in art practice and social welfare. “Scholarships, however, open the doors for many talented students to thrive and succeed,” he adds.

The middle-class challenge

One of the most complicated challenges public universities face is finding more-effective ways to help middle-income students. Ironically, it may now be more expensive for a student from a family earning $90,000 to attend Berkeley than for one whose family earns $180,000 to attend Harvard.

Says Birgeneau, “I am worried that we are creating a hole in the middle. That is, students from well-to-do families who want to come to Berkeley will still come. Poor students will also come, but some middle-income families may choose to attend private universities because they offer more-generous financial-aid packages.”

Transformative change

Birgeneau says that a strong public-private partnership must be formed to match state funds with private donations in order to create additional scholarships for students, and that this is critical to upholding the University’s public mission.

What are Berkeley students and their families expected to pay?

These charts show examples of the amount of money many students and/or their families are expected to pay based on 2007-08 estimated undergraduate educational costs and living expenses of $25,308. Scholarships and state and federal funding help complete the picture.

- $20,000 family income
  - $8,000
  - $13,000
  - $25,308

- $45,000 family income
  - $8,000
  - $13,000
  - $25,308

- $100,000 family income
  - $8,000
  - $13,000
  - $25,308

“Public education and universal access for our brightest students, irrespective of their ability to pay, has been one of the most important social concepts that has made America great,” says Birgeneau. “Increasing the amount of scholarships for low- and middle-income students is one of the best investments we can make in our country’s future, and it is our top priority at Berkeley.”

To learn more about undergraduate affordability and scholarships, visit promise.berkeley.edu/scholarships or call 510.643.5810.
Studying public health during a summer abroad at Tsing Hua University in Beijing opened Leslie Sheu’s eyes to the spread of hepatitis B, tuberculosis, and other infectious diseases in Third World countries. This experience steered Sheu into medicine, and she subsequently joined a research group concentrating on increasingly drug-resistant strains of tuberculosis. “I want to make a difference in people’s lives every day,” says Sheu. “I am focusing on genetics because it is a growing field with a lot of innovation and there is much to be learned.”

As a Regents’ and Chancellor’s Scholar — which covers students’ full financial need in recognition of academic excellence — Sheu was selected to receive the Rose Hills Foundation Scholarship and the UC Chinese Alumni Scholarship.

“These scholarships provided me with immediate opportunities to establish new friendships,” says Sheu, noting that the awards helped ease her way as a freshman.

“My family has always been very supportive. Scholarships give me added confidence because they are a step toward financial independence,” she adds.

A student representative on the Committee for Undergraduate Scholarships and Honors, she recently won the 2008 University Medal, the campus’s premier honor for a graduating senior with outstanding accomplishments. Sheu chose Cal “because it is the best public university in the world. I can focus on my research without economic pressure to find employment outside my field.”

Sheu begins medical school at UC San Francisco this fall.
Sam Pittman is forging his own path at Berkeley. He didn’t want to be confined by a rigid course structure, so he created his own major — depiction of identity — focusing on how identity is represented in literature and art.

Being on campus has sharpened Pittman’s awareness of people with different backgrounds. “I had difficulty getting through the reading in my Introduction to Disabilities class,” he says, describing the challenge of reading about such suffering. A poet since the age of six, Pittman says he writes to “open the eyes of those who do not know of the oppression experienced by others.”

His recent work, Keys to the House, focuses on his experience with childhood sexual abuse and the silence and shame that envelops it. “Coming to Berkeley was liberating and allowed me to concentrate on my writing,” he says.

Pittman is a 2008 Joan Lee Yang Memorial Poetry Prize Winner; a 2007 Lili Fabilli and Eric Hoffer Essay Prize Winner; and a Regents’ and Chancellor’s Scholar. He says he is grateful for both the intangible aspects that accompany such awards, as well as the financial support — especially since his father’s recent health problems have adversely affected his family’s finances.

A finalist for the 2008 University Medal, Pittman says, “Being recognized as one of the top scholars on campus has helped me pursue my goals.”

Sam Pittman
Senior
Major: Interdisciplinary Studies Field
Minor: Disability Studies and Creative Writing
Hometown: Bakersfield
Lizette Avila’s motto has always been “make a difference” in at least one person’s life, and she has been living her motto for quite some time. Her accomplishments include establishing the Amnesty International Club in her high school and joining 10,000 others at the School of the Americas in Georgia to protest the training of troops that fought in El Salvador’s civil war.

As a sister of Sigma Pi Alpha at Cal, Avila has maintained high academic standing while raising money for statewide scholarships specifically awarded to Latinas graduating from high school. “Participating in class has opened my mind to what I want to study,” she says. “I thought I knew about civil rights before coming to Berkeley. Now I realize there is so much more to know.”

During the 1980s, Avila’s parents emigrated from Michoacan, Mexico. Her older sister was the first in her family to graduate from college. “I am grateful for scholarships, which have allowed low-income students like me to experience these educational opportunities,” she says. As a Cal Opportunity Scholar, she receives the Avant! Foundation, Zaffaroni Family, and Barbara and William M. Zubiate scholarships. She also has a California Alumni Association scholarship. “Not having to worry about economic problems allows me more time to study and to be involved,” she says.
Growing up, Geoffrey Mitchell didn’t know anyone going to college. “I was adopted and I had a bad time. There were jokes about unwanted adopted kids,” he says. “I hung out with the wrong crowd and caused some trouble.” He changed his ways after his mother, Jeannetta, sat him down with a social worker, a police officer, and a therapist to discuss placing him in a group home. “My mother has inspired me to do great things,” he says. “She pretty much saved my life.”

As a high school senior, Mitchell received the highly competitive Gates Millennium Scholarship Award, allowing him to attend college and pursue graduate work — options he would not have had otherwise. At Berkeley, he also receives funding as an Osher Foundation Incentive Award Scholar, part of a program that helps low-income students with leadership potential.

For the past two years, Mitchell has traveled to New Orleans to help rebuild homes and feed the hungry. And because joining the Boy Scouts at age 11 changed his life, he raises summer camp funds for Oakland troop members.

“I feel a responsibility to do what I can to uplift my people from the pressures and barriers that affect us today,” Mitchell says. “Cal has given me the opportunity to help black people on a larger scale.”
Schooled in traditional art forms in her native Japan, Harumi Klaiber taught classic calligraphy before moving to the Bay Area. Transferring to Berkeley her junior year, she is now expanding and refining her skills, including learning charcoal drawing. “Portrait drawing was difficult for me. I practiced every day and, as I practiced, I became aware of the connection between figure drawing and calligraphy,” says Klaiber. “The balance between black and white is important. If you fill in too much, the white cannot breathe.”

Klaiber chose Berkeley because she wanted to pursue other academic studies while earning a degree in art practice. As a result of receiving the Wishek and the B. Teuteberg scholarships, Klaiber feels she has been able to improve her skills and grow as a person through exceptional hard work. “English is my second language, and I need more time to fully understand the reading assignments in my academic classes, to write and edit papers,” she says.

Because of her scholarships, Klaiber has not needed to have a job. “I have been able to devote additional time to my art and study than I would have been able to had I not received the scholarships,” she says. “My response to these honors is to do my best and contribute my skills to society.”

Junior
Major: Art Practice
Hometown: Yokohama, Japan
Whatever your conception — or misconception — of the “typical Cal student,” a mountain of data is setting stereotypes to rest. Each spring, thousands of undergraduates from all UC campuses answer the UC Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES). Here are a few noteworthy findings on Berkeley undergraduates — 51 percent of whom participated last spring.

Roots and identity

First-generation college students make up about 30% of Cal freshmen.

Undergrads are twice as likely to say they prefer their parents to be more, not less, involved in their lives.

Why attend college? 83% say “to discover what kind of person I really want to be.”

English is a second language for nearly 2 in 5.

Women make up 54% of undergrads, continuing a majority that has been in place for about a decade.

79% plan to earn a graduate degree.

19% plan to pursue health-related professions, followed by business and finance 15%, and engineering and computer programming 11%. One out of 10 selected “I have no idea whatsoever.”
School and play

89% say they're satisfied with the quality of faculty instruction at Berkeley.

First- and second-generation immigrants are more likely to major in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics than their peers.

Factors important to determining a major:
intellectual curiosity 75%, prepare for a fulfilling career 48%, money 22%, parents’ wishes and easy requirements 7% each.

Undergrads study an average of 16 hours a week outside of class.

Just under half work an average of 12 hours per week.

83% participate in sports or exercise.

44% use the computer for 11 hours or more a week for instant messaging, games, and other non-academic activities.
Growing convictions

When asked to identify their religious preferences, 44% chose “none.” Research suggests that many young people re-attach themselves to a faith when they start a family.

63% consider themselves slightly to very liberal, 22% are in the middle, and 16% call themselves conservative.

Mirroring a national trend among college students, 48% spend three hours per week on tutoring, mentoring, or other forms of community service.

For a five-part series on UCUES results, and a link to the survey itself, go to newscenter.berkeley.edu/goto/survey07.
Continuum of Giving

Education: a family value

Jim and Lynn Johnson never imagined how surprised they would be by their son’s Berkeley experience. At first they were concerned that Matt, who is graduating from the College of Engineering in electrical engineering and computer sciences (EECS) this spring, would feel lost at such a big university. Yet his professors and infectious ambition to get involved have contributed to an excellent education.

“He doesn’t stop talking about Cal every time he comes home,” says Jim. “He is engaged both inside and outside of the classroom.”

The Johnsons’ lifelong involvement in their children’s education has helped them find a clear role in the Cal family. They made a gift to The Cal Parents Fund, which among other things strengthens undergraduate programs, then joined The Cal Parents Board to talk to other parents about the importance of private support.

“Besides having access to great mentors and role models, the students are encouraged to teach each other,” says Lynn. “And Cal makes it relatively easy for students to conduct original research with professors in any field.”

In fact, Matt has assistant taught three classes and won a 2007–08 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, a rare accomplishment for an undergraduate. He has also participated in several research projects with his professors, and led student efforts to overhaul a lab course and introduce new material to the curriculum.

This year, in honor of Matt’s graduation, the Johnsons established a $50,000 endowment to provide ongoing scholarship funds to engineering students.

“If my parents’ contribution can provide one more student with the Berkeley EECS experience, then it’s worth every penny,” says Matt. “I aspire to do the same someday.”

This year, a record 5,000 parents have contributed nearly $1.7 million to support student programs. To make a gift at any level, visit calparents.berkeley.edu/gifts or call 510.642.4138.
Thomas Siebel lives part-time in Montana, known for its rugged beauty, big sky, fly-fishing, and, in recent years, for a growing methamphetamine problem.

Rather than sit back and ignore the issue, Siebel did something about it. In 2005 he launched and supported an aggressive advertising campaign aimed at 12- to 17-year-olds that saturated the airwaves and print media. The result — the Montana Meth Project — has been a series of visceral portrayals of real-life meth addicts that rely on shock impact. By 2007, teen meth use had declined across the state by 45 percent and adult meth use by 70 percent. Based on these results, other states are following Montana’s lead and adopting similar strategies.

This kind of direct, sometimes unconventional, approach is at the core of Siebel’s philanthropic vision. Now the foundation established by him and his wife, Stacey Siebel, has set its sights on the promise of stem cell research. And it’s found UC Berkeley and its cross-bay rival, Stanford University, to be ideal research partners, rather than competitors, in the quest for solutions to devastating diseases.

With gifts from the Siebel Foundation totaling $10.5 million, the schools have established the Siebel Stem Cell Institute, to be led by Robert Tjian at Berkeley and Irving Weissman at Stanford’s School of Medicine. Adding a $1.5-million match from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation for the Thomas and Stacey Siebel Distinguished Chair in Stem Cell Research at Berkeley, the commitment from all these gifts totals $12 million.

The new institute takes two top schools — traditionally viewed as competitors, at least on the gridiron — and fosters a synergistic relationship built on the strengths of each around stem cell research. The new consortium will bring together the top physician-scientists, biologists, chemists, engineers, and computer scientists to target the root causes of today’s most devastating diseases and translate discoveries into new therapies.
The collaboration between Berkeley and Stanford promises to build on the broad strengths of each institution in the arduous journey from foundational research to practical applications.

At Berkeley, for example, scientists are investigating molecular mechanisms that regulate gene expression and differentiation of stem cells into specialized tissues such as skeletal muscle and cells of the immune system. This pioneering work is being conducted through the coordinated efforts of biologists, bioengineers, and chemists. Meanwhile, at Stanford’s School of Medicine, scientists are leaders in research on blood-forming stem cells, embryonic stem cells, and cancer stem cells. One of Stanford’s strengths is translating basic science into clinically useful solutions.

Weissman, director of the Stanford Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine Institute, envisions that the Siebel gift will support the kind of interactive collaboration that is needed to speed advances in the field.

“If you could find a way to get a nanoparticle into a cancer stem cell, you could track its movement in the body,” says Weissman, the Virginia & D. K. Ludwig Professor for Clinical Investigation in Cancer Research at Stanford. “This is the kind of exciting collaboration that can now take place.”

The gift from the Siebel Foundation provides the “all-important key to bring our scientists together in exciting, more synergistic ways,” said Tjian, who is director of the Berkeley Stem Cell Center, a UC Berkeley professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator. He called the gift an “exciting and catalyzing event” that promotes not only collaboration but creates a formidable magnet to attract top international scholars.
The road to the White House doesn’t necessarily run through Berkeley, but the reverse often seems to be the case. A number of Berkeley’s faculty have held positions in past presidential administrations or worked closely with presidential candidates. *The Promise of Berkeley* asked six faculty members — three from each side of the aisle — to reflect on their time in Washington, what’s at stake in the 2008 presidential election, and what Berkeley means to them.

**White House, Golden Bears**

Cal faculty offer election-year reflections on time spent with presidents, candidates

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**Dan Schnur**

Lecturer of political science, College of Letters & Science
Communications director for John McCain’s 2000 presidential campaign

What would voters be surprised to learn about John McCain as a person? Probably not a whole lot. There’s less distance between the private John McCain and the public John McCain than you find with most political leaders. What you see is largely what you get. One topic that doesn’t get as much attention in the post-9/11 world is his interest in fixing the systems of politics and government. It’s something he talked about a great deal in 1999 and 2000, but subsequent world events have taken this year’s conversation in a different direction. While most voters wouldn’t be surprised of his interest in that area, many would certainly benefit from a reminder.

On campaigning in the age of blogs and 24-hour news: One of the reasons you see such interest and enthusiasm among young voters in this campaign is that they have the ability to participate in the discussion, rather than just be on the receiving end. Technology empowers the voters — but it can also isolate them. If you listen to Rush Limbaugh and I listen to NPR, if you go to your favorite blogs and I go to my favorite Web sites, we’re experiencing two different versions of reality.

How have your experiences in Washington shaped your work at Cal? My experience in politics gave me the ability to put together a political-campaigning course that was much more based in practical approach than most political science classes are. I like to say it’s the only vocational-ed class offered at UC Berkeley.
Robert Reich
Professor of public policy, Goldman School of Public Policy
U.S. labor secretary in the Clinton administration

Which of your achievements in D.C. stand out the most? We (and I use the pronoun ‘we’ advisedly because these were team efforts) got the Family and Medical Leave Act through Congress, raised the minimum wage for the first time in many years, strengthened pension protections and workplace safety, and mounted a major campaign against sweatshops and child labor. We also expanded job-training opportunities for millions of American workers.

How have your Washington experiences shaped your work?
Washington teaches you that economics and politics can’t readily be separated; it’s all “political economy,” as 19th century academics used to use the phrase. My books since then — Locked in the Cabinet, The Future of Success, Reason, and, most recently, Supercapitalism — all examine the interstices between politics and economics, and try to reframe public understanding of what’s at stake.

What is the most important issue facing the next presidential administration? Widening inequality.

Janet Yellen
Professor emeritus of economics, Haas School of Business
Chair of Clinton administration’s Council of Economic Advisers

On advising a president: I found it inspiring President Clinton was deeply interested in economic policy issues and highly knowledgeable, so he was personally involved in most of the issues — and he challenged his team to think deeply, creatively, and boldly about policy options. Moreover, his staff treasured the opportunity to make a difference, knew their time to do so was limited, and wanted every day to count.

How did Washington influence your teaching? It exposed me to new policy issues in the realm of macroeconomics and outside of it, such as global warming and Social Security reform. My teaching and research reflected what I learned upon my return. Teaching a core M.B.A. course at Haas called Macroeconomics in the Global Economy gave me a wonderful opportunity to discuss issues affecting countries around the globe with a talented cadre of future business leaders.

On her husband and son, also economists: We certainly do bounce ideas off one another all the time, and it is the mainstay of our conversations over breakfast, lunch, and dinner — although we also share other interests.
Christopher Edley
Dean, UC Berkeley School of Law
Assistant director of the White House domestic policy staff for President Carter; various posts in Clinton administration, including associate director for economics and government, White House Office of Management and Budget

What’s the most pressing issue our next president faces?
I truly believe that things are so dire this time that it is impossible to pick any one issue, or even just a couple. The president will have to deal with grave security threats, the economy, the budget, health care, immigration, and climate change. But realistically there is room for only one or two more major items. The Arab-Israeli conflict? Our hollowed-out military? The immoral condition of our veterans programs? Infrastructure? Global poverty? Trade liberalization? There ought to be a sanity test for these presidential candidates. Then again, maybe not.

Would you return to work in Washington? Been there, done that, bought the T-shirt. For example, I know perfectly well what the life of a cabinet officer is like. You get moved around like a chess piece, filling your life with chitchat, grandstanding congressional overseers, and gotcha journalists, while folks lower down get to work on the interesting substance. You are continually spending intellectual capital, with only rare opportunities to acquire any. If my friend and former Harvard student Barack Obama is elected, I’ll find a way to help from afar. But I’m cured of Potomac Fever, and totally in love with Berkeley and Boalt.

John Yoo
Professor of law, UC Berkeley School of Law
Legal adviser to President George W. Bush

On gaining firsthand experience: One of the reasons I went to work in Washington (for the third time now) is to understand how the different branches of our government work together in practice. I’ve had the opportunity to serve in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. It gives me the ability to explain how the powers of the three can lead to cooperation or conflict beyond what we read in Supreme Court opinions.

Which is tougher: working in Berkeley or Washington? Making decisions in government is far more challenging. As a Berkeley professor, I have the resources of time and energy to fully consider and research a question of interest to me. We can spend years poring over the decision that a government agency, Congress, or a court made in a day or a week. Government officials sometimes must choose policies under conditions of extreme time pressure and incomplete information.

Would you consider another stint in D.C.? Public service is an important responsibility, especially for those of us who are members of a public university. Moving to Washington for a few years can be very disruptive to a professor’s research plans and personal life. But I think that it is important we make a contribution when our government calls. Personally, I would not want to hold again any of the jobs that I have held, not because I disliked them, but because it would feel like watching the same movie again.
Undergrads inside the beltway

Berkeley faculty aren’t the only ones on campus with work experience in the nation’s capital. The UC Berkeley Washington Program (UCDC) offers undergraduate students a chance to work inside the Washington Beltway — interning in government, nonprofit, and corporate organizations — and attend for-credit classes taught by Berkeley faculty.

Past participants have worked at the State Department, the Department of Treasury, the Smithsonian Institution, and CNN, among others. Last semester, some also traveled — to Paraguay to study health surveillance systems, to New Hampshire to assist in television coverage of the presidential primary there, to Indonesia for the U.N. Conference on Global Warming, and to New Jersey to work with a Department of Justice team studying discrimination in prisons.

“For most of these students, this is the most difficult thing they have ever done in their undergrad career,” says political science professor Michael Goldstein, who heads the program and teaches its research seminar.

Participation in the program can lead to employment after graduation. One recent participant, Kelly Nilsson ’06, worked her way to a full-time job through a rewarding UCDC internship at Amnesty International, where she assisted foreign nationals with appeals for amnesty status. “I would review their claims and perform detailed research into the conditions in their home countries,” she recalls. After graduation, she landed a paid staff position at Amnesty.

Thanks to Berkeley’s reputation and UCDC’s local relationships, the program has leads on a wealth of outstanding internships. Students compete for admission to the program — and as the political scene heats up, so does interest in being in D.C.

To learn more, visit ucdc.berkeley.edu.

William K. “Sandy” Muir
Professor emeritus of political science,
College of Letters & Science
Speechwriter for then-Vice President George H. W. Bush

What attracted you to Berkeley? The teaching and scholarly energy. I first came here in 1967, right in the middle of the largest mobilization of protest against the Vietnam War. My problem was that I thought we were doing the right thing in the war. But it was just wonderful. We came up on Lower Sproul Plaza and there was every kind of human being you could imagine. They were excited and spirited. I just loved it. That convinced my wife and me that this was the place where we wanted to be.

Assessing his former boss: He loved action and decisiveness. Early in his presidency, he accomplished some things that he’d made his major purpose — to get the U.N. to perform its collective action function of repelling aggression across international lines. Having done that so early, he was left with domestic problems, and they weren’t very interesting to him.

What’s the most important issue facing the next president? Our perseverance in the Middle East, period. This is a commander-in-chief election, as far as I’m concerned.
From facts to fiction

Born and raised near Detroit, Michigan, McMillan wanted to leave small-town life, and she landed at a community college in Los Angeles. Keeping “her eyes on the prize,” she transferred to Berkeley. Initially she wanted to major in sociology.

“No single writer today has documented the African American experience from a contemporary black woman’s point of view like Terry McMillan,” says Patrik Henry Bass, a senior editor for books and art at Essence, the preeminent lifestyle publication for African American women.

McMillan has long had ties to Essence. As an undergraduate at Cal, she won an essay contest for a piece on black male-female relationships. But this latest award surprised her.

“I thought, ‘Lifetime [Achievement]? Hey, I’m just getting started!’ I’ve only written six novels;” she says, “but the magazine wanted to express its thanks and respect for what I’ve accomplished so far.”

“Everything I write is about empowerment,” says Terry McMillan ’77. Known for her zesty works depicting independent black women, McMillan won the Lifetime Achievement Award at the first-annual 2008 Essence Literary Awards this past February in New York City.

“From facts to fiction”

Faces of Excellence

Terry
a major, her adviser, who had read her work, questioned her interest in sociology.

“When I told him writing was only a hobby and that it’s easy, he said, ‘That’s your ticket in life.’ I still credit him today for steering me right.”

McMillan settled on journalism, but favored “making things up.” She took a fictional writing workshop with Ishmael Reed, a lecturer in the English department at that time whose poems, novels, and other works have profoundly impacted African American writing.

“That’s where I found it — my voice,” she says. “I learned I could lie and tell the truth at the same time.”

McMillan’s best-known books — Waiting to Exhale (1992) and How Stella Got Her Groove Back (1996) — have sold millions of copies each, and both were made into movies. Her forthcoming novel, Getting to Happy, will reunite readers with the four women, now 15 years older, from Exhale.

Beyond that, however, McMillan’s hot-button issue is “ghetto lit,” a new genre of fiction that is raking in sales across the nation. According to McMillan, not only is it poorly written and littered with gratuitous sex and violence, glorifying what black authors and activists have been working to debunk for decades, but many fine, promising writers are getting squeezed out of the literary world. She has taken her concerns to the media.

“It takes years to learn how to look at the destruction of beautiful things, to learn how to leave the place of oppression; and how to make your own regeneration … out of nothing,” her Web site states.

As long as McMillan continues to write, we can expect more beautiful things.

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Faces of Excellence

Creating a haven in West Oakland

A potent sense of responsibility draws Dr. Washington Burns B.S. ’52, B.A. ’57, M.D. to a neighborhood now wrestling with drugs, gangs, and gunshots. “I came to West Oakland as a teenager in 1945,” says Burns. “There were plenty of jobs, and you could run around without concern about crime or drug trafficking.” Fifty years later he came back to open the Prescott-Joseph Center for Community Enhancement (prescottjoseph.org), a hub for family support services.

The center works with programs like Another Road to Safety, which partners with local agencies to prevent children from being sent to foster care. “In the two-and-a-half years we’ve been involved, not a single child has been displaced to foster care,” says Burns.

This April, Burns received the 2007 Haas Public Service Award in recognition of his significant volunteerism. “Dr. Burns has provided gentle but firm leadership that has resulted in visible social change and hope for the West Oakland community,” says Glynda Hull, professor of education. “(The center) has become the anchor of a coalition of organizations and individuals who respect his no-nonsense approach, humble willingness to serve, and compassion.”

Many neighborhood kids, including students at local Prescott Elementary School, where the center helped secure funding for an art teacher, are “witnessing violence in the community and in their lives,” adds Burns. Art and other programs teach children “to express themselves more positively.”

At Cal, Burns says, he discovered that “you have to begin to believe in yourself.” He brought this motto to his 34-year career as a laboratory director at California Pacific Medical Center, and now he’s passing it to others.

Burns remains undaunted by challenges. This summer, to help combat the disproportionately high number of people from low-income neighborhoods battling asthma, the Prescott-Joseph Center will begin running a mobile asthma clinic.
Taylor’s new memoir, ADHD & me: what I learned from lighting fires at the dinner table, candidly describes how the 18-year-old from Hillsborough, California, grew up handling the neurological condition, which affects more than 4 million young people. Since the age of five, he has dealt with ADHD, characterized by distractibility and impulsivity on one hand, and intelligence and creativity on the other.

Today, he manages his ADHD through medication, channeling his energy, and time management.

“The way I cope with the distraction is always having a set rhythm for the day,” he says, noting that he wakes up at the same time each morning and spends specific amounts of time studying, working out, and socializing. “Because I have a plan, I’m able to time-manage my work, interviews, or any other commitments.”

He also registered with Berkeley’s Disabled Students’ Program, ensuring that he gets extra time and distraction-free accommodation (a small room instead of a crowded lecture hall) for test taking.

Taylor received a big boost on campus when psychology professor Stephen Hinshaw added his book as a text for one of his courses. And he’s quite happy to share his very personal odyssey — fire-starting episodes and all. “If there is any awkwardness about sharing my stories,” he says, “it’s overcome by my desire to help.”
Despite being elected by his peers as new presiding judge of the Sacramento Superior Court, Judge James Mize ’68, M.S.W. ’71 is quick to deflect attention away from his success.

“I’m incredibly privileged to be working with such fantastic judges and staff,” he says. “I just want to get out of their way and let them do their jobs.”

Known for his integrity, vision, and spirited creativity — the court’s executive officer joked that he was limited to one new idea a day — Mize never imagined as a Cal student that he would some day occupy the bench. “I wanted to smash atoms with Berkeley’s cyclotron,” he says.

But when an instructor who had been arrested in a protest told him that sometimes you have to take a stand, Mize turned to psychology as an undergraduate, then got a master’s in social welfare. When he still didn’t have “the hammer” he needed, he went to law school. He was in private practice for 26 years before then-Governor Gray Davis named him to the bench in 2000.

During his two-year term, Mize aims to update the aging courthouse with new technology, enabling lawyers to present their cases using multimedia tools. He is also trying to find space for 11 judges expected to come on board, a daunting task considering the state’s fierce budget deficit.

Outside of the courtroom, Mize is equally civic-minded. As the cofounder of Sharing God’s Bounty at St. Philomene Parish, Mize has been dishing up hot dinners to the poor and homeless every Tuesday night that he’s in town since 1983.

“You can’t be expected to make something of your life when you’re hungry,” he says. “We like to say that we serve dignity here.”

Whether serving up sentences or meals, Mize still recalls his Berkeley days when he wanted to “make the world a better place.”

The Bountiful Judge
Two recent milestones in the Iraq war — the fifth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq and 4,000 U.S. military deaths — have a very personal meaning for artist Emily Prince.

A year after the United States launched its initial attack against targets in Iraq, the Berkeley graduate student resolved to draw a portrait of each U.S. service person who had died in Iraq and Afghanistan, along with other locations related to the two war fronts. At latest count, she’d done 4,510 of these drawings — in what has become a regular practice that feels “somewhat akin to prayer” to her.

“As it’s always been in this project, I’m just continually trying to catch up,” says Prince, now finishing a master’s degree program in art practice.

One face she rendered recently — that of Army Spc. Keisha M. Morgan (pictured top left) — “really made an impression” on the artist. “She was 25 and from Washington, D.C. Her face was glowing,” Prince recalls. “Her eyes are etched into my memory.” One of 74 servicewomen whom Prince has portrayed, Morgan died Feb. 22 in Baghdad of a “non-combat-related cause.”

Prince assembles faces of fallen troops to form a map of the United States, for a work she has titled American Servicemen and Women Who Have Died in Iraq and Afghanistan (But Not Including the Wounded, Nor the Iraqis nor the Afghans). Last year, the piece was chosen for display at the 2007 Venice Biennale, a major international exhibition. This summer it will be part of a show at the Wanas Foundation in Sweden, and it later will travel to the Saatchi Gallery in London.

When Prince began her memorial project, in the fall of 2004, “I really never projected how long I might be making these drawings for, or how many I would make,” she recalls. “The situation is complex, far beyond my capacity to predict its future,” she adds. “Sadly, I won’t be surprised if I’m still drawing them in 10 years.”
Enrique Chagoya: Borderlandia is the first major museum retrospective of the work of Mexico-born, San Francisco–based artist Enrique Chagoya M.A. ’86, M.F.A. ’87. Chagoya explores the complicated cultural, historical, and psychological landscape of Mexico and the United States. Pictured above is La Coqueta.

The exhibition is on view at the Berkeley Art Museum (bampfa.berkeley.edu) through May 18.
I. Chancellor Birgeneau (left) speaks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during his January visit to India.

2. Members of the Class of 1955 and the Library Advisory Board toured The Bancroft Library renovation project to review naming possibilities for the class’s 50th reunion class gift. Pictured (from left) are Bob Leslie ’55, J.D. ’60, Lila Rich ’55, Rosemary Mein ’55, Cred. ’56, Camilla Smith, Dick Melbye ’55, J.D. ’58, and Professor Watson “Mac” Laetsch.

3. Author Chitra Divakaruni Ph.D. ’84 and Richard Blum ’58, M.B.A. ’59, businessman and chairman of the UC Regents, were honored at the International House Annual Gala, held in April.

5. The Industrial Engineering & Operations Research department gathered in January to celebrate the appointment of Andrew Lim (far right) as the Coleman Fung Professor of Financial Modeling. With Lim are department chair Ilan Adler (left) and donor Coleman Fung ’87.
More than 200 guests were on hand for a recent Benjamin Ide Wheeler Society women’s basketball pre-game luncheon at Haas Pavilion, which included remarks from Coach Joanne Boyle and Athletic Director Sandy Barbour.

7. (From left) Oski, Professor Stephen Chun ’70, O.D. ’74, Helen Chun, Morrison Chun ’43, M.S. ’48 and Dr. Doris Sze Chun get ready for the game.
8. (From left) Betty ’50 and Jim ’52 Huhn and Midge Zischke ’54 enjoy the pre-game luncheon.
9. Associate Vice Chancellor for University Relations David Blinder M.A. ’78, Ph.D. ’81 (center) and Judy ’62 and David ’61 Redo were also on hand for the festivities.

6. Bernard and Barbro Osher (center) with Cal Performances Director Robert Cole (right) and his wife, Susan Muscarella (left), enjoy a luncheon at Zellerbach Hall at the Cal Performances Centennial Campaign Celebration. The event marked the successful conclusion of the $16 million capital campaign.

10. Civil rights advocate and U.S. District Court Judge Thelton Henderson ’55, J.D. ’62 (center) celebrated among friends when the California Alumni Association honored him with the Alumnus of the Year award at the 2008 Charter Gala.
On April 2, the School of Public Health honored four “Public Health Heroes” at a dinner and ceremony held at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco.

11. Regional Public Health Hero Barbara Staggers ’76, M.P.H. ’80 (left) and award presenter Wilma Chan, a former California assemblywoman, display Staggers’s award.

12. International Public Health Hero Donald P. Francis, M.D. (left) attends a pre-dinner reception with award presenter William Foege.

The UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies recently held its Gala Annual Salon event in San Francisco.

13. Michael Krasny (left), host of the KQED radio program “Forum,” and Chris Matthews, host of MSNBC’s “Hardball,” share the stage to discuss the current political landscape.

14. Matthews is welcomed to the event by Lisa and Doug ’74 Goldman.

15. The College of Natural Resources (CNR) celebrated the creation of the Thomas J. Graff Endowed Chair, funded by a generous gift from George Miller and Janet McKinley with a matching grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Pictured (from left) are Chancellor Birgeneau, Thomas J. Graff, Keith Gilless, dean of CNR, Mary Catherine Birgeneau, Professor David Sunding Ph.D. ’89, George Miller M.B.A. ’61, and Janet McKinley.
As the 2008 Summer Olympics draw closer, The Promise of Berkeley asked several current and former Cal students, all of whom have competed in past Olympics and/or stand a good shot of making it to Beijing this year, about juggling their many priorities as Berkeley student athletes and their competitive nature in and out of the classroom. Let the games begin!

**Emily Silver ’08**
(American studies) swimming; 2008 Olympic hopeful
My competitiveness as an athlete directly translates into my focus as a student. I want to be the best! Berkeley is the No. 1 public university in the world, and it is thrilling to be competing as a student with some of the brightest young people out there, but it’s also intimidating because of the stereotypes that are attached to student athletes — that we don’t work as hard, or study, or that we have it easier than most. But those stereotypes drive me to work even harder to prove that I do belong here.

**Peter Cipollone ’94**
(economics) men’s crew; gold medal at 2004 Summer Games in Athens
In my first two years, I did not balance my work and my training well. I was a real underperformer in the classroom. I took 1992 off from Cal, and tried and failed to make the Olympic team. We missed by something stupid like a half-second. From this experience, I figured if you are going to work hard enough to get within a half-second, you might as well work hard enough to win. This spilled over into academics, and pretty much every area of my life.

**Natalie Coughlin ’05**
(psychology) swimming; five gold medals at 2004 Summer Games in Athens; 2008 Olympic hopeful
Although it was difficult at times (to balance schoolwork and training), it all came down to time management and planning ahead. I always knew my competition/travel schedule in advance and would let my professors know at the beginning of the semester to plan on making up exams or projects. Also, whenever I had free time in the day, I would fit in studying or reading.

My focus and drive really helped me be focused in my studies and in class. Since my time was so precious, I made sure to pay attention in class and make that time worthwhile (otherwise I would prefer to sleep!).
Alysia Johnson ’08  
(theater and performance studies)  
track and field; 2008 Olympic hopeful  
You have to bring books on trips with you and do as much work as possible on the road. When I’m not running, lifting, or doing something else in the training room, I’ll open the books. My day basically starts at 8 o’clock, with lifting and a morning run, and doesn’t end until 11 p.m. when the theater stuff ends — and I’ve got no breaks, so I literally have to eat on the run.

My focus is on acting, but being an athlete, it’s a little bit difficult to be in productions. I hope to do one next semester since I won’t be competing in cross-country. At the same time, I’ve been able to look at the different aspects of theater such as set design and lighting, which I probably wouldn’t have looked at had I been able to do the acting part of it.

Michele Granger ’93  
(history/mass communication)  
softball; gold medal at 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta  
School was a tremendous challenge for me at Cal, and I was able to juggle softball and school with the help of some fantastic teachers. I was at Cal before tutors were available to athletes like me, so I took advantage of the office hours that the professors held. I particularly struggled in Latin, and my professor basically became my savior in the class by providing me with extra help during her office hours. I absolutely loved being a student at Cal.

My best tips to any student athlete are to turn in work early before you leave for road trips, never miss a class you are in town to be at, and always make sure that you personally meet the professor during their office hours.

Dave Maggard ’62  
(physical education)  
shot-put, competed at 1968 Summer Games in Mexico City  
When I injured my knee at the beginning of my junior year, I could no longer play football and began concentrating on track. Once I left Berkeley, I coached and taught high school and had two children. I worked out on my own without any coaching until I was almost 29 — which was when I made the Olympic team. Because of Coach Brutus Hamilton, I learned how to manage my time in a better way. He was a great mentor with wonderful wisdom.

Attending the premier university in the world, where there are so many around you who exhibit discipline and seriousness in achieving a degree, causes one to pick up on the need for discipline and time management. The environment of excellence brings out the competitiveness from all of those who make it.
Dana Vollmer ’09  
(anthropology)  
swimming; gold medal at 2004 Summer Games in Athens; 2008 Olympic hopeful

With the amount of material expected to be learned and the hours needed to be spent in the pool, Cal teaches me how to manage my time at the most elite levels. Whether I’m planning my days to the hour, or just know that I need to get stuff done instead of procrastinating, I have learned how to stay on top of my studies at an esteemed university and also remain at the top in national-level swimming competitions.

As a competitive student athlete, I set extremely high standards for myself not only in the pool but in academic success as well. I know that I will only be swimming for so long — and then academic success at Cal will carry me the rest of the way. ●

Cal and the Olympics:  
Did you know?

- More than 300 Cal students, coaches, and alumni have participated in the Olympic Games.
- Cal first struck Olympic gold in 1920, when six Bears won gold medals as part of the U.S. rugby team.
- In the 2004 Summer Games in Athens, Cal was represented by 34 athletes who won 15 medals.
- If Cal were a stand-alone nation, it would have finished 18th in medal count in 2004, ahead of 59 countries including Canada and Spain.
- Cal athletes in 2004 represented 14 nations, including New Zealand, Brazil, Norway, and Greece.