Throughout 2018, the University of California — and Berkeley, as its sole campus for many decades — is celebrating its 150th birthday.

150 years ago, Governor Henry Haight signed an act envisioning a great public university for the state of California, one that would provide the children of farmers and factory workers with the kind of education they had previously only dreamed about. With the stroke of a pen, Haight brought into being one of the most extraordinary universities that the world has ever known — a place where we would discover new chemical elements, where we would develop cures for disease, where social movements would begin, and where students and professors would ask and answer questions fundamental to our understanding of the world.

Since 1868, UC has grown from 40 students on a temporary campus in Oakland to 10 university campuses educating nearly 300,000 students a year — not to mention five medical centers, three national labs, and a network of educational, health, and agricultural resource centers serving Californians across the state. And at the heart of today’s system, of course, is Berkeley — UC’s flagship and the shining jewel of public higher education.
A milestone as monumental as our sesquicentennial marks a natural time to look back at where we’ve been — explored in the following pages — as well as to contemplate where we wish to go. On this latter front, I recently inaugurated a strategic planning process to help us address the budgetary and structural challenges we currently face, as well as consider what Berkeley should look like 10 years from now.

Guided by our values of diversity, excellence, innovation, public mission, and accountability and transparency, small groups of student, staff, and faculty leaders are discussing the following questions:

- What are the grand challenges facing our state, nation, and world? Where is Berkeley best positioned to be a global leader, and what investments should we make to become so?
- What investments and changes in our instructional and co-curricular programs and our housing and dining options would optimize the student experience?
- With a campus population today of 40,000 students, what is our preferred enrollment level, and how should it be distributed to all of our students? Should our schools and colleges stay roughly proportional in size, or should we grow selectively? How can alternative education models accommodate increased demand and reach new populations?
- How can Berkeley foster a sustainable financial model when it does not control state funding or tuition levels and must develop diverse revenue sources? How do we preserve our mission and identity as a public institution?

Thoughtfully examining and answering these questions is necessary to ensuring that our future is as bright as our past. I ask you to join me on this journey, which is not for the fainthearted. As Benjamin Ide Wheeler, UC president from 1899 to 1919, said, “And so I say cheer for her; it will do your lungs good. Love her; it will do your heart and life good.”

Fiat Lux — and here is to the next 150 years.

Visit strategicplan.berkeley.edu for updates and to submit feedback.
In the midst of a Civil War, with our country’s future in peril, President Abraham Lincoln signed an act granting land to every state, the sale of which would be used to create a public university. The act was built on a simple but revolutionary idea — that college should be available to everyone — and was central to preserving our democracy and giving life to our nation’s educational system.
With its new funds, California created a public college dedicated to the agricultural, mining, and mechanical arts — but it had no campus. Meanwhile, a private liberal arts college had buildings in Oakland and land in what would become Berkeley — but no money. Henry Durant, a trustee of the private college, envisioned merging the two institutions.

On March 23, 1868, Governor Henry Haight signed the charter that gave birth to the University of California. It opened to 40 students the following year and moved to Berkeley in 1873.

Guided by the motto *Fiat Lux*, “Let there be light,” Berkeley’s duty is to bring new knowledge to light, to illuminate solutions for bettering the human condition, and to be a beacon of opportunity for promising young minds and top faculty. In this issue we celebrate 150 years of light — and a handful of influential people, places, movements, traditions, and discoveries that are facets of our extraordinary brilliance.

Visit 150.berkeley.edu for stories, a timeline, and more. You can also upload your Berkeley moments on the social media page.
Service is part of our DNA. More than 5,000 students contribute to 250 organizations a year — a growing number as they seize the call to serve through their studies and other experiential opportunities. The desire to create a more equitable world doesn’t end at graduation. **Berkeley has sent more alumni into the Peace Corps — over 3,700 since its founding in 1961 — than any other university.**

*The Daily Californian* has served as the student voice and record of life at Cal since 1871. Like the university it covers, the paper is no stranger to controversy. In 1996, for example, nearly 23,000 papers were stolen on Election Day when the editorial board endorsed a contentious proposition. To restore relations, *The Daily Cal* established the country’s first college sex column — one of many innovations it has inspired.

*“Without Berkeley, the world I know would have been narrowed, constricted, diminished: a more ordered and less risky world but not the world I wanted, not free, not Berkeley, not me.”*  
— Joan Didion ’56, legendary essayist and novelist
Doe Library, the embodiment of Berkeley’s early vision to become the “Athens of the West,” opened in 1911. There are over 20 libraries today, including the recently transformed Moffitt Library, a study hotspot for undergraduates. In addition to supporting solitary work, Moffitt also empowers the social, tech-savvy, 24-hour learning style of today’s students.

Cal’s first sports team was established in 1882. It was called football, but was what we know today as rugby. Today there are more than 850 student-athletes on 30 teams. Cal has secured 97 team national titles all-time in 15 different sports, as well as 298 individual titles. Over time, more than 300 Golden Bears have earned 207 Olympic medals.

In 1897, Levi Strauss, co-inventor of the blue jean, endowed the first scholarships at Cal — 28 in all. Building on that legacy, scholarship support enables Berkeley to accept students based on their ability to achieve, not on their capacity to pay. In 2015-16, $41.9 million in privately funded scholarships supported 6,000 undergraduates, and $15.8 million in fellowships supported nearly 2,000 graduate students.
Trailblazing women

While most elite Eastern universities did not admit women until the late 20th century, the regents of the University of California voted unanimously in 1870 to admit women on an equal basis with men. When the university settled in Berkeley in 1873, 22 of the 191 students were women — and women who proportionally outranked men in scholarship within a few years. Rosa L. Scrivner, who studied agriculture, was the first female graduate in 1874.

Lucy Sprague, the first dean of women, was a boon to helping our earliest women students pursue an education and career. She also inspired them to coordinate their talents and create “something that would give them standing in their own eyes and ... the community.” This led to the Partheneia, a yearly outdoor pageant of original works held between 1912-31.

“Berkeley changed my life. It changed my sense of the world.”
— Carol T. Christ, Berkeley’s first female chancellor, 2017
Perhaps no one did more to focus public and academic attention on black women writers, including Alice Walker and Toni Morrison, than Barbara Christian, a pioneering scholar of contemporary American literary feminism. A beloved teacher, Christian amassed a series of Berkeley firsts: the first black woman to be granted tenure (1978), to be promoted to full professor (1986), and to chair a department (African American studies).

While Cal began recognizing women’s sports at the varsity level in 1976, an 1876 effort to engage women in football spawned a legacy of spirited competition that has nurtured generations of winning athletes. The Pac-10 Conference began sponsoring women’s sports in 1986-7, and softball won Cal’s first NCAA women’s team title in 2002. Since then, Cal has won three women’s team titles in rowing and four in swimming and diving.

When Annie Alexander, the daughter of a sugar magnate, began taking paleontology classes in 1900, she offered to pay for the professor’s next fossil hunting expedition — as long as she could participate. Thus began her lifelong support of Berkeley’s natural history efforts. She underwrote and joined numerous expeditions, helped unearth some of the largest ichthyosaur skeletons ever found, and donated over 20,000 specimens to the university’s collections. She also helped found the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (1908) and the Museum of Paleontology (1920).
A magnificent campus

When an international architectural competition was announced in the 1890s to transform our undistinguished campus into a beautiful “City of Learning,” Phoebe Apperson Hearst emerged as the major donor. The competition ultimately led to the master plans for the campus, and Hearst left a significant legacy that includes the Hearst Mining Building and Hearst Gymnasium.

While his design did not win the architectural competition, John Galen Howard carried out the plan to build more than 20 formative structures. Doe Library, the Hearst Greek Theatre, and Benjamin Ide Wheeler Hall are just a few stately landmarks we still use and admire today.

Once a stark, empty space, Lower Sproul Plaza is now the beating heart of student life — due partly to a groundbreaking initiative in which students voted to raise their fees to help pay for its makeover. The new complex, completed in 2015, includes more spaces for meeting, studying, eating, dancing, and just hanging out.
Sather Gate and the Campanile, our most splendid icons, were the result of visionary gifts from Jane K. Sather. The Campanile, completed in 1915, today stands as a trusty landmark, music box, treasure trove of history, and symbol of Berkeley’s light in the world.

California Memorial Stadium, completed in 1923 and renovated in 2012, is dedicated to all Californians who have sacrificed their lives in service to the nation. Today’s fans may notice a jagged line in the turf, a humorous nod to the facility’s location above the Hayward Fault.

“The pavement of Sather Gate throbs to the beat of the campus, and few who enter through those portals escape the fascination of Berkeley.”

— Daniel E. Koshland Jr., eminent biochemist and tireless booster of the biological sciences at Cal
Movement catalyst

While some national parks had been established by the 19-teens, no entity oversaw their management and protection. Alumni Stephen Mather (left) and Horace Albright convened a conference at Cal of 75 scientists, politicians, and other stakeholders — paving the way for the establishment of the National Park Service in 1916. Besides delighting visitors, the parks also serve science. Many essential ideas of modern ecology were developed by Berkeley professors who used public lands as their laboratories.

For many undocumented children, going to college seems like an impossible dream. Thanks in part to generous donor support, Berkeley led the country by launching the Undocumented Student Program in 2012. Already a national model, USP provides financial, academic, legal, and mental health support, as well as a safe community. Said one participant, “It doesn’t just think of you as a student. The program really captures that students are also human.”
In 1949, during the heat of the Cold War, the regents required all University of California employees to sign an anti-communist oath. Dispute erupted, and 31 faculty and scores of staff who refused to sign were fired. The state court struck down the loyalty oath in 1952 and ordered the rehiring of the professors. Raising issues around academic freedom and university governance, the controversy has had far-reaching effects on American higher education.

Since the Bay Area claimed a large number of foreign students, Harry Edmonds and John D. Rockefeller Jr., the visionaries behind the first International House in New York, chose Berkeley for their second location. But the local community resisted men and women living together and the integration of “whites” and people of color. I-House opened in 1930 — and remains relevant as we strive to understand each other’s cultures in today’s interdependent world.

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“It has remained for me a brilliant moment when, as a friend put it, we were both moral and successful.”

— Mario Savio, a leader of the Free Speech Movement. When administrators banned on-campus political activities in September 1964, student protests erupted and continued until the restrictions were removed in January. Berkeley’s student activism spread to other universities, fueling the antiwar movement and a new generation of citizens willing to fight for freedom.
Deep-rooted traditions

A student committee chose Berkeley’s colors in 1873. Blue was considered because it reflected the sky and Yale, from which many early university leaders had graduated. Gold was favored because of California’s designation as the Golden State and the color of many native wildflowers.

Donning bold striped shirts and an infectious energy, the Rally Committee, founded in 1901, is the official guardian of Cal spirit and traditions. In 1914, the students invented the card stunt, which has become increasingly elaborate over time and far surpassed our campus borders.

“My heart skips a beat every time I hear the Cal Marching Band strike up ‘Our sturdy Golden Bear,’” said Walter A. Haas Jr. ’39, a great Cal benefactor. He’s not alone in this sentiment. The band, founded in 1891, dazzles Cal athletes and fans with its exciting repertoire and impressive high-step style and formations. Women were admitted in 1973.
Donated by the War Classes (‘45, ’46, ’47, and War ’47), the university seals surrounding Memorial Glade are considered sacred ground. Stepping on one may jeopardize a 4.0. To counter the myth, students often roll down 4.0 Hill or rub the stone sphere by the Campanile for good luck.

Big Game, the age-old, fierce football rivalry between the Golden Bears and Stanford Cardinal, has spawned numerous traditions, including a cable car rally in San Francisco, a call to give up your red shirts and canned goods (which get donated to charity), and the grand bonfire rally. No other moment stands out like “The Play,” the last four seconds of the Bears’ 1982 victory involving four Cal players, five lateral passes, and a felled trombone player. Announcer Joe Starkey hailed it as “the most amazing, sensational, traumatic, heart rending, exciting, thrilling finish in the history of college football!”

Hail to California, alma mater dear;  
Sing the joyful chorus, sound it far and near  
Rallying round her banner, we will never fail;  
California, alma mater – Hail! Hail! Hail!

— “Hail to California,” composed by Clinton R. “Brick” Morse in 1896
In 1980, Berkeley faculty father and son Luis and Walter Alvarez compiled the scientific case for a controversial idea — that an asteroid struck Earth 65 million years ago, triggering a mass extinction and the demise of dinosaurs.

In 2012, Jennifer Doudna co-invented CRISPR-Cas9, a precise tool for the targeted editing of genes, including those that cause human and crop diseases. CRISPR was faster, easier, and cheaper than previous methods — and has catalyzed new industries and countless experiments in labs worldwide.

In 1977, Bob Fabry and his student Bill Joy created Berkeley Software Distribution, a modified version of UNIX, and invited hackers to improve it — helping spawn open-source software. Joy later co-founded Sun Microsystems.

"You are an explorer. Really, science is exploring. You look for new things, you look at new things, and you never know just what you’re going to find."

— Physicist Charles Townes, whose research on light led to the invention of the laser and a Nobel Prize
In 1998, Saul Perlmutter led a team that determined the accelerating expansion of the universe — and the possible existence of dark energy. He was awarded the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics.

In 1942, Glenn Seaborg discovered radioactive plutonium, one of 16 chemical elements — including berkelium and californium — added to the periodic table by Berkeley and Lawrence Berkeley Lab scientists.

In 1939, Ernest Lawrence became Berkeley’s first Nobelist — the first at any public university — for the cyclotron, an experimental device to accelerate nuclear particles. Since then, our faculty have garnered another 21 Nobel Prizes.
The Promise of Berkeley

In 1895, the men’s track team was the first Cal team to compete outside of the state. It carried blue silk banners emblazoned with the word “California” and the state emblem, a grizzly bear, in gold. When the team won beyond expectations, their banners were displayed at the jubilant homecoming — and Cal’s mythical guardian was born.

The evolution of bears

In 1895, the men’s track team was the first Cal team to compete outside of the state. It carried blue silk banners emblazoned with the word “California” and the state emblem, a grizzly bear, in gold. When the team won beyond expectations, their banners were displayed at the jubilant homecoming — and Cal’s mythical guardian was born.
Over the years, depictions of the Golden Bear in *The Blue and Gold Yearbook* changed alongside the times and artistic styles. A 1928 bear ferociously rips through *The Daily Cal*. Bears in the 1942 book resemble a cheerful or mischievous Mickey Mouse. Many are humanized — studying, playing sports, even flirting — while others show the solitude and power of a real animal.
Alumnus of the Year proves Einstein was right

Barry C. Barish ’57, Ph.D. ’63 says watching ocean waves marked the start of his work on detecting gravitational waves a century after Einstein’s prediction. His research would win him the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics, which he shares, as well as Berkeley’s Alumnus of the Year.

About 25 years ago, Barish and Charles Peck, a fellow eminent physicist at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), met for a beach walk. Peck asked Barish, who had already led many important particle physics experiments, including landmark neutrino studies, to take over leadership of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO).

The faint signal of gravitational waves was generated 1.3 billion years ago when two black holes merged. That wave reached Earth on September 14, 2015, and was picked up by twin detectors located in Livingston, Louisiana, and Hanford, Washington. Since then, LIGO has detected several black hole mergers and a binary neutron star merger.

“It’s the beginning of a new astronomy — multi-messenger astronomy, which I believe will lead to an exciting new understanding of our universe in the coming decades and beyond,” Barish says.

He says he met his two loves at Cal: physics and his wife, Samoan. They have two children and three grandchildren. Barish continues to work with fellow physicists at Caltech to make LIGO even more sensitive, as well as develop concepts for next-generation gravitational wave detectors.

Co-sponsored by the UC Berkeley Foundation and the Cal Alumni Association, the Achievement Awards celebrate forward-thinking business leaders, gifted faculty, and remarkable alumni. Visit awards.berkeley.edu for more on this year’s recipients.
That was momentous

During our fourth Big Give, the peerless Cal community — alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff, and friends the world over — came together with **8,644 gifts totaling more than $22 million**, making Berkeley moments possible for years to come. The last time we held the online fundraising blitz, we raised half this year’s magnanimous total. Thank you for seizing the moment!

Gift- and social media-based prizes were awarded to schools and programs across campus, from the Botanical Garden to Linguistics, Athletics to the I School. Your passion and creativity shone through social media posts and contest entries, showing us the myriad reasons, from hilarious to inspiring, you were motivated to give.

Fourth-year student *Suher Adi*, who shared her story on Facebook, was the first woman in her family to apply to college. She says the women before her had lived in war-torn countries or were displaced — so getting into a good school like Berkeley would honor them and the sacrifices they had made for her.

“On this International Women’s Day and on #CalBigGive, I would like to use my Berkeley moment to honor my amazing mother; without her I wouldn’t be about to graduate from my dream school,” wrote Adi. Her post won an extra $1,000 for the Center for Middle Eastern Studies.

Your embrace of the event and generosity toward your favorite schools, colleges, and programs made this year’s Big Give a very big moment indeed. Visit BigGive.berkeley.edu for final contest results, social media posts, and more.
Behind many of Berkeley’s most generous gifts is an inspiring story. This is certainly true of the philanthropic paths of two sets of Cal parents.

A welcoming place for Jewish students

Mindy and Robert Mann P ’17 care deeply about the well-being of Jewish students and the excellence of Berkeley’s Jewish studies programs. They demonstrated that devotion with a recent gift to support the Berkeley Institute for Jewish Law and Israel Studies, along with the activities and a renovation project at Berkeley Hillel, the center for Jewish life. They even underwrote a hotline at Hillel that delivers chicken soup to ailing students.

Beyond the Manns’ clear passion for Berkeley, their generosity reflects a desire to dispel perceptions that it is an unwelcoming place for Jewish students. They had heard such concerns through their Los Angeles-area community and became worried when their daughter, Merissa ’17, prepared to enter the university.
Giving back to Gilroy students

**Ricardo Mora ’88, P ’20** has a similarly strong allegiance to Berkeley — one that arose from his own narrative as a Cal student. “Berkeley was the transformational experience of my life,” says Ricardo, the son of Mexican immigrants and the first in his family to attend college.

Now a partner at Goldman Sachs in New York, Ricardo is changing the lives of undergraduates from his rural hometown of Gilroy, California. In 2002, he and his wife, Kelli Kenny-Mora P ’20, created the Mora Family Scholarship. To date it has helped 15 needy students with funding for everything from laptop computers to housing.

“With this scholarship, I am able to attend classes with a clear mind, knowing that my being here is not a financial burden on my family.”

— Christian Lustre ’16, past recipient of the Mora Family Scholarship

Ricardo first set his sights on Berkeley when he and other gifted 5th graders from Gilroy visited the campus. Returning to make good on his dream, he double majored in economics and sociology. He not only learned from world-class professors but discovered how to succeed at a large, complex institution — skills he still uses today.

“My life literally went from this small town to what I do now,” says Ricardo. “It all started at Berkeley.”

With their oldest daughter, Ava ’20, attending Berkeley, the Moras are keenly aware of the university’s constrained resources and even more motivated to lend a hand. They serve on the New York Chancellor’s Council, and Ricardo is a member of the Board of Visitors, an advisory group to the chancellor. Separately, Kelli also co-founded Orphaned Starfish, a nonprofit that develops vocational centers in orphanages throughout Latin America.

“Anywhere in the world you go, people know Berkeley,” says Ricardo. “Cal has this bigger-than-life reputation that we have to protect.”
New center sparks “consumer law renaissance”

Consumer law — which can include everything from debt collection abuses and inflated drug prices to false advertising and sub-prime auto lending — can be hazy at times. But a new center at Berkeley Law aims to make the school a national and global leader in its study, research, and practice.

Established by a $3.5 million gift from renowned litigator Elizabeth Cabraser ’78 (left), the Berkeley Center for Consumer Law and Economic Justice is the first of its kind among top-tier law schools. “Consumer law is at work all around us, every day. But it’s almost invisible in law schools,” says Cabraser, a founding partner at Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein in San Francisco. “This center will actively help protect people in the modern marketplace.”

The center will strive to fuel meaningful policy change — via white papers, briefs in consumer cases nationwide, input to legislatures and regulatory agencies on behalf of low-income consumers, and new courses and hands-on student opportunities.

Suzanne Martindale ’10, a Berkeley Law student during the 2008 financial collapse, was among a handful of students helping low-income clients respond to lawsuits at a debt collection clinic. She has witnessed student interest in consumer law mushroom. “Now that our consumer law community has roots, it needs a garden with room to grow,” she says.

Cabraser believes that Berkeley Law is just the place where a “consumer law renaissance” can flourish. “Every one of us lives a daily life as a consumer,” she says, “and marketplace fairness is a universal right.”
During a quarter-century as the ninth head coach for Cal men’s tennis, Berkeley native Peter Wright ’91 (above) has taken the team to 23 NCAA Tournaments. In 2016, he was named Pac-12 Coach of the Year. Now, Wright's name will be linked to future coaches who fill his tennis shoes.

A $3 million gift from anonymous donors has endowed the head coach position, which after Wright retires will be retitled the Peter Wright Director of Men's Tennis. “I was incredibly touched,” he says of the donors’ generosity and thoughtfulness. “It’s a tremendous honor.”

After playing for Cal under Coach Bill Wright (no relation), who emphasized having fun while being competitive, Peter Wright embarked on a “pretty unremarkable” career as a pro player — before returning to Berkeley to find his calling in coaching. “My father was a teacher at Berkeley High, so I guess there’s teaching in my blood,” he says. Wright currently enjoys the extra benefit of coaching his son Thomas on the team.

“Gifts like this one ensure that we’ll have a tennis program long into the future. The endowment model provides us with security moving forward,” says Wright.

In 2016, the Alex and Marie Shipman Director of Men’s Golf Endowment marked Cal’s first such gift to be earmarked for a coach. Cal Athletics aims ultimately to endow all of its head coaching positions, in order to build a sturdier foundation for student-athletes.
To many, the term “data science” suggests businesses using our data to make more money, like when Amazon recommends items to add to your cart. But big data can do more than fuel bigger profits.

Graduate student Marcus DeMaster (below) is exploring how data science can enhance the fields of healthcare and biological sciences. Based in Portland and enrolled in the School of Information’s Master of Information and Data Science (MIDS) online program, he is becoming more data-savvy — and receiving a boost from a generous Cal alumnus.

DeMaster earned the Jack Larson “Data for Good” Fellowship, created to help MIDS students use data science to improve human life or benefit society. Six students will receive the fellowship over two years.

“I want to encourage students to take their I School education and big data knowledge and do something that benefits us all in the long run,” says Larson ’73 (above), who studied business at Cal before launching a successful career in on-site and online post-secondary education.

The Larson fellowship doesn’t just provide financial support — it’s a vote of confidence in the power of big data to enact big change. “The fellowship validated my research on using Twitter to reach out to those who believe flu shots are unsafe or ineffective,” says DeMaster, who also works as a healthcare analyst. “It encouraged me to pursue that direction in other MIDS projects and at my job.”
Alum empowers budding human rights advocates

Thomas J. White Ph.D. ’76 (right) has been a driving force for Berkeley Law’s Human Rights Center (HRC) for over 10 years, but his dedication to the rights of all dates back decades.

In college, White was fired from a restaurant for supporting a strike for better living conditions for Puerto Rican kitchen workers. As a Peace Corps volunteer in Liberia, where he taught math, science, and public health to elementary school teachers, he saw how mining and rubber companies were displacing people and paying them meager wages. And during his long career, the biotech research pioneer helped develop DNA-based tests for diagnostic, forensic, and research applications.

In 2006, before retirement, White became interested in the HRC. He and his wife, poet Leslie Scalapino M.Eng. ’69, pledged to support its fellowship program, which provides students with meaningful human rights opportunities around the world, for five years. He has extended the support since her death in 2010 and plans to continue giving.

Sarah Schear ’17, a former HRC fellow, studied end-of-life care in India. She says of White, “He’s always asking, ‘How can I decrease suffering and work for social justice?’”

White also devotes significant time to advising and mentoring fellows — more than 100 students so far — and lectures on genetics and ethics in a seminar on health and human rights.

Whether students are creating safe, fun activities for Syrian refugee children or helping to reunite families torn apart during El Salvador’s civil war, White hopes to inspire them to make human rights an important part of their careers.
From a chance meeting to a lasting legacy
Coming to campus for the first time can be overwhelming — the impressive buildings, throngs of students, the academic reputation. Eventually, Berkeley students find their place, and sometimes, they also find each other.

Such was the case for S. Allan and Marguerite Johnson, alumni and Cal parents who have been stalwart partners with the campus for decades. Marguerite B.A. ’60 and Al B.S. ’62, M.B.A. ’69 met in Criminology 1A — a course required for her social welfare degree that he took on friends’ recommendation. Attracted to Marguerite from his first glimpse in class, Al invited her out for coffee. One of the couple’s early outings was a field trip to San Quentin for a meal served by inmates. Marguerite recalls, “That was one of our first big dates — in prison.”

For college, Al sought a contrast from his all-boys boarding school in Ojai. Berkeley fit the bill; it was big, coed, and offered a breadth of subjects. Marguerite applied on her older brother’s advice. Captivated by Cal’s physical beauty, she found a community at Stern Hall, an all-women’s residence, and on campus. “It just didn’t seem like a big, big school to me,” she says. “It was a lovely experience.”

Both were motivated to give back to Berkeley and have volunteered for several campaign committees and advisory boards, including Al’s service as a UC Berkeley Foundation trustee. Over time, the Johnsons’ philanthropic support has included significant individual contributions to the Haas School of Business, the School of Social Welfare, and the University Library.

Last October, they made their largest gift yet: $10 million to be shared equally between each of those units as well as with the Chancellor’s Impact Fund, which addresses pressing priorities on campus. Significantly, the gift is unrestricted in terms of how the funds are spent. The Johnsons’ long association with university leaders inspired trust that their investment would be used wisely. Al says, “They have the ideas of where the money should go, so let’s let them decide.”

For instance, the School of Social Welfare can continue renovating historic Haviland Hall to better serve its students. The University Library used its share to launch a campaign to complete the Center for Connected Learning in Moffitt Library, an undergraduate “collider space” of studios, project areas, and classrooms designed for active learning. The portion of the gift for Berkeley-Haas provides outgoing Dean Rich Lyons and his successor with transitional funds for new initiatives.

“Al and Marguerite are selfless alumni who readily contribute their time, talents, and treasure to the campus,” says Vice Chancellor for University Development and Alumni Relations Julie Hooper. “Because of their generosity, future Cal Bears will also experience the greatness of a Berkeley education.”

On the occasion of the university’s 150th birthday, the Johnsons have demonstrated that dedicated partners can make a transformational impact. “We just felt like the time was right, and we wanted to give to Berkeley,” Al says. “We gave what we could.”
On March 23, 2018, more than 5,000 members of the Cal family gathered at Haas Pavilion to celebrate Berkeley’s 150th birthday. Guests were treated to a multigenerational procession of alumni carrying class banners that dated back to our beginning; speeches from seven-time Olympic gold medalist Dana Vollmer and Nobel laureate Randy Schekman, among other Cal luminaries; an address by Chancellor Carol T. Christ; student performances; and a surprise reenactment of “The Play,” featuring broadcaster Joe Starkey.

Visit 150.berkeley.edu/charterday to see photos and a video of the celebration.

1. Oski escorts Beatrice Heggie ’47, one of the oldest alums to attend the ceremony, to the rapturous applause of the crowd.

2. José L. Rodríguez, a 24-year staff member with deep family ties to Cal, wrote a poignant poem, “Around the Bend, Strawberry Creek,” in honor of every generation touched by Berkeley.

3. Collectively the class banners show a variety of colors and artistic styles.

4. Chancellor Carol T. Christ smiles jubilantly as the music department’s Candace Johnson sings the national anthem.
5. Alumni through the ages joined the class procession.

6. Guests were treated to cupcakes and a special birthday hat modeled after Sather Gate.

7. Alumni packed the stands for the celebration.

8. The California Marching Band formed a “150” on the court during a thrilling performance.

9. Across the Pacific, alumni and friends celebrate Charter Day at a party organized by the Berkeley Club of Hong Kong.
10. Sheryl Wong ’67, C.Mult. ’68, Judy Wessing ’63, C.Mult. ’64, Christina Janssen P ’11, and Mary Catherine Birgeneau at the Berkeley premiere of Professor Robert Reich’s documentary Saving Capitalism, hosted by the Goldman School of Public Policy.

11. Students Cooper Rogers (left) and Brenda Zhang greet donor Bill Harrell B.Arch. ’72 at the College of Environmental Design’s Donor Appreciation Lunch in November.

12. Building donor Kevin Chou ’02, Chancellor Carol T. Christ, Dean Rich Lyons ’82, University of California President Janet Napolitano, building donor Ned Spieker ’66, and project manager Walter Hallanan ’72 celebrate the dedication of Chou Hall at the Haas School of Business in March.

13. Lecturer Ninik Lunde performs a traditional dance in the South/Southeast Asia Library at a gathering to commemorate the Jeff Hadler Collection, made possible through generous gifts from friends and family in memory of the late faculty member’s distinguished service to Berkeley.

15. Tianqiao Chen (center), flanked by Dean Shankar Sastry and Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Paul Alivisatos, brought colleagues to campus for meetings with Berkeley Brain Initiative faculty, led by Professor Udi Isacoff. The group also met with College of Engineering and Jacobs Institute of Design Innovation faculty and staff.

16. William Lau (left) and Karen Kao ’71 (second from right) meet the two recipients of the Wai Quon Lau Memorial Alumni Scholarship, Zhiren Zheng and Kiana Schmitt, at a luncheon in March. Since 1934, the Leadership Award program has recognized and supported more than 18,000 Cal student leaders with merit-based scholarships.

17. Classmates from the Class of 1968 prepare for their 50th reunion campaign at the Volunteer Leadership Retreat in February.

18. Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Paul Alivisatos meets with some of the 200 graduate fellowship winners at the Celebration of Distinguished Fellows, hosted by the Graduate Division and the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost.
150 years of light and shadow

As we celebrate Berkeley’s sesquicentennial, two student leaders — Sophie Beirne ’18 (left), chair of the UC Rally Committee, and Siena Guerrazzi ’18, president of Cal Student Philanthropy — share their thoughts on this turning point.
Fiat Lux. Let there be light. Not just UC Berkeley’s motto, these words symbolize our university’s purpose. In 1868, the founders said that we would become the light toward which the world turned. One hundred and fifty years later, we continue to make them proud because we are the keepers of tradition, the innovators across specialties. Proud because we strive to do better, and to be better. Proud because we help foster the spirit and drive to make a difference.

But with 150 years of light comes 150 years of shadows. Today’s students are constantly pushed to their limits. In a culture of “survive, not thrive,” some have to decide between a textbook or a meal. We admit more students but don’t have enough housing. Many sacrifice sleep to study, mental health for hours at Moffitt Library, and food to finance their education.

Yet with these struggles, we receive an unparalleled education, form incredible bonds, engage through innovative events, experience research firsthand, and discover our passions. To continue building Berkeley, we must acknowledge the light and the shadows, and we must be the changemakers. Berkeley has inspired us and given us the tools to inspire others.

As we approach our final weeks at Cal, we can confidently say that some of the best moments of our lives have happened here, that our faculty have pushed us to be better than we ever could have imagined, and that we’ve done work that makes us proud. Most importantly, we met people who have forever influenced our lives.

UC Berkeley brought us together, and our journey has formed a lasting friendship. From road trips, to surviving all-nighters because we brought each other coffee, to flyering on Sproul Plaza in the pouring rain, we’ve created incredible memories. But we’ve also had a lasting impact. From research opportunities to professional internships, we’ve gone out and utilized our education. We also had the honor of creating the Fiat Lux Torch — a 10-foot-tall embodiment of tradition and innovation that is lit alongside the annual Big Game bonfire. This legacy and these relationships have defined our time at Cal.

When we look to the future, we hope to see a Berkeley that continues to serve as a beacon for the rest of the world, while making necessary changes to improve the lives of our students and community. A Berkeley that proves to all students that they will make the world a better place. We are both proud to call ourselves Golden Bears, and call on all Golden Bears to shine their light and fix the shadows. Let us always be that beacon. And let’s hope we get the axe back! ■