Dear Cal alumni and friends,

The support provided to the Cal Alumni Association (CAA) by alumni is transformative. Thanks to generous alumni support, CAA builds energized communities, offers enriching events and programs, and changes student lives with scholarships. CAA’s programs and services are designed to inform, engage, and inspire our alumni community, and to support UC Berkeley. Thanks to you, CAA’s impact is greater than ever:

• Hosted, in partnership with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, 28 New Student Receptions for 1,184 admitted students who wanted to learn more about attending UC Berkeley.
• Distributed our award-winning California magazine quarterly to more than 95,000 members.
• Supported more than 80 Alumni Chapters and online alumni communities to keep you connected with campus and fellow alumni.
• Launched The Berkeley Network, a new program that provides professional and social networking opportunities among Cal alumni.
• Awarded CAA Alumni Scholarships to 765 undergraduate Cal students.
• Launched the Cal Alumni Stretch Your Dollars campaign.berkeley.edu.

Barbara Van Houten, Peter’s wife, said, “Peter was the one who was always getting things started. You’d call him and say ‘Peter, I need to help with something’ and he’d be off—always willing to go that extra mile.” Today, Van Houten still volunteers for YES Berkeley! Student Recruitment program, participating in New Student Receptions and college fairs. He believes his work is especially important in remote high schools, “Rural schools may not have an understanding of what Berkeley is all about. I love talking with students and encouraging them to attend Cal.”

Peter acknowledges many of the students who are accepted to Cal have opportunities to attend other prestigious universities. “Private schools can provide 100% financing for these students. It is important [for Berkeley] to be in there competing for them. I want to get the best students to attend Cal.” YES Berkeley! Student Recruitment coordinated 28 alumni-hosted New Student Receptions this past spring and provided admitted students a chance to personally hear from alumni. "There is a big need for alumni to be active and show the [Cal] flag," adds Van Houten. "This is an opportunity to address students’ concerns and ask ‘What is important to you?’ Alumni provide solid advice and favorable impressions of Berkeley." Peter has participated in yield events since the 1980s and has helped encourage hundreds of students, many of whom became his personal friends, to attend Cal.

Peter’s devotion to bringing the best students to campus is eclipsed only by his passion to carry the flag for UC Berkeley. "Working with students, particularly first-generation college-bound students, and pushing them over the top is a labor of love. From where I stand, the sun rises and sets in Berkeley."

Thanks to you and 281,854 alumni, Cal parents, and friends, The Campaign for Berkeley raised $3.13 billion to benefit our brilliant students and faculty and world-class research. You may not have known it, but you were part of this. If you gave to Berkeley—at whatever level—during the last eight years, you contributed to this historic success. Learn more about how you pulled us through in record numbers and unexpected ways at campaign.berkeley.edu.

Peter Van Houten received CAA’s Excellence in Service Award at Charter Gala 2014 in addition to his volunteer work with YES Berkeley! Student Recruitment. He participates with Cal Advocacy and is an active member of the Tuscaloosa County Cal Alumni Club.

“From the moment he stepped onto campus in 1952, Peter Van Houten ’56 embraced every opportunity at UC Berkeley. He played baseball and volleyball, and participated in ROTC, student government, and the Order of the Golden Bear—all while earning grades that resulted in being awarded the Departmental Citation in his major. “I was very active and enjoyed it greatly,” Van Houten recalls, “I love the place [UC Berkeley] with all my heart.” Peter’s passion flourished and his commitment grew deeper after completing his B.A. in Physical Education. He served as an Associate Dean of Students and became the first Dean of Orientations. Later, he earned his M.A. and Ed.D. in Education at UC Berkeley. His 40-year career on campus included serving as the Chancellor’s Representative to the ASUC Senate and as director of the Graduate School Services. Peter’s dedication to campus was uninterrupted. He was awarded the Berkeley Citation when he retired in 2000 and became a tireless CAA volunteer.

Today, Peter volunteers for CAA’s YES Berkeley! Student Recruitment program, participating in New Student Receptions and college fairs. He believes his work is especially important in remote high schools, "Rural schools may not have an understanding of what Berkeley is all about. I love talking with students and encouraging them to attend Cal.”

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Creating Opportunities

Chevron Corporation was once again the premier sponsor for Charter Gala 2014, CAA’s signature event held this past March. Over the years, Chevron has expanded its partnership with CAA by providing funds for scholarship programs, including the Equity Scholarship and The Achievement Award Program (TAAP). “Both programs are excellent examples where together we can make a difference in the lives of students pursuing higher education, particularly underrepresented minorities, first-generation college students, and low-income students,” stated Cynthia Murphy, Chevron University Affairs Manager. “It is through our involvement with CAA that a wonderful intersection occurred via Charter Gala and TAAP.”

A few years ago, Chevron had the opportunity to meet Christopher Aregeka, a former TAAP Scholar and Mechanical Engineering graduate of Cal working on his M.D. in Engineering. Christopher is the founder of CA Bikes, which manufactures bicycle and motorcycle ambulances and distributes them to local hospitals, non-government organizations, and government clinics in Uganda to provide people with faster access to health care. Christopher was recently named one of Forbes magazine’s “30 under 30 for Social Entrepreneurs.” He credits his TAAP scholarship with helping him to attend UC Berkeley and Chevron for providing funds for CA Bikes. Chevron’s spontaneous contribution to CA Bikes is another example of how the many accomplished graduates of Berkeley can benefit from the support of alumni, CAA and its partners.

Chevron is committed to improving access to quality education, a critical element in the development of communities—in particular in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math. “At Chevron, we believe the most important energy is human energy. The ability to innovate, to solve problems, and to turn visions into reality is at the very heart of the California character—and at the heart of Chevron,” adds Murphy. Through its University Partnership Program (UPP), Chevron works with college and university partners around the world to attract, develop and retain the talented students and educators necessary to ensure a technically proficient global workforce—and to ultimately deliver tomorrow’s energy.

The Cal Alumni Association is grateful for its partnership with Chevron Corporation.

Nominations for 2015 Alumni Awards

The vision, groundbreaking research, imaginative thinking, talents and service of our UC Berkeley alumni have changed the world and our University. They are inspiring leaders who contribute to the vitality of our communities, businesses and culture. They are leading volunteers and supporters of the University, making a difference in every corner of our campus. Please share the accomplishments of our incredible alumni with us by submitting a nomination for one of our 2015 Alumni Achievement or Alumni Service Awards. For more information, please visit alumni.berkeley.edu/awards.

Thank you for supporting your alumni association!

Our annual fund allows us to provide programs and services that benefit alumni, students, and UC Berkeley. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and self-funded organization, CAA relies on private philanthropy to invite you to join alumni and friends by making a gift to CAA today. Our success depends on the commitment and generosity of those who proudly carry the banner for UC Berkeley.

The Berkeley Network

The Berkeley Network provides professional and social networking opportunities among Cal alumni. The Berkeley Network offers corporate programming, online learning and lifestyle and networking activities that will enrich the personal and professional lives of our alumni community. Please read more about the program at alumni.berkeley.edu/berkeleynetwork.