Vision 2028: Charting a course forward
Crime writer’s work immortalized in library
Football star scores big points with kids’ reading challenge
Along with our sesquicentennial, Berkeley is celebrating another milestone: a record-setting year of fundraising. In 2017–18, we raised more than $569 million from over 66,000 donors like you, placing the university in prime position to renew its promise for the next 150 years. Your support, now one of the university’s most important revenue sources, means so much for our ability to uphold the dreams of the entrepreneurs and engineers, scientists and scholars, and artists and activists who come to Berkeley for its outstanding academics. Thank you.

This fundraising success is especially noteworthy because it is a key part of the new financial model we are building for Berkeley. While state funding remains a critical part of our budget, years of reduced state support have prompted us to consider how we can multiply and diversify Berkeley’s revenue sources while remaining true to our public mission. In addition to philanthropy, the new...
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This fundraising success is especially noteworthy because it is a key part of the new financial model we are building for Berkeley. While state funding remains a critical part of our budget, years of reduced state support have prompted us to consider how we can multiply and diversify Berkeley’s revenue sources while remaining true to our public mission. In addition to philanthropy, the new model focuses on non-degree enrollment programs, particularly in continuing education and summer classes; new professional master’s programs; and increased monetization of our real estate. With this shift, Berkeley will depend less on inconsistent sources of revenue and more on stable ones — helping to prevent periodic budget crunches in the future.

We have also been setting new strategic priorities for Berkeley. Universities often design strategic planning as a grassroots, bottom-up process, in which a high-level committee chooses from ideas submitted by the community. Given our budgetary challenges, I thought such a process would result in both dissonance and disappointment. Instead, our strategic planning effort explored four areas: the major societal challenges Berkeley should address through its teaching and research; the student experience; our enrollment strategy; and our finances. The plan is now final, and we have several powerful themes that will guide Berkeley for the next 10 years. The stories on pages 2-15 help bring these themes to life.

As Berkeley continues to celebrate its sesquicentennial, it would be easy to tell a triumphalist story full of nostalgia and pride for our history and accomplishments. But Berkeley’s story is more so one of resilience, of constant evolution driven by resourcefulness and imagination. As we adapt both to the increasing demand for a University of California education — six of UC’s 10 campuses received more than 100,000 applications last year — and to a new strategic plan and funding model, Berkeley will continue to embody a diverse and entrepreneurial spirit and to empower people to change our world. That is a story that must be told.

My view from California Hall

Chancellor Carol T. Christ
Sometimes a river surges with a thunderous force. Trickles along like a gentle rain on a quiet night. Swirls against the current, or pulses to the unwavering beat of a drum.

Imagine Berkeley as a river. For 15 decades it has drawn people to its banks to nourish their minds and journey downstream toward new discoveries. Have you ever joined thousands of fans in a roaring “Go Bears!”? Were you among the last to leave the library, as the lights and sounds faded into darkness? Did you add your voice to the tradition of protest, demanding change to an unjust convention? As Daniel E. Koshland Jr., the late biochemist, once said, “The pavement of Sather Gate throbs to the beat of the campus, and few who enter through those portals escape the fascination of Berkeley.”

Our sesquicentennial could mark another bend in the river to which the force of history has propelled us. But what if it marked a rare chance to shape the river’s course, to steer Berkeley toward the university we want to become?
As Chancellor Carol T. Christ discussed in this issue’s letter, Berkeley just completed a strategic plan that sets the course for the next 10 years. It preserves what we cherish most, while also adapting to the needs and interests of those we serve. The plan is anchored in three powerful visions:

- **Empowering engaged thinkers** and global citizens to change our world
- **Focusing on the good**: Innovative solutions for society's great challenges
- **Embracing the California spirit**: Diverse, inclusive, entrepreneurial

In the following pages we share stories of students, faculty, and programs that showcase a few strengths upon which the plan was built and that help bring these visions to life. Stories revealing the excellence and values — including innovation, community, nonconformity, and respect for the planet — that make Berkeley distinct.

Of course this is just the beginning. Join us as we sail in new directions.

strategicplan.berkeley.edu
Empowering engaged thinkers

Students often say Berkeley is a big place that’s hard to navigate. While the old Berkeley might have let students reach for the high bar on their own, the new one is saying, “We’ll help you get there.” Change is afoot to create clear, flexible pathways through the curriculum that will enable students to pursue multiple passions, whether they fall neatly into one field or cut across several. We are also expanding programs that help students flourish outside of the classroom. The new data science major and Berkeley Connect, a mentoring program, exemplify how we are reimagining the undergraduate experience.

Data science education buzzing at Berkeley

Senior Eleanor Fleming ’19, who loved French, history, and English in high school, had not been exposed to the tech world when she started at Cal. Eager to try something different, she took classes in computer science and cognitive science and became curious about how the two disciplines intersect.

Her timing was spot on. A team had formed to explore the possibility of a new major in data science — and she jumped at the chance to help build something from the ground up. “I got to talk to all these amazing students and professors who were using data science in their respective fields,” she says. “That was my aha moment: If you have a baseline understanding of data science, you can explore many different avenues without ever feeling like you’re veering off course.”

Jump forward, and Fleming is not the only one having an aha moment. Developed in response to intense demand for graduates equipped to work in a rapidly evolving digital world, the new B.A. in data science is quickly becoming one of Berkeley’s most popular majors. The first class of nine (right, pictured with staff) graduated in December, approximately 100 are expected to graduate this spring, and nearly 1,200 students have already filed pre-declarations. At a celebration for the first graduates, David Culler, interim dean of data sciences, said, “I hope you realize just how courageous you are.”

The major is built upon a foundation of computer science, statistics, and mathematics. It also requires each student to choose a subject...
specialty, such as economics, robotics, or data arts and humanities, and to take at least one course focused on the human, social, and ethical contexts of data.

History professor Cathryn Carson, who leads the Data Science Education Program, says students spurred the university to create the major. “We knew that something real was going on in the outside world that students were the signal of,” she says. Students are also running workshops and industry events, helping to attract peers who might not feel welcome in technical fields, and working with faculty to build “modules,” innovative lessons that give them hands-on experience with datasets.

Alexander Ivanoff ’18 (left), among the major’s first graduating class, was part of a module team that developed software for analyzing ancient Sumerian texts, unveiling clues about which characters were important and how they related. The team visited the Hearst Museum of Anthropology.

“We got to literally hold ancient Sumerian clay tablets to connect on that next level with what they are doing,” says Ivanoff. “They showed me just how versatile data science tools were.”

These new programs are part of a revolutionary campuswide effort to respond directly to the profound and growing impact of data and computing. Just this fall, Berkeley launched the division of data science and information, the centerpiece of new courses, degrees, and initiatives that will tackle the research opportunities arising from data science, as well as its sweeping impacts.
You belong here: Intellectual community key to discovery

As a first-generation student who was both transferring and re-entering schools later in life, Bria Tennyson ’19 (below) didn’t think she was “Berkeley material.” She set low expectations for success and imagined herself alone in the library, withdrawn from her mostly younger peers.

That changed quickly when she attended her first gathering for Berkeley Connect, a program in which graduate students mentor undergraduates in several ways. “They handed out stickers that said, ‘You belong here,’ and that resonated with me so strongly,” Tennyson says. “It helped nurture my confidence and gave me the opportunity to engage in and enjoy the experience of Berkeley.”
Berkeley Connect was built on the belief that a sense of belonging and intellectual community are crucial stepping stones on the path to academic achievement. Begun in the English department in 2010, it is now rooted in 13 departments, including architecture, music, and physics, and serves up to 1,500 students per semester. Students participate in one-on-one advising sessions with their personal mentors, small-group discussions related to specific majors, and opportunities for networking and exploring campus. In return for their service as mentors, graduate students receive yearlong fellowships.

Tennyson, a history major, says her mentor, Krzysztof Odyniec (left), is like the older brother she never had. Besides encouraging her to overcome her timidity and meet the professor who inspired her interest in postwar Europe, he motivated her to get involved in several organizations and consider various options for her future. She hopes to teach at a community college like the one she attended.

“Our mentors go above and beyond,” she says. “They’re really attuned to [the fact] that we’re young minds in a transition in life when we’re going to be making choices.”

Tennyson’s grandmother, whom she grew up with and took care of for 10 years, died recently. Caretaking, her “other higher education,” taught her that she still has time to live life to its fullest. “She was the reason I came back to school,” she says.

It was during this period that the unexpected power of Berkeley Connect became clear: Her mentor and friends provided support in her grief — proving that authentic human connections, and not only academic support, help students thrive.

Source: 2017-18 exit survey

95% became more aware of available resources
90% felt a greater sense of belonging at Berkeley
96% would recommend the program to a friend

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Vision 2028

Focusing on the good

How can Berkeley address critical issues facing the world, not as moonshots we might achieve, but as complex, interdisciplinary challenges we will advance through basic research, knowledge, and service to society? To that end, the strategic plan identifies five signature initiatives touching on health, inequality, inclusive intelligence, democracy, and environmental sustainability and justice that will guide our research for the next decade.

Ahead of the curve on climate change

More than 8,000 miles separate San Francisco Bay from West Antarctica, but the future of both places is intertwined. At Berkeley, a broad range of researchers are already anticipating the future under a shifting climate.

The initiative focused on environmental sustainability and justice will harness the campus’s disciplinary strengths and its intellectual partnership with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) to counter 21st-century societal challenges. “Berkeley is no ivory tower,” insists Vice Chancellor for Research Randy Katz. “The faculty is very motivated by having impact in the real world.”
For example, says Katz, “If we can’t mitigate climate change, how do we prepare for climate change in the way that we organize society?” Determining adaptations for rising sea levels will be a big part of readying coastal communities, and Berkeley experts have begun considering what to expect as the shoreline begins its inevitable submergence into the San Francisco Bay.

With 90 percent of global ice mass, Antarctica figures as the biggest — and most uncertain — factor in assessing future sea levels. LBNL mathematician Dan Martin applies a computational tool called adaptive mesh refinement (AMR) to model in unprecedented detail the contours of immense ice sheets that blanket the southern continent. In the same way that more pixels sharpen a digital photo, AMR maximizes resolution by concentrating supercomputing power on specific spots — in this case, those sections of the Antarctic Ice Sheet that are changing most rapidly.

Visualizations created by Martin and international colleagues, such as the one above, reveal how ice sheets change under simulated scenarios of varying climatic conditions. “Ice looks like it’s just sitting there, but it’s flowing and changing,” says Martin, who knows how dynamic frozen water can be. Antarctic ice flows to the sea in relatively fast-moving ice streams, eventually forming large floating ice shelves at the coast. Incursions of warm ocean water can melt and weaken these ice shelves from below. Eventually, they break apart, leading to faster ice flow, which in turn leads to ice thinning and retreat. In the worst-case simulation scenario — which Martin and climate scientists consider to be extremely
unlikely — Antarctic ice could contribute more than three feet of sea level rise within the next century and a total of 12 feet over 500 years. “Global sea levels don’t go up uniformly, like in a bathtub,” says Martin. Water released from Antarctic ice will flow mainly toward the equator and middle latitudes, bringing us back to San Francisco Bay.

Around the Bay, sea level has risen by more than 8 inches in the last 100 years, according to California’s Fourth Climate Change Assessment (CCCA4). Released in August, CCCA4 reviews current research and recommends resilient actions for nine regions around the state. Mark Stacey, Henry and Joyce Miedema Chair in Civil and Environmental Engineering, is one of 12 Berkeley authors on the summary report for the San Francisco Bay Area.

“The Bay Area is highly engaged in this, but it’s a real hard problem,” says Stacey. “It’s extremely expensive to get to a resilient end point.” Underscoring his research projects around adaptation to increasing water levels and more frequent storm surges is the importance of regional interdependence and long-term community collaboration to reach solutions.

With colleagues at UC Davis, NYU, and the U.S. Geological Survey, Stacey co-led a project in which the team assessed how vulnerable Bay Area infrastructure, including airports, highways, railways, and sewage treatment plants, would be to sea rise. Their analysis reveals that interventions to restrict flooding locally can alter flood patterns throughout the region, for better or worse. The most extensive effect emanates from shoreline changes in the South Bay. “Communities throughout the region have a stake in what happens at the bay’s edge,” Stacey says.

Stacey has begun talking to county-level stakeholders around the Bay to encourage coordinated adaptation efforts. He hopes to avoid communities choosing the short-term solution of fortifying themselves behind levees lying below sea level, as in New Orleans.

“I’m very anti-wall,” says Kristina Hill, associate professor in the College of Environmental Design. Hill studies resilient design solutions from around the world to see what could work around the San Francisco Bay to protect economic and natural assets. Rather than relying solely on static seawalls or levees, Hill favors a broad approach to shoring up the bay shore that incorporates dynamic landforms such as beaches, dunes, or marshes. These could control floods while providing space for recreation and habitat for other species. They could also be cheaper to construct and easier to make higher or wider as conditions change.

“We’ve never tried to design and manage cities during a period of rapid sea level rise,” says Hill. “That’s what we have to do now.”

Ecologist David Ackerly, dean of the College of Natural Resources and coordinating author of CCCA4’s Bay Area report, says “California is a leader on [greenhouse gas] emissions reduction. We need to lead on adaptation as well, to minimize impacts to biodiversity and people ... especially for frontline communities who will bear the brunt of these changes.” Count on Berkeley for continuing to provide its share of leadership and innovative ideas in response to the changes ahead.
As a public university, Berkeley has always sought to accept and represent the full range of our state's diverse population. No single ethnic group can claim a majority in California. And as its demographics evolve — about 25 percent of current high school graduates are of Hispanic descent — so too will Berkeley’s, with the goal to become a Hispanic-Serving Institution in the next decade. But accepting a full spectrum of diversity is just the beginning. We’re working to create an inclusive, accessible environment for all abilities, genders, and cultural backgrounds — fostering equity for everyone.

Universal locker room a first among California colleges

Go to the gym. Work out. Take a shower and change. For many Berkeley students, it’s a simple proposition. But for others, it’s the worst part of their day — or impossible altogether.

Ben Perez ’13 (right), manager of Campus Access Services, says he felt mortified sharing a residence hall bathroom and showers with 25 other students during his first year at Berkeley in 2007. He has used a wheelchair, including a special one for bathing, since incurring a spinal cord injury at age 16. “My disability life had been a private thing,” he says. “I would have valued a little bit of space to learn how to be comfortable with myself.”

Juniperangelica Cordova ’19, an ethnic studies major who is transgender, shared Perez’s apprehension and felt anxious about going to the gym. “I like to work out, but I’d often avoid the locker room and go home with dirty clothes, or not go to prompt stares or harassment,” she says.

That all changed last fall when the Recreational Sports Facility opened a universal locker room — the first such large-scale collegiate facility in California and one of just a few in the nation — for students desiring more privacy, including those who are transgender, non-binary, or have disabilities or body-image struggles. Located between the men’s and women’s locker rooms, the new 4,500-square-foot structure has its own entrance, 400 lockers, 16 individual changing rooms, 7 private showers, 5 private toilets, and 4 shared sinks. It also leads to Spieker Pool, which some students have avoided in the past because it was only accessible through the traditional locker rooms.
In a bold move to help create a welcoming environment, Berkeley students voted in 2015 to add an annual fee for “new, innovative mind-body services” that “address the concerning rise of mental health complications on campus and provide new support for minority student groups.” Those fees went into a wellness fund, and an advisory committee later voted to use money from the fund for the locker room. Thus far, the fund has also covered counseling services, medical care for student survivors of sexual violence, and a pilot program for emergency housing.

“Our social fabric contains a really specific and narrow vision of what someone who goes to a gym should look like,” says Martha Velasquez, associate director of the Disabled Students’ Program. She says the new locker room may welcome individuals who are on the spectrum, have PTSD or other psychological disabilities, or have a sensory disability and need a more private space to change.

“Any moment in which the university identifies and proactively moves an access barrier to make spaces more inclusive is a big moment,” Perez says.
Creating a culture of wellness

For many Berkeley students, getting admitted to Cal is just the first hurdle. On top of studying to compete at this top university — and often working at least one job — these students must also make tough decisions about how often they’ll be able to eat, or where they’ll be sleeping each night.

Compared to its peers around the country, Berkeley is ahead of the curve with research data and model programs and services that address basic needs. Last year we served more than 5,000 students — but we can do much better. In 2019, the university will launch a centralized Basic Needs Center in the MLK Student Union, and Kiyoko Thomas will organize the collective efforts.

Thomas, who has always worked to improve systems for individuals and communities, hopes to create awareness around how economic, food, and housing challenges can negatively affect mental health. “The chancellor’s priority for creating a healthy campus climate aligns with my efforts,” she says, “in that they work toward creating a culture of wellness that’s inclusive of both physical and mental health.”

In fact, the UC Berkeley Foundation Board of Trustees issued a challenge to reach 10,000 gifts during Big Give, Cal’s annual online fundraising event in March. It will donate $100,000 to a basic needs fund if the challenge is met.

In addition to addressing student food and housing, the Basic Needs Center will host events, presentations, skills trainings, and a community kitchen. Supporting these efforts are student coordinators such as Berkeley junior Sara Tsai ’20. Many of her coworkers are also clients, she observes. It’s not uncommon for them to have to skip class because they can’t get the course schedules they need, while working jobs to pay for the tuition of the classes they now can’t attend. This vicious cycle is one factor the chancellor’s strategic plan hopes to remedy.

“Often the narrative around total cost of college attendance is focused on tuition and fees, when the most costly aspect of attending a university is housing, utilities, and food,” Tsai explains. “This is especially true in the Bay Area, where Berkeley is ranked the most expensive college town in the nation.”

The commitment of students like Tsai helps to make the program such a success, says Thomas. “Since I’ve been at Cal, I’ve met an entire community of full-time students who have demonstrated incredible leadership around this work,” she says.
Let there be flight

Once on the brink of extinction, peregrine falcons have made a remarkable comeback in recent decades. One noble pair has taken up residence in a luxury suite — atop the 307-foot Campanile — to grow their family. Three chicks hatched and fledged last spring and, with the help of our friends on social media, were named after three elements discovered at Berkeley: Berkelium, Californium, and Lawrencium. While you couldn’t see the falcons
from inside the Campanile, volunteers set up scopes on the ground for curious passersby. The university and its partners surpassed a fundraising goal to install webcams in time for next spring’s hopeful hatching. Bird enthusiasts worldwide, including our own researchers, will be able to watch the falcons in real time and document various behaviors. You might even catch a spectacular power dive as one strikes its prey in midair.
As a promising young scholar interested in the association between social stressors and health among African American women, Amani Allen was struggling to fund her pilot data project. Then Allen, a professor of community health and epidemiology, received a Hellman Fellowship, closing a critical resource gap that enabled her to fill an important void in the public health record for women of color.

With the fellowship, Allen joins a prestigious group of junior faculty who show distinction in their early promise and long-term potential. Possessing big ideas and boundless energy, they are eager to move their research forward, but outside funding is highly competitive and hard to come by.

Established as a bridge to tenure by the late F. Warren ’55 and Chris Hellman in 1995, the Hellman Fellows Program has helped early-career faculty from all disciplines not only shine in the academic universe but also become permanent fixtures in the faculty firmament. Since its inception, it has provided $45 million in support to more than 1,400 budding faculty across all 10 UC campuses. And today, 94 percent of the nearly 400 Berkeley fellows have earned tenure.

“The Hellman award was really the jumpstart to my independence as a scholar,” says Allen, who was able to quantify how stressors such as racial discrimination and neighborhood poverty impacted health.

To honor their parents’ legacy, Frances Hellman, dean of the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences at Berkeley, and her three siblings — Patricia Hellman Gibbs, Marco ’83, and Judith ’84 — awarded Berkeley a $20 million matching grant to fund The Society of
Hellman Fellows: Representing the largest single gift from the Hellman Fellows Fund, the challenge grant provides Berkeley with a major boost in endowed funds to support the program in perpetuity. Once fully endowed, the society will double the number of fellowships awarded annually to 32. Designed for assistant professors who have exhausted start-up funds (generally after year two), the fellowships range from $30,000 to $60,000, depending on proposed research costs.

“The impact of the Hellman family’s generosity cannot be overstated,” says Chancellor Carol T. Christ. “Faculty they supported two decades ago are today changing the world with their discoveries.”

Ehud Isacoff, director of Berkeley’s Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute, was among the first cohort to receive a fellowship in 1995. Today, he is considered a world leader in the burgeoning field of neurotechnology.

“Breaking into funding was very hard at the start,” says Isacoff, who was recently elected a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences. “The Hellman Fellowship enabled me to survive long enough to make it.”

Warren, a beloved Cal alumnus and former UC Berkeley Foundation trustee, was a successful venture capitalist who was well-known for launching and subsidizing San Francisco’s popular free music festival, Hardly Strictly Bluegrass — now in its 18th year. He and his wife, Chris — a former ballet dancer who became San Francisco Ballet’s first honorary chair — were devoted philanthropists, particularly to Cal.

“The Hellman Fellows Program was truly one of my parents’ greatest joys,” says Frances. “They appreciated the intelligence, rigor, creativity, and enthusiasm each fellow brought to their area of study.”

Pictured: The Hellman siblings (Marco ‘83, Judith ‘84, Frances, and Patricia Hellman Gibbs)
For William Parker, each day at Berkeley seemingly moves at breakneck speed. But the freshman from Santa Ana knows how to balance competing priorities. As a high school student, Parker (right) had a knack for finding keyboards, CPUs, battery packs — anything he could use to build electric scooters and skateboards — and eventually built up a fledgling business while also excelling in his studies. He hasn’t skipped a beat at Cal. He runs nine miles a day, takes five classes, studies into the wee hours with his roommates, keeps active in the Afro-themed floor of his dorm, and still makes time to meditate.

Earning admission was one thing for Parker; finding a means to pay his way was another. The offer of a newly launched fund made saying “yes” to Berkeley easier. **He is one of 28 new students this year to receive a scholarship from the new African American Initiative (AAI) fund, made possible by an anonymous $1 million gift and other donations.** Managed by the San Francisco Foundation and administered by the Cal Alumni Association, this powerful new tool gives each student $8,000 annually, allowing Berkeley to attract those who would otherwise choose to go elsewhere. Once fully funded at $20 million, the endowed scholarship fund will provide admitted undergraduate students an annual financial incentive.

According to a survey of African American students admitted to the University of California for fall 2015, many of these high-achieving students decided to go to Ivy League or private colleges that offered better financial support.

“These scholarships are about recognizing excellence, advancing diversity, and removing financial barriers of access to the No. 1 research institution. Students make a difference, so if we can attract students with these scholarships, everyone on campus will benefit,” says Oscar Dubón, vice chancellor for the Division of Equity and Inclusion.
Parker believes one of Berkeley’s greatest assets is the diversity of experience that each student brings to the campus. He says that getting to know and appreciate the university and his peers is “like peeling the skin of an onion,” revealing new layers of understanding along the way. The key, he says, is staying open — “otherwise, you limit yourself.”

“I wanted to go to a place where I could cultivate all of my skills and where I could also branch out and be able to do some community work,” says Parker, and Berkeley has delivered in this regard.

In addition to the awards, the AAI also focuses on improving recruitment, yield, retention, and graduation rates of African American students. The initiative aims to greatly increase the African American undergraduate student population, currently less than 3 percent of the student body, over the next 10 years; raise the number of African American faculty and staff; and build a more welcoming and inclusive climate.

“We need to see more African American leaders on campus because our leadership — staff leadership and faculty leadership — needs to reflect all our communities,” says Dubón. “I feel this year is going to be an opportunity to really change the tide and the narrative around the Black experience here, but we need to be steadfast and continue to push forward.”
When Ann Ph.D. ’90 and Joe Ph.D. ’89 Pease met as graduate students in the College of Chemistry, it was frowned upon for group members to be involved romantically. On their first date, they were sitting in a dark theater when none other than David Wemmer, their Ph.D. advisor (and former department chair), leaned in between their seats and said, “Shouldn’t the two of you be in the lab right now?” Social mores aside, they were married in 1989 — and have been dedicated to the college ever since.

Joe, who leads a research group at Genentech, was working at Roche Pharmaceuticals in Palo Alto when it acquired Genentech in 2009. When Roche announced the closure of that site as part of the acquisition, “I started making calls and am happy to say that some top-end lab equipment wound up going to the college,” he says. Several fume hoods and cabinets were distributed to different labs. Joe and Ann, who became an intellectual property attorney, also established the Graduate Student Life Enrichment Fund to support networking and professional development activities jeopardized by a drop in state funding. “One experience we valued was sharing food and drink with fellow students and faculty on Friday afternoons,” says Ann. “We connected with old friends, made new ones, and discussed mutual research endeavors.”

ChemKeg remains a popular event. “This fund makes it possible for students in different labs and fields to interact,” says Chrissy Stachl Ph.D. ’20.

Ann and Joe’s connection through the college has had a long-lasting impact on improving learning and life for chemistry students.
If there’s a typical path to becoming a mystery writer, Willie Gordon ’59 didn’t take it. As an enterprising second-grader, he would hop on a streetcar to downtown Los Angeles and peddle his shoeshine services on Main Street, “where all the winos were,” he says. He often found discarded dime novels, thus beginning his love for the genre.

A lawyer for more than 50 years, Gordon says he “took care of the little guy” — people at the margins of society who eventually made their way into his second career as a mystery writer. Over the last two decades, Gordon has released six noir mysteries chronicling a reporter in 1960s San Francisco. The characters include an albino Chinese sage, a dominatrix, and an oversexed dwarf.

Gordon, who was married to best-selling author Isabel Allende for 27 years, recently made a significant donation to The Bancroft Library’s California Detective Fiction Collection, which contains 3,000 mystery novels set in the Golden State or written by California authors. He also gave manuscripts, ephemera, and 22 volumes of his books in foreign languages.

Gordon’s gift will enable the Bancroft to expand the collection and make the materials available for research much sooner than would be possible otherwise. Having his work immortalized in the Bancroft is “like getting the Nobel Prize,” he says.

The detective fiction collection is part of the Western Americana collection, a wealth of treasures documenting the communities that built the West. Contact give@library.berkeley.edu to support a new fundraising campaign for its curatorial leadership and future growth.
Health care innovator Lynn Barr M.P.H. ’10 (right) says her education at Berkeley’s School of Public Health (SPH) launched her work pursuing health equity, especially for those in rural areas.

At age 17, Barr joined the Army, where she served as a lab technician and was named Fort Hood Soldier of the Year. She then spent many years as an entrepreneur in tech start-ups focused on medical devices and pharmaceuticals, bringing 13 new medical products to market and launching five companies.

“I had a dream of creating a database of side effects of drugs so patients can be better informed,” Barr says. Her other dream was to attend UC Berkeley — and she couldn’t shake the feeling that it would open up doors. Her instincts were right.

Part of her work at Cal included working on a state initiative for the digital exchange of health information. That’s when she learned about healthcare disparities in rural areas and discovered that rural providers were willing to share data.

Barr went on to found Caravan Health, a company that helps rural providers deliver better care and transition from a fee-for-service to a value-based model focused on patient outcomes. The SPH recognized her last spring as one of its 75 most influential alumni. Barr has made a significant gift to honor her “priceless” time at Berkeley.

Barr now leads programs that have improved care for one million Medicare patients, and her dream of a database is coming together: Caravan Health has the largest patient database with claims histories and health records — and it’s growing every year.
Last season, Cal football player Patrick Laird ’18 emerged as a top Pac-12 running back. He also developed an eye-catching touchdown celebration: positioning his hands to mimic reading a book. When he realized he was winning a lot of attention, he turned toward using his role as a star player to positively impact kids.

Laird, who is passionate about reading, learned about summer learning loss, a phenomenon in which children’s academic knowledge slips during vacation months. As a result, he launched a reading challenge for first through sixth graders in which kids committed to reading a certain number of books depending on their age. The reward? Free tickets to Cal’s 2018 season opener against North Carolina.

To encourage participation, Laird spoke to nearly 30 kids’ groups, often likening the brain to a muscle: If you don’t use it, you lose it. He also wanted them to hear a different voice.

“I’m a Division I football player with the message that reading is cool, and education is fun,” he says. “The kids I’m trying to reach may be struggling or don’t think reading is as fun as I do.”

Andie Wiskerson (below) of Concord, Calif., joined the challenge because she loves Cal and wanted to meet Laird. “Reading relaxes me,” says the seven-year-old, whose favorite chapter books feature Heidi Heckelbeck, a whimsical young witch who “figures out how to be a good babysitter and she does magic.”

Besides building a community of young readers, Laird had higher aspirations. “If it helps one kid be a better student or one day go to college, I would consider that a success,” he says.
Welcome to Berkeley’s newest trustees

For 70 years, the Board of Trustees of the UC Berkeley Foundation has assured the university’s global preeminence by encouraging private giving and providing advice to the chancellor and campus. Our newest leaders share their thoughts on why they became trustees.

**Stephen T. Isaacs ’73** (Chairman and CEO, Aduro Biotech) — Cal made it all possible for me. I was able to attend a first-class university for very little money, then published my first paper in 1976, which allowed my business to form and flourish. Cal also helped shape my greatest passions: turning basic science into meaningful healthcare therapies; helping the best and brightest in the developing world build their skills and thrive; upholding diversity and inclusion; and redistributing wealth through philanthropy.

**Gail J. Maderis ’78** (President and CEO, Antiva Biosciences, Inc.) — I am delighted to support the launch of Cal’s Biology+Business Program, a joint venture of the Haas School of Business and the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology. This bold program brings together two of Cal’s strongest, most competitive undergraduate fields. It will keep Berkeley at the forefront of innovation, cultivating the next generation of life science leaders and entrepreneurs to bring new treatments to patients in need.

**Laurene “Laurie” Wu McClain ’64, J.D. ’82** (Attorney) — With fewer than 7,000 geriatricians in the United States, and an obvious need for more doctors as America’s senior population increases, I decided to address this deficiency. After my parents died, I sold the family home in San Francisco and used the proceeds to fund two programs. UCSF launched a compulsory one-week program in geriatrics for all second-year medical students, and Berkeley’s School of Public Health provides financial aid to students focusing on the aging population. I am thrilled to see these beneficial results.
Laura B. Perloff (Pilates Instructor) — In 1974, Gregg (her husband) joined SUPERB Productions and started his career as a concert producer. We have spent countless hours in the Greek Theatre at UC Berkeley, enjoying all genres of music, including contemporary, classical, country, and jazz. Built in 1903, it is a gorgeous and unique concert venue. We give to ensure its next 115 years.

Catherine “Cathy” L. Unger ’69, C.Sing. ’70 — One of the university's greatest challenges is increasing support and recognition from the California State Legislature and the executive branch. Although we have gotten better at communicating, I think we should continue to improve this area. Although the state needs to focus on all three branches of higher education, the university has a unique role to play — an area where I have experience and would like to focus some attention.

Weijie Yun M.S. ’89, Ph.D. ’92 (Founder and Managing Partner, Tyche Partners) — As the most prestigious public university in the world, Berkeley has transformed the lives of many young people over its 150-year history. I was fortunate to have Professor Paul Gray as my research advisor, who taught me how to think creatively and critically. He also set a great example of having high integrity and standards in whatever you decide to pursue. He made a huge impact on my life both professionally and personally.
1. As part of UC Berkeley’s Golden Bear Orientation in August, thousands of new Cal students gathered at California Memorial Stadium to form a giant “150” in celebration of the campus’s sesquicentennial. Go Bears!

In October, the campus was buzzing as it hosted Reunion and Parents Weekend, an annual opportunity for alumni and parents of current Cal students to connect — or reconnect — with the university. (2–3)

2. Four members of the Whittaker family — West Jr. ’22, Holly ’20, Madelynn ’19, and their father, West ’83 — pose by the Campanile. The family has included at least one Berkeley graduate over the past six generations, dating back to 1878.

3. Meilani T. Melesea ’20 (center), president of the Polynesian Heritage Student Association, enjoys the warm weather with her aunt, Irene Elguira, and her friend Anissa Kent.
4. Berkeley Club of Shanghai President and Ball Chair Wayne Dai ’83, Ph.D. ’88 and Berkeley Club of Taiwan President Steve Ma ’00 catch up at the Berkeley Shanghai Ball 2018: 150 Years of Light.

5. Chuanzhuo (Viola) Zheng LL.M. ’17 and Julian Waghann ’15 emceed the Berkeley Shanghai Ball.

6. Author Margaret Atwood (center) poses for a selfie at a reception for alumni and supporters of the College of Letters & Science’s On the Same Page program, which provided a copy of her book *The Handmaid’s Tale* to each incoming freshman.

7. School of Social Welfare Dean Jeffrey Edleson ’74 (fourth from left) and Professor Andrew Scharlach ’72 (right) share a table with alumna Phyllis Koshland Friedman ’44, M.S.W. ’71 (far left), who hosted the summertime Alumni & Friends Luncheon at her home. Friedman is a supporter of the Andrew E. Scharlach Fellowship in Gerontology, a specialization field for M.S.W. students.
8. Martin Tang, Nadine M. Tang ’75, and Leslie Tang Schilling ’76 joined Chancellor Carol T. Christ to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Tang Center, home to University Health Services. The center, created in 1993, was made possible through the generosity of the Tang Family Foundation. The Cal Alumni Association (CAA) welcomed former members of its board of directors back to campus for a reunion reception in September. (9–11)

9. Amanda Pouchot ’08, Jason Sherr ’92, and Alan Mendelsohn ’66.


11. Director of Athletics Jim Knowlton and Rosemary Mein ’55, CRED ’56.


14. Dean John Flanagan (far left) and Oriel Nolan-Smith ’14 (far right) pose for a photo at the American Optometric Association’s annual summer meeting with Diane Reich and 2018 Berkeley Optometry Alumnus of the Year Lewis Reich O.D. ’88.

15. Attendees at Cal Performances’ Gala at the Greek included Cal Performances interim executive director S. Shariq Yosufzai, UC president Janet Napolitano, representative of Wells Fargo (Cal Performances’ longstanding season sponsor) Joseph Frank, Chancellor Carol T. Christ, SkyDeck executive director and Cal Performances trustee Caroline Winnett, Cal Performances trustee Leigh Teece, iconic musician Wynton Marsalis, and Ernest Brown.

16. Mike Halloran M.E. ’62 and his sister-in-law, Robin Halloran, relax with Oski at the University Club, atop Memorial Stadium, at a June Dean’s Society event organized by the College of Engineering.

The annual Wheeler Society Luncheon offers members the opportunity to connect with old friends and new, mingle with campus leaders, and hear from an esteemed faculty member. More than 250 members attended this year’s event, which took place in July. (17–18)

17. Tyler Jeffreys (left) with Chancellor Carol T. Christ and Barry Horowitz ’63.

18. Robert Wong B.Arch. ’68 with guest speaker Amy Herr, associate professor of bioengineering; UC Berkeley Foundation trustee Sheryl Wong ’67 C.Mult. ’68; and graduate student Elisabet Rosas.
Researching matters of global and personal concern

By Harriet Steele ’19

Thousands of Berkeley undergraduates across every major are engaged in the research enterprise. The Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships is just one unit that assists these transformative experiences by providing financial and intellectual support that empowers students to deeply pursue their passions. Harriet Steele ’19, a history major, shares her research experience.
Last summer, one month shy of my 21st birthday, I embarked on a trip to the National Archives in Washington, D.C., the New York Public Library, and the American Jewish Historical Society in Manhattan. I had received a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) to conduct full-time research for my senior thesis. As I worked in reading rooms — surrounded by crowded bookshelves, fellow researchers, and magnificent cities — I felt in awe. Archival research, which often involves examining handwritten materials and scanned papers displayed on microfilm reels, was immersive and utterly fascinating.

My research began as a study of the relationship between the U.S. Senate’s debates regarding ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and contemporaneous discourse surrounding domestic civil rights reform, with a focus on 1949—55. I arrived at my subject serendipitously, when I came across a passage about a 1951 U.N. petition from the communist-leaning Civil Rights Congress that charged the United States with perpetrating genocide against African Americans, from legal slavery to Jim Crow. My curiosity did not wane, and I continued to read relevant monographs to hone my research question and prepare my SURF application. Before I ventured east, I had only reviewed academic publications and the limited primary sources that have been digitized. Thus, the research trip opened my eyes to the richness contained in the archives’ voluminous collections.

As I pored over memoranda, correspondences, publications, and other documents, I discovered all sorts of new information that helped me develop a rudimentary understanding of the rift between some prominent supporters of the Genocide Convention and civil and human rights activists.

One evening, after completing a day’s research at the library, I strolled to the U.N. headquarters. Non-Violence, a sculpture of a knotted gun that points upwards, and the U.N. members’ flags, fluttering in the breeze coming off of the East River, seemed to evoke the hopes of activists who strived for international cooperation in the wake of World War II’s mass atrocities. I sometimes ponder a term I learned in German 2, Vergangenheitsbewältigung, which means coming to terms with the past. As a Jewish person related to victims and survivors of the Holocaust, I feel a personal connection to this aspect of my research. My background and my intellectual journey have showed me the importance of Vergangenheitsbewältigung — of confronting history’s shameful chapters and rectifying their consequences.

The capstone of my summer, presenting at a SURF conference, was a phenomenal experience. I enjoyed sharing my findings and learning about my peers’ research endeavors. At Berkeley, I have found a community of faculty, graduate student instructors, mentors, and staff who support undergraduate research. I hope that funding for these opportunities can grow, so that all students, regardless of their socioeconomic status, can enjoy their intellectual and personal rewards.