



Theodore (Ted) Kruttschnitt '64 and wife Alexia (center) celebrate student recipients of the Kruttschnitt Aspire Scholarship Program (KASP) award, named in recognition of Ted's legacy commitment, at an annual reception. Expanding to 35 scholars in the 2018–19 academic year, the KASP cohort receives guidance and resources in addition to funds.

# CAA Giving Notes

Philanthropy Newsletter



*"Giving small amounts consistently is important."*

## Celebrating 100 Years of Cal

**Golden Bears forever,** Bob and Sheryl Wong are celebrating a combined 100 years at Cal—first as students, then as volunteers, philanthropists, and now as Builders of Berkeley.

Sheryl '67, C. Mult. '68, whose parents also attended Berkeley, loved Cal the minute she stepped on campus. She believes navigating Cal is as much a learning experience as the academic side. "So much of the experience of college is being there, making friends, meeting people you would never have met, experiencing the diversity—the whole gamut of college life. I would hate to see colleges become only online," says Sheryl. "At Cal we were taught how to think, how to problem solve." "If you can get through the program at Cal, you can get through anything," adds Bob '68.

"We are visible and volunteer to give an example to other Asians and encourage them to be philanthropic," says Bob. "It is important to be visible," agrees Sheryl, but she also thinks there are more Asians engaged in philanthropy at Berkeley now. "We are Californians, part of the US," she notes. "We've benefited from what we got out of Berkeley, so we should stand up and be counted. Otherwise, we would prefer to not be so visible."

They see cost as one of the great challenges for students, a circumstance they help ease with The Robert and Sheryl Wong Achievement Award Scholarship. Sheryl believes students face "more of a struggle on a daily basis." More students depend on the UC Berkeley Food Pantry. Housing adds more pressure. "Cal tries to guarantee housing for all freshmen," she says. "But after that it is very tough. Students live further away because of housing costs. They need 24/7 library hours because commuting takes so much time."

Bob and Sheryl are enthusiastic supporters of the Center for Connected Learning at Moffitt Library, which provides a 24/7 collaborative projects workspace for students. The project

is gaining major support in part from Bob and Sheryl's ambassadorship and leadership as well as their vision to support the project early on. "This resource is badly needed by students and a big win for Cal," says University Librarian and Chief Digital Scholarship Officer Jeffrey MacKie-Mason. "Sheryl and Bob are passionate about public higher education. They have been involved for decades, as volunteers and financially. They are wonderful people, magnificent in leading by example with their time, money, and passion."

In honor of Bob and Sheryl's 50th reunions, they made pledges to five campus units, including the Cal Alumni Association, Moffitt Library, the Goldman School of Public Policy, the International House, and the College of Environmental Design. Their generous commitment also earned them a place on the Builders of Berkeley monument, which honors the vision, leadership, and commitment of the university's leading benefactors since its founding in 1868.

"We made a conscious decision to be Builders of Berkeley," Bob says. "We've given to Cal for as long as we've been involved. It's grown each year, but has also been constant. Giving small amounts consistently is important."

Sheryl is a trustee of the University of California Berkeley Foundation and a former president of the Library Advisory Board. Bob supports diverse organizations, including Cal Advocacy, Friends of Athletics, Class Campaigns Volunteers, the Gift Planning Stewardship Program, and the International House. He is a member of the Chinese Chapter Board of Directors and the Daily Cal Alumni chapter.

Bob and Sheryl exemplify what it means to passionately pursue and achieve philanthropic goals in support of Cal. Their giving is matched with their time and talents. Congratulations to Bob and Sheryl on their Cal reunions and becoming Builders of Berkeley.

# The CAA FUND

## Creating Your Lasting Connection to Cal

The CAA Fund provides unrestricted funding across the Cal Alumni Association, ensuring our ability to provide indispensable programs, services, and opportunities for lifelong learning for alumni everywhere. As a self-funded 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, our work is made possible thanks to thousands of dedicated donors like you who give to our alumni association each year. Gifts of all sizes make a difference and guarantee that CAA is able to realize our mission to connect alumni to each other and to UC Berkeley for life.

**We invite you to create your lasting connection to Cal by making a gift to The CAA Fund today. Make your gift: [alumni.berkeley.edu/fund](http://alumni.berkeley.edu/fund) or 510.900.8206.**

## Your Generosity in Action

More than 100,000 dues-paying CAA members

Nearly 2,000 donors to The CAA Fund in 2017

90+ Alumni Chapters around the world and online

90,000 CALIFORNIA magazine subscribers

10,000 Lair of the Golden Bear campers each year

28,000+ alumni and friends engaged in advocating for Cal at local, state, and national levels



## Letter from the Executive Director

"It is a disturbing fact to me," joked President John F. Kennedy in his 1962 Charter Day speech, "that the New Frontier owes as much to Berkeley, as it does to Harvard University."

**Happy Birthday, Golden Bears!** 2018 is an exciting year, marking the 150th anniversary of the founding of Berkeley—the shining star of public education.

How will we celebrate at the Cal Alumni Association (CAA)? By doing what we do best: keeping you connected to fellow alumni, students, and the university. We'll stay engaged through events like our famous tailgates and hoops parties. We'll shine a light on the most important topics of the day through CALIFORNIA Live! and continue to highlight the best of Berkeley in CALIFORNIA magazine. We'll offer fantastic networking opportunities through The Berkeley Network and exciting travel and lifetime learning with Cal Discoveries Travel.

From its first graduating class of a mere 12 students—including "a future governor of California, a congressman, a judge, and a state assemblyman, a clergyman, a lawyer, and a doctor," according to Kennedy—Cal "has recognized that the purpose of education is not merely to advance the economic self-interest of its graduates."

No group represents this sentiment better than CAA members, hundreds of whom support our volunteer and advocacy programs that provide important opportunities to be a part of the Cal community and give back to this extraordinary university. Whether working to ensure thousands of deserving students receive scholarships, connecting with lawmakers to advocate for Berkeley, or writing a check to support vital programs and services, you make a difference. **You envision the future, and the future is golden.**

I agree with President Kennedy. We are in pursuit of more than economic success. We are about building community, ensuring each new generation has an opportunity to thrive, and keeping the light shining. We continue to carry the torch and pass it on to the next wave of graduates, now numbering in the thousands, who will, like you, most assuredly change the world.

So, let's celebrate! Find out more about how you can join the party. Check out our website at [alumni.berkeley.edu](http://alumni.berkeley.edu).

*Clothilde Hewlett*  
Clothilde Hewlett '76, J.D. '79  
Executive Director

Spring 2018



## The Value of My Public Education

**Betty Yee '79 made her first political act at age 13:** a plea before city officials not to close the local school. The move would force her to bus to school, away from her responsibilities to her family business. Her act “was about giving a voice to people who didn’t speak English,” Betty says. “That’s what politics is. We make sure all voices are heard.” Now running for her second term as California State Controller, she continues her quest for equality and access for all Californians.

Although she grew up in a diverse San Francisco neighborhood, Betty says Cal opened her eyes to a bigger world. “I learned how to live life,” she recalls. “Meeting people from all over the world and having so many perspectives in one place was exciting. My life role is to see how to preserve this treasure.” Betty is one of six children, but her sister and several of her siblings are also Cal graduates and served as her role models. “Cal was the best decision I ever made,” she says. “My siblings would say the same.”

Betty’s commitment to Cal led her to serve on the CAA Board of Directors, which was an opportunity she calls a thrill of a lifetime. “When you are passionate about something, you make it happen. I am passionate about public education.” During her tenure, she worked with fellow directors and CAA staff to establish The Equity Scholarship, which provided an incentive for high-caliber African-American, Chicano/Latino, and Native

American students to choose UC Berkeley as their undergraduate institution. The scholarship has since been renamed The Kruttschnitt Aspire Scholarship Program (KASP) and supports low-income, underrepresented ethnic minority students who have been admitted to Cal as incoming freshmen or junior college transfers.

Calling public education “a great equalizer,” Betty encourages aspiring Cal students to “follow your dream, regardless of status or background.” She urges students to learn entrepreneurship. “Think about what the resources are that need to be pulled together to serve your needs, and what of these can be turned into an entrepreneurial opportunity. Your challenges and personal experiences are the most important informant to overcoming those challenges.”

Not one to distinguish between ‘Dreamers’ and other immigrants, Betty concedes, “I am very proud of higher education for standing with Dreamers. Cal is doing this very well. My hat is off to Dreamers. They are the next generation of innovators, scientists, finders of solutions to diseases, and will do it smartly and differently.”

Betty believes success requires a feeling of belonging, a strong sense of community. “There is no replacement for the human connection,” she says. “That’s what CAA is for me. The Cal connection. It’s always about the connection.”

*“There is no replacement for the human connection. That’s what CAA is for me.”*



Dejean Thomas '19 (far left) met his circle of supporters (from left) Nodelyn '83 and Doug '82 Smith; Cloey '76, J.D. '79 and Everett Hewlett; Keith '64, '66 and Holly Axtel; and Kimberly and Daniel '70 Johnson, at a Kruttschnitt Aspire Scholarship Program reception.



Gary S. May M.S. '88, Ph.D. '91 (center), chancellor of UC Davis, met with Cal engineering students at a Diversity in Engineering event to encourage and support a focus on engineering as a profession and celebrate the contributions of minorities to the field.



CAA collaborated with the Cal Googlers to host informational interviews between alumni scholars in STEM majors and Cal alumni, as well as a professional development workshop facilitated by Google’s Cal recruiter, at the Googleplex in Palo Alto.

## Your Dedication Is Appreciated—Thank You!



CAA and the Goldman School of Public Policy invited (from left) Robert Birgeneau, Chancellor Emeritus, UC Berkeley; Carol Liu '63, C.EAS '82, former California state senator; Kim Baldonado '87, news reporter; and Steven Raphael Ph.D. '96 (far right), professor of public policy, UC Berkeley, to CALIFORNIA Live! A Matter of Degree: California Spending on Prisons and Higher Education at the Los Angeles Music Center.



(from left) Tilly Chang '92, Executive Director, San Francisco County Transportation Authority; Betty Yee '79, Controller, State of California; Erin Gore, Executive Vice President, Wells Fargo; Hewlett; and Sandra Bass M.A. '91, Ph.D. '98 Director, UC Berkeley Public Service Center spoke at an Alumnae Career Advancement event on government and public service.



Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin '07 (center), a former Leadership Award recipient, joins Alumni Scholars and CAA staff at the 33rd Leadership Award Recognition Luncheon.

Photography: Kelley L Cox, Vanessa Diaz, Paul Española, Katherine Fiordalis, and Peg Skorpinski

## The Thrill and Awe of UC Berkeley

**Independent and driven,** Linnea Norton '19 displayed leadership talent as a toddler with her earliest phrase to her mother: “Nea do it!” she protested. Now a recipient of CAA’s Leadership Award, Linnea continues to drive her own success. Prior to entering Cal as a transfer student and molecular environmental biology major, she studied veterinary science at Pierce College and served as an officer of the Pierce College Pre-Veterinary Club.

Linnea acknowledges Cal has had its challenges. “The time before my first midterms was hard,” she says. “But transfer students are smart. We’ve received plenty of attention from our previous professors and counselors and have learned study techniques.” Today she has more confidence in her abilities. “I can do this,” she says. “That’s easy to say now, but before it was ‘Oh, my God, what have I done? I miss my mom and my dog.’ My parents visited a lot in my first semester and helped me get through it.”

“Getting through it” has meant developing ways to decompress from academic rigors. Linnea’s friends lift each other up and provide support, especially her roommate. “I got very lucky with my roommate.” Hiking the Clark Kerr trail, practicing meditation, and attending yoga and kickboxing

classes at Cal Rec Sports also help her relax, as do the classical music jam sessions she enjoys with friends. “Little moments of community, connectedness, and friendship are important.”

Linnea now serves as a campus campaign coordinator for the California Public Interest Research Group and addresses hunger and homelessness among Cal students, work inspired by her food justice service projects at her church. “Food insecurity is a huge problem for Cal students due to high rent and tuition,” she notes. She helps the UC Berkeley Food Pantry with financing and visibility and has produced a resource file for students.

When asked about her best Cal experience, Linnea calls herself “a very sentimental person.” “My first class in the Valley Life Sciences Building, I walked up the stairs of this gorgeous and intimidating building, passing a big glass case filled with old microscopes. It was crazy being reminded of the great scientific achievements at Berkeley! I felt like an excited little kid. Now I’m doing research, with my own desk in this incredible building where I first felt the thrill and awe at the privilege of being here, studying the things I love with all of these smart, world-changing people.”



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Since 1934, *The Leadership Award* has recognized and supported Cal student leaders with merit-based scholarships. Leadership Award scholars are acknowledged for their outstanding, innovative, and motivational leadership in their academic, work, and community environments. For more information, visit [alumni.berkeley.edu/leadership](http://alumni.berkeley.edu/leadership).