Randy Schekman garners a Nobel Prize!

Inauguration: Ushering in the Dirks era

Berkeley stars in two new films
As fellow faculty, students, and campus leaders gathered to toast Professor Randy Schekman, who won the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, photographer Keegan Houser captured this image on the balcony of the Li Ka Shing Center for Biomedical and Health Sciences. Story on p. 2.

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Berkeley a top producer of Fulbright scholars

UC Berkeley was again recognized as one of the Fulbright Program’s "top producers." In the latest funding cycle, 11 graduate students and seven undergraduate students were awarded Fulbright fellowships, putting Berkeley in 13th place among U.S. research universities. Six Berkeley professors were also named Fulbright Scholars, placing Berkeley in seventh place. 

promise.berkeley.edu/fulbright

Napolitano proposes tuition freeze

On Nov. 13, 2013, University of California President Janet Napolitano proposed an undergraduate tuition freeze for the third consecutive year and said she would pursue a new tuition policy. "Tuition goes right to the heart of accessibility and affordability — two of the university’s guiding stars," she said. "We need to figure out … how to bring clarity to, and reduce volatility in, the tuition-setting process."

promise.berkeley.edu/freeze

Campaign for Berkeley verges on $3 billion goal!

UC Berkeley is within striking distance of its $3 billion goal for The Campaign for Berkeley, raising $2.98 billion from alumni, parents, students, and friends since its inception eight years ago.

A major milestone toward meeting the goal was last year’s completion of the Hewlett Challenge, which created 100 new endowed faculty chairs as part of an unprecedented dollar-for-dollar match begun in 2007 when the campus received $113 million, the largest private gift in its history, from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Please support Berkeley during this final stretch of the campaign. Any gift that you make to the program you love the most — whether it’s your school or college, a scholarship, or your favorite club — before Dec. 31, 2013, will count.

As of September 30, 2013, the campus raised $2.98 billion toward the $3 billion campaign goal with 31% endowment and 69% non-endowment funding.
Randy Schekman was in a jet-lagged sleep when his wife, Nancy Walls, woke him with a shout. The phone was ringing and she knew that a 1:30 a.m. call on October 7 probably meant one monumental thing.

A Berkeley professor of molecular and cell biology, Schekman picked up the receiver to learn that he had won the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. He became Berkeley’s 22nd Nobel laureate and the first awarded the prize in this particular area.

“I’m not sure that I’ll come down anytime soon,” said a beaming Schekman, a Berkeley faculty member since 1976. He was one of a trio of scientists honored for illuminating the inner workings of the cell’s transport system. This system ships hormones, enzymes, and other molecules from one part of the cell to another or delivers them for export outside our cells, and is such a critical network that errors in the mechanism lead to death.
University of California. As he stepped into the limelight, Schekman expressed gratitude for his educational opportunities and delivered an appeal for greater investment in higher public education.

“I feel it’s absolutely crucial that places like Berkeley continue to flourish,” said Schekman. “I’m certain that without public higher education, there would be many fewer great scientists in this country.”

The oldest of five children from a middle-class family in Southern California, Schekman said his parents couldn’t have afforded to send him to a private university. He received his undergraduate education at UCLA, obtained post-doctorate training at UC San Diego following a Ph.D. at Stanford, and has devoted his entire research and teaching career to Berkeley.

“My heart drips blue and gold,” said Schekman.

A Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, he works in Berkeley’s new Li Ka Shing Center for Biomedical and Health Sciences. The 200,000-square-foot research facility, made possible by a $40 million gift from Hong Kong-based entrepreneur and philanthropist Li Ka-shing, features flexible, open lab space, where Schekman is currently exploring a possible
country’s top biochemistry prizes — and barely heard the phone ring.

When he did, “I was shaking and speechless, which is for me quite an unusual situation,” he said. His first call was to his 86-year-old father, who had long hoped to hear that his son had won the Nobel Prize.

A deluge of calls, emails, interviews, and champagne-popping celebrations followed.

As Schekman and his wife rode a golf cart to a morning press conference on campus, he choked with emotion reading an email from his high school biology teacher, Jack Hoskins: “Wow!!! What a trip you have taken from a high school science fair award to the Nobel Prize...I am so proud and happy for you and I am thrilled that I have lived to experience this moment. You have even pushed Tiger Woods aside as Western High School’s most famous alumnus.”

In congratulating Schekman, Chancellor Nicholas Dirks said, “There’s no prize that calls attention more globally or spectacularly to the importance of pathbreaking research than the Nobel.”

link between Alzheimer’s disease and a malfunction in the secretion system of cells.

Schekman’s contributions also extend to the classroom, where he is a popular and dedicated teacher of undergraduate and graduate students alike. “I’m kind of a ham,” he acknowledged.

Schekman shares the Nobel with James E. Rothman of Yale University and Thomas C. Südhof of Stanford. The Nobel Assembly praised all three for revealing “the exquisitely precise control system for the transport and delivery of cellular cargo.”

Skeptics initially scoffed when, as a young faculty member, Schekman decided to explore cellular transport in yeast, an easily grown microbe. Undeterred, Schekman and graduate student Peter Novick, now at UC San Diego, identified yeast cells with defective transport machinery that caused a pileup of vesicles, the tiny bubbles that carry cellular shipments. Schekman later traced the source of the congestion to mutated genes and discovered specific genes that controlled different aspects of the cell’s transport system. It also became clear that yeast and humans secrete proteins using very similar machinery.

In 2002, Schekman and Rothman received the Lasker Prize, often a precursor to the Nobel. The evening before this year’s Nobel announcement, Schekman had returned from Germany with one of that

Graduate student Thornton Thompson dons a fake moustache in a playful homage to Berkeley’s newest Nobelist.
Berkeley faculty, students, and staff gather at a celebratory reception honoring Schekman.

Dirks also presented Schekman with what the Chancellor wryly called “the greatest honor we can bestow” — the coveted lifetime campus parking permit reserved for Nobel laureates.

Summing up the day for a campus video, Schekman said, “Of course this is wonderful news for me but I think it’s even more important for public education and specifically for UC Berkeley, where the investment and the years of discovery and effort by my colleagues and by my graduate students have led to my being recognized this day at a wonderful place like Berkeley.”

“Go Bears!” he added, pumping his fist for emphasis.

See a video of the day Schekman was awarded the prize at promise.berkeley.edu/schekmanvideo. Schekman will accept his prize in Stockholm, Sweden, on December 10.

A Nobel gift

Randy Schekman is donating the proceeds from his Nobel Prize toward the creation of an endowed chair at Berkeley. The Esther and Wendy Schekman Chair in Basic Cancer Biology will honor his mother and sister, who both died of cancer, while advancing basic research as a pathway to transformative discovery.

The gift reflects Schekman’s dedication to his academic home and his strong advocacy for higher public education. Thankful for the impressive generosity of Berkeley’s newest Nobel laureate, Chancellor Nicholas Dirks invites others to support the establishment of this new chair.

To find out more, visit givetocal.berkeley.edu/Schekman or call the Office of Donor Stewardship at 510.642.4379.
Berkeley ushers in Dirks era

In a day and a half of nonstop activities, Berkeley celebrated its past and envisioned its future, ushering in a new era with the inauguration of Chancellor Nicholas Dirks.

Invoking Berkeley’s utopian ideal

In a sweeping inaugural address, Dirks emphasized his plan to build comprehensive initiatives around three interconnected pillars, which will support the university’s mission as a public institution:

• undergraduate education
• the global university
• innovation in basic and applied research across the disciplines

The speech touched on the university’s early milestones and reflected on the vision of Clark Kerr, Berkeley’s first chancellor and former president of the University of California.
“I follow a long line of leaders who never lost faith in the bold vision that created the University of California 145 years ago,” said Dirks in recalling the lasting impact of Kerr:

Clark Kerr was the first to identify what he called the ‘multi-versity’ in his extraordinary Godkin Lectures of 1963 and to expound within it a vision of universal access and commitment to the fullest possible realization of individual talent. His Master Plan for Higher Education, adopted in 1960, was the greatest organizational idea for public higher education in the 20th century. …

Kerr cogently identified issues and challenges that have only intensified, and in dramatic ways, over the intervening years. It is hard to know what he would have said if he knew that in the year I have assumed the chancellorship, only 12 percent of our budget comes from the state, down from 35 percent in 2001.

If we are to follow the real spirit of Clark Kerr, however, I believe that we must look to the future, and insist on his relentlessly utopian vision, which must continue to guide us as we chart our way through a growing host of difficulties and obstacles.
INAUGURAL TRADITIONS

The inaugural festivities of Chancellor Nicholas B. Dirks included many traditions — some date back decades, others hark back a millennium. A few of these rituals are unique to Berkeley, and others appear in academic ceremonies around the world.

During his inauguration, Chancellor Dirks wore the official University of California doctoral gown with blue velvet facing and gold piping. It featured three blue velvet chevrons on the sleeves, and a hood hanging from behind. During the Ceremony of Investiture, he removed his hood from the University of Chicago, where he earned his Ph.D. in history in 1981, and donned the hood of UC Berkeley.

The traditional inaugural procession included faculty and visiting delegates from around the world dressed in colorful academic regalia. They were led by Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost George Breslauer, who carried the ceremonial Berkeley mace, a tall staff topped by a bear’s head carved of wood salvaged during a renovation of South Hall, the oldest building on Berkeley’s campus, built in 1873. The mace was carved and first carried in campus processions in the 1980s.

Academic ceremonies, with their gowns, mortarboards, tassels, hoods, and maces, are colorful traditions handed down from the European universities of the Middle Ages. Academic regalia have evolved from the robes, hoods, and caps worn mainly for warmth in unheated buildings by clerics, monks, and priests, who were the first students. In the United States, as a result of our English heritage, caps and gowns have been used since colonial times by the faculties of some universities and became generally standardized around 1895.
Even as I speak today about my plan to re-envision the great American university, I readily confess to my own streak of utopianism, acknowledging that utopian ideals are about the values that we profess and act upon rather than the realities of institutional life, which will always and inevitably be flawed, ever subject to our recognition of the incompleteness of our mission: our need to do better, reach further, and achieve more.

Dirks noted that he has been warmly welcomed by the university community and looks forward to all that lies ahead: “Although I have made my journey here to Berkeley late in life, after a career spent in institutions across the country and scholarship around the world, I have never felt more at home.”

The inauguration ceremony in a packed Zellerbach Auditorium marked the formal highlight of events. It began with colorful processions and concluded with the investiture of Dirks and his delivery of the inaugural address.
The traditional procession was kicked off by the oldest participating alumnus, Bob Breuer ‘43, chemistry, who was dressed proudly in Cal colors. The alumni, spanning generations, were followed by processions of staff, faculty, and visiting delegates dressed in academic regalia. The last to march in were Dirks; his wife, Professor Janaki Bakhle; and featured speakers.

Following brief remarks from student and staff representatives, Speaker of the California Assembly John A. Pérez, Columbia University President Lee C. Bollinger, and UC President Janet Napolitano, Dirks was ready for his crowning moment. Former Chancellor Robert J. Birgeneau and Bollinger assisted Dirks in doffing his University of Chicago doctoral hood and donning the Berkeley chancellor’s hood. Napolitano then presented Dirks with the Chancellor’s Medal, worn at ceremonial observances since the days of Clark Kerr.

Reflections on the “three pillars”
The day began with symposia at International House that focused on the “three pillars” of Dirks’s vision for Berkeley’s future: undergraduate education, the role of the global university, and innovation in basic and applied research.

Berkeley faculty members joined in conversation with scholars from institutions meaningful to Dirks — including Michael Roth, president of Wesleyan University, where Dirks earned a bachelor’s degree in African and Asian studies; Hanna Gray, president emerita of the University of Chicago, where Dirks received a Ph.D. in South Asian history and anthropology; and Bollinger, president of Columbia University, where Dirks served as executive vice president and dean of the faculty of the arts and sciences before coming to Berkeley.

In a reference to Ralph Waldo Emerson that was repeated by other speakers, Roth reminded the audience of faculty, staff, students, and guests that the purpose of higher education goes beyond providing practical skills for the workplace — or even to make students autonomous — but to “set your spirit aflame.”

Immediately after the symposia, Dirks and Bakhle joined well-wishing students at a lively noontime spirit rally on Sproul Plaza that included the Cal Band, cheerleaders, and Oski.
Two recent major gifts to Berkeley will allow the university to enhance its already stellar reputation for world-class teaching and research — and create new institutes in two decidedly different areas: engineering design and molecular energy.
Berkeley will give technology buzzwords such as “user experience” and “scalability” the attention they deserve, thanks in large part to the Jacobs Institute for Design Innovation, a new campus center funded by a gift from the Paul and Stacy Jacobs Foundation. The institute, to be based in the College of Engineering, will give students hands-on experience with designing and prototyping.

“It is not enough to provide our future engineering leaders with technical skills,” said foundation president Paul Jacobs ’84, M.S. ’86, Ph.D. ’89, announcing the gift at the June 2013 Clinton Global Initiative event in Chicago with former President Bill Clinton and Dean Shankar Sastry on

Exploring molecular energy

A second new institute at Berkeley and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory will explore the basic science of how to capture and channel energy on the molecular or nanoscale, with the potential for discovering new ways of generating energy for human use.

The Kavli Energy NanoSciences Institute (ENSI) will be supported by a $20 million endowment, with The Kavli Foundation providing $10 million and Berkeley raising equivalent matching funds. It will use cutting-edge tools and techniques developed to study and manipulate nanomaterials — 1,000 times thinner than a human hair — to understand how energy from the sun, heat, or vibrations is captured and converted into useful work by plants and animals or novel materials.

Innovation through design

Pictured: Dean Shankar Sastry, President Bill Clinton, and Paul Jacobs.

Pictured at left: Paul Alivisatos.
hand. “They must also learn how to work in interdisciplinary teams, how to iterate designs rapidly, how to manufacture sustainably, how to combine art and engineering, and how to address global markets.”

Jacobs maintains strong ties to his alma mater: he serves as chair of Berkeley Engineering’s advisory board — and he and his wife, Stacy ’84, ’87, O.D. ’89, co-chair The Campaign for Berkeley, the $3 billion fundraising effort that will close at year’s end.

Using computer-aided design (CAD) software, 3-D printers, electronics assembly tools, and other resources, students in the institute will explore prototype design, iteration, optimization, and commercialization of new devices and systems. “We want to provide our student innovators with opportunities to scale up their inventions, and produce them efficiently and sustainably,” said Sastry.

This tight integration of design and manufacturing — unusual in engineering education — mirrors operations in such high-tech industries as semiconductors, medical devices, and energy production and distribution. In those fields, the design-fabrication cycles have accelerated, becoming a matter of days rather than weeks or months.

Reinventing engineering education this way has been a priority of Dean Sastry’s for the past several years. Sharing that vision with other Berkeley Engineering supporters led to the gift from the Jacobs Foundation. The institute already has its first two activities under way: creating a campuswide minor and engineering concentrations in design, and planning construction of Jacobs Hall, to open in the fall of 2015 with design and fabrication studios for student teams.

Engineering faculty are already shifting their teaching from the traditional “sage on the stage” model to active coaching of student teams. “This will extend far beyond modifying existing courses or even creating new ones,” says mechanical engineering professor Dennis Lieu. “The changes will be entirely new approaches to teaching design, supporting the creative process, and turning ideas into reality.”

“The field of nanoscience is poised to change the very foundations of how we should think about future energy conversion systems,” said institute director Paul Alivisatos, who is also director of Berkeley Lab and the Samsung Distinguished Chair in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology in Berkeley’s College of Chemistry.

The Kavli ENSI will be the fifth nanoscience institute worldwide established by The Kavli Foundation, joining Kavli Institutes at the California Institute of Technology, Cornell University, Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands, and Harvard University.
Two days after Professor Randy Schekman won the Nobel Prize, Berkeley received another windfall: President Obama had nominated the Haas School of Business’s Janet Yellen to become the first woman to lead the nation’s Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

If confirmed, Yellen will succeed Ben Bernanke, who steps down in January. The Federal Reserve is tasked with setting economic policy.

Yellen, the Eugene E. and Catherine M. Trefethen Professor Emeritus of Business Administration, taught macroeconomics and researched unemployment and labor markets, monetary and fiscal policies, and international trade and investment policy. She was recently named a Berkeley Fellow in recognition of her contributions to the campus.

A champion for more transparency, Yellen has served as vice chair of the Federal Reserve since 2010. She was president and chief executive officer of the Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco from 2004 until 2010 and chaired the Council of Economic Advisers from 1997 to 1999 under President Bill Clinton.

“I could not think of a sharper mind or a more thoughtful citizen to lead the world’s most influential central bank in its effort to regain the economy’s full potential,” said Berkeley-Haas Dean Rich Lyons.

’Confidence without attitude’

A native of Brooklyn, Yellen studied economics at Brown University and earned a Ph.D. at Yale University. Called an “institution builder” by Earl “Budd” Cheit, dean emeritus of Berkeley-Haas, she is known for her rigorous thinking, credibility, and openness.

“Janet Yellen has the knowledge, the experience inside and outside the Fed, the experience inside and outside of Washington, and the temperament to lead the Fed effectively, especially in the conditions that the economy faces and will perhaps face over the next few years,” said James Wilcox, a Berkeley-Haas professor and former senior economist at the Federal Reserve.

For more than two decades, Yellen taught thousands of undergraduate and M.B.A. students and twice earned Berkeley-Haas’s award for excellence in teaching. She also held an affiliated appointment in the economics department.

“Business students are very oriented to playing a role in the real world and accomplishing something,” she said in a 2012 Berkeley-Haas magazine article. “Teaching in that kind of environment has focused me much more on … how pieces of the theory I know can be applied to real-world situations.”

Juan Manuel Matheu M.B.A. ’04, a former student and chief executive officer with Chile’s Banco Falabella, recalled one class in which discussions started in the classroom and continued with pizza in the school’s courtyard. “She cares and embodies our values; she is the living example of all four of the Berkeley-Haas defining principles, especially ‘confidence without attitude.’” ♦
Did you know?

- Yellen is married to George Akerlof, a Berkeley economist and 2001 Nobel laureate.
- Childhood stories of her parents’ Depression-era hardships shaped Yellen’s Keynesian beliefs.
- Yellen succeeds two Berkeley colleagues who broke into the White House’s primarily male circle of economic advisers. Laura Tyson and Christina Romer also chaired the President’s Council of Economic Advisers during the Clinton and Obama administrations, respectively.
Berkeley stars at the movies

Better known for world-class academics than Hollywood glitz, Berkeley is becoming a film sensation. Two new documentaries — Inequality for All and At Berkeley — are winning acclaim as they spotlight the Cal campus and its community.

Inequality for All, which opened in theaters in late September, stars Berkeley professor and former U.S. labor secretary Robert Reich in a call-to-action over the growing income gap between rich and poor in our country. The film includes extensive footage from Reich’s popular Wealth and Poverty course and earned a special jury prize at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival.

In At Berkeley, celebrated filmmaker Frederick Wiseman focuses a kaleidoscopic lens on the life of the campus itself. First shown at film festivals internationally, the four-hour documentary was released in selected theaters in November. A campus screening was held on December 3, and will be followed by a national PBS broadcast on January 13.

Wiseman, a MacArthur Fellow and four-time Emmy winner, is famed for his explorations of American institutions. At Berkeley gives a sweeping view of the student body, faculty, and academic life, and has been praised for its observational style and poignant footage.
of the university as it grappled with
dramatic cuts in state funding in the
fall of 2010. There are sights of bustling
Sather Gate and sounds of chiming
Campanile bells interspersed with
classroom lectures, behind-the-scenes
discussions, pioneering work by campus
engineers to design robotic legs, a field
hockey game, and even a student protest.
Wiseman amassed 250 hours of footage
during 12 weeks of filming.

Though the budget crisis wasn’t the
impetus, At Berkeley addresses the
financial problems facing higher public
education and Berkeley’s considerable
efforts to preserve its excellence and
access at a difficult time.

“I wanted to do a university,” Wiseman
explained as filming began. “And by
anyone’s standards, anywhere in
the world, Berkeley is one of the
great universities. I always try to
pick a place that’s a good example of its
kind. It’s more complicated, and it’s
more interesting.”

Then-Chancellor Robert J. Birgeneau
gave Wiseman open access, and the film
gives viewers front-row seats to the
campus’s inner workings. In a scene from
one meeting, a frustrated administrator
tells Birgeneau that financial challenges
mean that, “I have one person that mows
the lawns on campus.”

“The whole campus?” Birgeneau responds.
“Well, that person’s pretty good!” The
tension in the air evaporates as attendees
burst into laughter.

Over a career spanning five decades,
Wiseman has created nearly 40
documentaries illuminating diverse
subjects such as a state hospital for the
criminally insane, ballet companies, juvenile
court, and New York’s Central Park. Like
his other films, At Berkeley tells its story
without voiceover narrative.

Reviews have hailed it as “one of
Wiseman’s best” and “a state-of-the-
nation masterwork.”

In Inequality for All, Reich warns that a
gaping imbalance of wealth jeopardizes
the health of the economy and ultimately America’s democracy.

“Today, the richest 400 Americans have more wealth than the bottom 150 million of us put together,” says Reich, who argues that our economy’s vitality depends upon a strong middle class. Reich underscores his point with a graph resembling a suspension bridge: It illustrates how two peak years of income concentration by the wealthiest Americans — 1928 and 2007 — were followed by the economic calamities of the Great Depression and the recent recession. That graph is based on the pioneering work of Berkeley economics professor Emmanuel Saez.

“At some point, the economy can’t maintain itself with this degree of imbalance, because the vast middle class (and all those aspiring to join it) won’t possibly have the purchasing power needed to keep the economy going,” Reich says.

Once people understand the scope of the problem, Reich’s hope is that they mobilize to change everything from tax policy and financial regulation to educational investments and minimum wages “so that the economy’s gains are more widely shared.”

While the theme is serious business, Reich approaches his performance with a characteristically lighthearted touch. The movie, which was directed by Jacob Kornbluth, is “entertaining,” Reich says in a Los Angeles Times interview: “This is not an eat-your-spinach exercise.”
18-year-old wunderkind named top graduating senior

How does an undergraduate cap off a whirlwind education that included founding a research journal, writing and teaching poetry, bringing science to underserved teens, and experimenting with biofuels and nanowires? By being named Berkeley’s University Medalist — the top graduating senior.

Not only did Ritankar Das ’13 double major in bioengineering and chemical biology with a minor in creative writing, he graduated at age 18, making him the youngest medalist in at least a century.

“In my 30 years at Berkeley, I cannot think of a single undergraduate student who would match Ritankar’s accomplishments,” Marcin Majda, professor and undergraduate dean in the College of Chemistry, wrote in a recommendation letter.

Das’s vision did not stop at the campus borders. He also serves on the State Farm Youth Advisory Board, helping to distribute $5 million annually to youth projects nationwide, and is writing a book that engages CEOs, Nobel laureates, and university and government leaders in fueling a “learning evolution.” He is now at the University of Oxford for a one-year master’s program in biomedical engineering, then off to MIT for a Ph.D. in chemistry.

Citing historic examples in which a long-held theory was disproven — or vice versa — Das said society tends to put everything into boxes labeled “success or failure.” “But I believe there’s a third box, and it’s called ‘not trying,’” he said. “We must follow our ideas, even if they sound crazy or impossible. You never know when a breakthrough might occur.”

No doubt Das will continue pursuing his ideas, however crazy they may be.
A day in the life of Chancellor Dirks

Armed with a piping hot cup of coffee from the Free Speech Movement Café, Chancellor Nicholas Dirks started his day on August 27 with a visit to his office at California Hall before addressing Berkeley’s newest graduate students at their orientation. His many responsibilities that day included meeting with the deans in the College of Letters and Science and engaging with Coleman Fung ’87 (bottom row, middle), one of Berkeley’s most steadfast supporters, before culminating in an early-evening gathering of more than 700 undergraduate students in the gardens of University House.

View his full day at promise.berkeley.edu/day.
Imagine a program that has the potential to transform the undergraduate experience at Berkeley. That pairs undergraduates with faculty and graduate student mentors for one-on-one and group activities. That encourages students to gather around mutual academic interests. And that strengthens the bonds between students and their professors.

Such a program exists at Berkeley and is growing. Piloted in the English department as the Chernin Mentoring Program, Berkeley Connect combines our university’s intellectual firepower with the supportive environment offered by small colleges.

Peter Chernin ’73, the pilot program’s founding supporter, said he was a sheltered kid from New York when he started at Berkeley more than 40 years ago. While the campus “exploded his universe socially, culturally, and intellectually,” he said, it was tough to navigate. When his son had a
A 19th-century student established a trust that is just now benefiting Berkeley Connect, 13 years into the 21st century.

Gertrude Henderson profited from the University of California’s progressive stance on co-education, described as early as 1870 as “the only sensible course to take.” Rather than traveling east, where women’s colleges were flourishing, Gertrude chose to attend UC — before the campus’s “Berkeley” designation — and graduated in 1895. She later taught at Berkeley High School.

Gertrude’s brother, Victor, also attended UC and co-founded the Order of the Golden Bear, aimed at bringing people together to discuss issues important to the university. After graduating in 1900, he served as secretary to the Regents from 1903–18 and later as secretary to President Benjamin Ide Wheeler.

When Victor died, Gertrude and two of her sisters inherited his estate. In 1951, she created a trust that would support herself, one surviving sister, and 10 surviving nieces and nephews. The trust stipulated that, upon the death of the last niece or nephew, UC Berkeley would receive the remaining funds. As determined by the Regents, the funds support the Order of the Golden Bear, our oldest existing society, and Berkeley Connect, one of our newest programs.

Although Gertrude’s and Victor’s loyalty dates back to the time when President Wheeler traversed campus on a white horse, today’s students will carry on their legacy well into the future.
similar experience, he approached the campus about finding a way to reimagine undergraduate education.

“We kept coming back to the idea of ‘community,’” he said, “not like pizza parties, but an intellectual community. What we are doing at Berkeley is unprecedented. No other large research institution is attempting to create the nurturing, intimate feel of a small college.”

In recognition of its potential, the university has committed $2 million annually to expand Berkeley Connect to 10 academic departments and has launched a major fundraising campaign to further extend its reach.

“We want to give every student, from the undeclared freshman to the junior transfer student to the graduating senior, the chance to participate,” said Professor Maura Nolan, director of Berkeley Connect. “The more contact students have with professors, mentors, and each other, the more they will think deeply about intellectual questions and be better prepared for their futures.”

Creating community around academic interests
As a large university, Berkeley can be overwhelming. It is not uncommon for students to feel alone, lost, too shy to ask for help, or concerned about their major or life after college.

Berkeley Connect addresses these challenges head-on. Professors from each participating department create a curriculum that is implemented by graduate fellows. Acting as mentors, the fellows “give the students the individual attention that can be hard to find at Berkeley and show them how to talk to their professors,” Nolan said. Students — whether they have declared a major or are simply curious about the topic — receive credit for participating.

One participant, Justin Park ’13, dropped out of high school and spent 20 years in odd jobs and in the U.S. Navy before returning to community college and transferring to Berkeley. Starting college as an older returning student was intimidating.

“I was hearing words I hadn’t used before and surrounded by really smart students half my age,” he says. “But Berkeley Connect gave me access to a community right away, a place to draw comfort from.”

Now at the University of Cambridge on an elite scholarship — and headed to Yale University for a Ph.D. — Park says the program makes things possible. “I wouldn’t have had the courage or motivation without it,” he says.

Cultivating excellent teachers
Not only do the graduate fellows help our undergraduates gain assurance, focus, and a stronger ability to articulate their students give Berkeley Connect an ‘A’
98% would recommend it to a friend
97% reported overall program satisfaction
90% said it helped them in their major
90% said it improved their overall Berkeley experience
thoughts and career goals, they also receive crucial benefits.

**Jill Richards Ph.D. ’14** received a full-year fellowship, experience mentoring a diverse range of students, and guidance on her research and teaching. She also gained a leg up in searching for a teaching job.

“As mentoring, peer learning, and enrichment increasingly shape the national conversation around education reform, Berkeley Connect stands as a model for comparable schools. And because it takes full advantage of existing resources, the cost to run it is only $450 to $500 per student per semester — remarkably low relative to the program’s high impact.”

Now is the time to make the program available to as many students as possible. “We are in a new environment,” says Chernin. “If we are going to charge more for public education, we have to offer the best. Berkeley Connect raises the bar on excellence for undergraduates.”

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**Participating departments**

Architecture • English • Environmental Science, Policy, and Management • Ethnic Studies • History • Math • Music • Philosophy • Physics • Sociology

**Berkeley Connect in action**

Each semester, the program offers:

- Six to seven small-group discussions led by graduate fellows on a variety of topics and skills related to the major;
- One-on-one advising sessions with graduate fellows, plus office hours every other week;
- Four to five large-scale events, such as a panel on careers with alumni or applying to graduate school or informal faculty talks;
- Visits to the Bancroft Library, Berkeley Art Museum, and other campus treasures.
Adena Ishii  
B.A., Business ́13  
Project: Berkeley City College Service  
Community/Transfer Service Community  
After graduation: Plans to create community grocery store  

The value of experience  
The Haas Leaders program has the flexibility to help us lead based on communities’ real needs, rather than on some abstract idea of what is needed…. It helped me to make my own experience as a transfer student into an asset.

Leadership  
Being a leader means that I must share resources, show the way, empower others. I’m helping other community college students become bold speakers and presenters ready to pursue a degree at a four-year college.

After graduation  
I’m interested in creating a community grocery store in south Berkeley that would offer good affordable food, and a platform to discuss multiple social ills — you can’t think without good nutrition!

Haas Leaders pay it forward  
The Peter E. Haas Public Service Leaders program enables Berkeley students with a passion for community engagement to spend more time volunteering, and less time working to make ends meet. Named in honor of campus benefactor and respected business leader Peter E. Haas ́40 (1918-2005), the program provides scholarships and leadership development for students with financial need and a commitment to service that often arises from personal experience. Like the program’s namesake, Haas Leaders are dedicated to creating a better world, not only through their own work, but also by inspiring others to address pressing social needs. Here, three Haas Leaders share their thoughts about learning by doing and bringing others together to work for the common good.  

publicservice.berkeley.edu/haasleaders
Gabriela Monico  
B.A., Ethnic Studies ’13  
Service project: Undocumented Students Services  
After graduation: Plans to seek J.D./Ph.D. to pursue law and ethnic studies

**Bridging the gap**
As an undocumented student, I found the transition from high school to college particularly difficult. I put what I was learning in the classroom to use for other undocumented students and helped provide legal aid for immigrants. It truly bridges the gap between academia and the community.

**Getting the word out**
At Berkeley, there are many resources for undocumented students, but when I started here you had to find things through word of mouth. Working with other Haas Leaders, I helped to compile information about what is available for undocumented students here and across the country.

Rahkii Holman  
B.A., Psychology ’13  
Project: Get on the Bus Decal/Prisoners’ Rights  
After graduation: Continue to work on restorative justice

**The gift of time**
I feel that as a black male in the U.S., I was born to be concerned about our prison system, and the Haas Leaders program helped me channel this concern. The scholarship allowed me to spend more time on restorative justice work, such as mediation between victims and perpetrators of crimes.

**Skills for life**
The leadership and communication skills I honed will come in handy — not only in my work in social justice but in navigating all of my human relationships.

**Advice to others**
No matter what kind of public service you get involved with, whether it be prisoners’ rights or saving the whales... make sure that you truly understand your own personal connection with the issue. In short: don’t just keep it real, but keep it true.
Making Connections

Upcoming Events

Cal Day | Saturday, April 12, 2014

Cal Day—the campus’s annual open house and preview day—offers visitors of all ages an inside look at the world’s leading public university. Admission is free to all—and we will be celebrating the successful conclusion of the $3 billion Campaign for Berkeley! • calday.berkeley.edu

1. Consul General of India N. Parthasarathi, Consul General of Israel Andy David, and Chancellor Nicholas Dirks were on hand at the opening reception for “Global India: Kerala, Israel, Berkeley” at the Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life in September.

2. Judge Charles Breyer ’66, recipient of Boalt Hall’s Judge D. Lowell and Barbara Jensen Public Service Award, speaks at the award luncheon.

3. Deborah Goldblatt, member of the Human Rights Center’s advisory board, welcomes guests to the center’s 20th anniversary kickoff at her home in Berkeley in September. Also pictured are advisory board member Thomas White Ph.D. ’76 and Cristián Orrego, director of the center’s forensic program.

4. At an October reception, the College of Engineering welcomed 13 new faculty to its ranks—all recruited with the help of private support.

5. Berkeley Law alumni enjoy a day on San Francisco Bay at the America’s Cup race in August.
6. Andrew Szeri, vice provost for graduate studies, and computer science professor Vern Paxson enjoy the BerkeleyResearch.Connect event hosted in June by Rachel and Eric '87 Stern in Los Angeles.

7. Chancellor Nicholas Dirks and Professor Janaki Bakhle greeted international families at the fifth annual International Welcome Reception, held in August and sponsored by the Parents Program and the International Relations Office.

8. The family of the late Janice Becker '73 poses at her tile on the Bear Territory Legacy Wall at the unveiling ceremony at California Memorial Stadium. On the far right is her husband, Bob Montgomery.

9. Angela Gracias (center) celebrates with her grandson Daniel Martis, son-in-law Bernie Martis, and daughter Marina Gracias '80, J.D. 83, M.B.A. '99 outside the office named in honor of their family. Angela recently left an irrevocable charitable remainder trust to the Haas School of Business.

10. Earvin Buckner '14, a senior majoring in sociology, reunited with donors Keith '64, M.A. '66 and Holly Axtell during the Cal Alumni Association’s celebration of the Equity Scholarship’s fifth anniversary.

11. Mike '67, M.B.A. '68 and Linda Gallagher attend the opening of the new Haas School of Business Innovation Lab, located in California Memorial Stadium. The lab was made possible by the couple’s $1 million gift.

13. Vice Chancellor Scott Biddy speaks with Janet McKinley, chair of the Berkeley Endowment Management Company, and her son, Patrick Franco, at the Berkeley Club of London’s welcome reception for Chancellor Dirks in June.

14. Trustee Richard “Dick” Beahrs ’68 (center) meets with Beahrs Environmental Leadership Program Fellows at a July reception hosted by the College of Natural Resources.

15. Dr. Yong-Kyung “Ken” Lee Ph.D. ’75, president of the Berkeley Club of Korea, Nicolas Tollet LL.M. ’05, president of the Berkeley Club of France, and Lisa Lum ’99, vice president of the Berkeley Club of Hong Kong, meet with Chancellor Nicholas Dirks at an alumni reception in Paris.

16. The College of Letters & Science welcomed author George Dyson to campus in September. His book Turing’s Cathedral is the centerpiece of the college’s On The Same Page program. Greeting Dyson are Jeremy Norman ’69 and Patricia Gilbert-Norman.

In September, guests gathered in front of the Builders of Berkeley wall to celebrate the induction of the campus’s newest cohort of Builders.

17. Attendees mingle near the wall on the steps of Doe Library.

18. New Builders Penny Cooper J.D. ’64 and Rena Rosenwasser near their names on the wall.
More than 4,000 guests gathered on campus in October for Alumni and Family Weekend, taking in faculty seminars, athletic events, and other celebrations of all things Cal.

19. Catherine Hutto Gordon ’73, Mark Robinson ’88, Amanda Pouchot ’08, and Chancellor Nicholas Dirks celebrate the success of this year’s reunion gift campaigns.

20. Carolyn Morledge Sparks ’63 and Arlene McLaughlin Willits ’63, M.A. ’67 enjoy the views during a reception for the Class of ’63 at Memorial Stadium.

21. The Cal Band finds its rhythm with future Bears at the noon rally on Sproul Plaza.

22. Attendees take in a faculty seminar on “The Big Data Revolution” at Calvin Lab.

23. Cal Parents Maxine and Ryohei Honda enjoy breakfast with their daughter Jane ’17.


25. During the Cal Alumni Association’s Presidents’ Council meeting, Karen Leong Clancy ’76 (center) was thanked for her service while her successor, Cynthia So Schroeder ’91 (second from right), was welcomed as president.
At the end of one of my classes last semester, I happened to glance over at the guy sitting next to me. Inside his well-worn backpack was a white plastic trash bag set up like a liner around his books and folders and his older HP laptop.

"You have a trash bag in your backpack."

He was immediately overcome with embarrassment. "Oh. Yeah."

I didn’t want him to be embarrassed, but it was suddenly vital to me to make this connection. "It keeps your stuff dry. It’s because your bag isn’t waterproof. Right?"

Finally, he looked back at me. "Yeah, I’ve been doing it since high school."

I smiled at him. "I used to do that, too. ‘We stared at each other for a long moment. We looked nothing alike, but he was my brother just the same. I knew that he had a long walk or bike ride ahead of him somewhere on his way home, and that experience had taught him that the rain curled the corners of his textbooks, made the ink smear and run.

I knew he was poor; and I knew he had grown up poor, like me.

Since that day, I’ve gotten to thinking about the skills and habits of poverty. On a global scale, most of us who grew up broke in the United States experienced a very privileged form of poverty. I haven’t suffered like the starving children in Darfur or displaced refugees anywhere in the world. But I did grow up itinerant, often homeless.
I grew up learning and developing the skills to cope with poverty, just like that guy with the trash bag did.

He and I are in the same boat now, although the waters are calmer. For me, coming to Berkeley meant access to financial aid, work-study or other jobs, and the support of a good school. Although we’re poor college students, some of us feel comparatively rich these days.

The good news is that it’s cool to be poor in college. Most people have to budget when they can go out and when they have to stay in. For those of us with the skills and experiences of poverty, this kind of coping is familiar — even comfortable.

So what’s it like to be broke in Berkeley? It’s knowing where all the best deals are and how to get there for free by using your Cal 1 Card every day. It’s fixing or repurposing broken furniture and worn-out clothes; it’s bringing dead electronics back to life rather than just throwing these items away. It’s not being ashamed of these habits. It’s finding a way around the cost of textbooks, having well-chosen and supportive roommates, and keeping your eyes on the prize.

If you’re broke in Berkeley, you probably don’t plan to stay that way. We all want our degrees to launch us into a different life — hopefully one where our skills of poverty won’t be needed and our bags will come already waterproofed and we won’t spend much time in the rain. Until then, we have to stay sharp. After all, the skills and secrets of being broke in Berkeley mean the difference between a dry laptop and a broken one.

Meg Elison ’14 is majoring in English and has written about financial issues affecting students for The Daily Californian. It has taken a robust combination of scholarships, grants, work-study jobs, and other aid to fund her education. To help students like Elison gain access to an affordable education, please consider supporting undergraduate scholarships at givetocal.berkeley.edu.