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Former Leadership Award Scholar Gives Back

Steve Sulack '03, M.S. '05 isn't new to leadership.

As an undergraduate, he was an outstanding Leadership Award scholar and treasurer of the Pi Tau Sigma Mechanical Engineering Honors Society. Now, he gives back to the community that supported him as a young student through the Sulack Family Leadership Scholarship he established with CAA. “I remember my connection to Cal through CAA. As a scholar, I appreciated that it was alumni giving back to Cal students and hoped that someday I could do the same.”

During graduate school, Steve was one of three students working with Dr. David Austland for the Lawrence Berkeley Lab doing satellite simulations of spacecraft for the SNAP program to stare into deep space looking for supernovae. After earning a masters in mechanical engineering, Steve worked as a spacecraft controls engineer at Lockheed Martin.

As an undergraduate, he worked at the Space Sciences Lab at Berkeley on another satellite project, CHIPS, which observed local interstellar plasma. A former engineering colleague from the lab eventually recruited him to Google, where he now works at X (the Alphabet research and development facility formerly known as Google X) for projects like self-driving cars and robotics.

“Google has a culture that really supports and encourages its employees to give back to the community,” says Steve. “I appreciate that CAA helps students directly and that they cast a wide net to students of diverse backgrounds. This made the scholarship a good fit for my family. I'm grateful I could do this in my 30s so I can continue to be involved and do more over time.”

Steve also helps build the relationship between CAA and Google through the Google Cal Corporate Alumni Committee. The Cal-Googlers, now numbering more than 1,200, have come together to build a community, volunteer, and provide

resources for the University. They collaborate on projects including scholarship application readings at the Googleplex, bringing students to Google for tours, and events that celebrate the Cal contribution to Google. Steve smiles, “It's fun to be part of a Cal cluster within a Stanford-founded company.”

Raised in Southern California, Steve lives with his wife and daughter in the South Bay and likes having proximity to Berkeley. “Cal is unique for having so many top-rated departments,” he says. “It's a great place to explore any interest.” He would encourage any student interested in attending Berkeley to visit their top colleges. “When I visited the Berkeley campus, I knew it was the place for me—it felt like I belonged. Put yourself in the environment, talk to students, see what life is like, and see how you feel about it. Gather the most data that you can to make an informed decision, and then make the best of it,” explains Steve.

Currently, Steve enjoys spending much of his time parenting. His wife is also a Cal alumna and, according to Steve, the best thing that happened to him at Cal. The first Golden Bears in their families,

they are gradually introducing their daughter to the Cal culture. Along with Cal football, he continues to support The Leadership Award and participate in Cal-Googler events. “Cal was a big part of my life. I like to have these continuing ties. I feel very connected to Cal and look forward to the future.”

Learn more about CAA's Cal Corporate Alumni Committees at alumni.berkeley.edu/corporate-programming.



Steve Sulack keeps Cal golden with his wife Aja '03 and daughter Eleni.

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Alumni and Friends,
The Cal Alumni Association (CAA) has a lot to celebrate this year—not least is our 145th birthday! With each year, we rededicate ourselves to our mission to connect Cal alumni with one another and with our beloved university. CAA is about being a part of a great and enduring community, ensuring the future while honoring the past and engaging the present.

This year, we are increasing our investment in growing our membership. Our goal is to expand the community of alumni who come together to forge new friendships with fellow Bears and deepen the lifelong relationships formed during the journey through Cal.

CAA members enjoy a rich assortment of programs and services that make membership a valuable and rewarding experience. We're about adventure and lifelong learning through travel with Cal Discoveries, building memories with family time spent camping at the Lair of the Golden Bear, and growing your career through professional-development webinars and networking opportunities with The Berkeley Network. Ongoing events like CALIFORNIA Live! bring together experts and alumni who take on important current events, and our award-winning *California* magazine reports on the latest in research, culture, and innovation.

And it's about ensuring we continue to produce the world's great scholars. Students who demonstrate brilliance are supported by the more than 750 scholarships CAA awards each year.

Yes, we're getting older. But we're getting so much better. We serve nearly half a million Cal graduates, and we are growing. I'm excited! There's no better time to be part of this wonderful community of fellow Bears. It's about fun, it's about learning and growth, and it's about ensuring Cal's future as the No. 1 public university in the world. Visit us online to find even more reasons to be a part of CAA—and bring a friend.

Fiat Lux and Go Bears!
Clothilde V Hewlett
Clothilde Hewlett '76, J.D. '79
Executive Director



(above) Black Alumni Club Past President Princess Allen '06, UC President Janet Hewlett '76, J.D. '79 celebrate alumni at the Black Alumni Club reception during Black2Cal week. (reverse) Class of 2017 TAAP and KASP Scholars gathered at Alumni House for the annual Senior Brunch to celebrate graduation from UC Berkeley. CAA awards more than 700 scholarships each year to undergraduate scholars.

Spring 2017



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2017 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Paul Jacobs '84, M.S. '86, Ph.D. '89

Berkeley Founders Award

Ira Hirschfeld

Fiat Lux Faculty Award

Edward E. Penhoet

Campanile Excellence in Achievement Award

Vanessa Morrison '90
Margaret Murnane Ph.D. '89
James Schamus '82, M.A. '87, Ph.D. '03

Mark Bingham Award for Excellence in Achievement by Young Alumni

Michael Gilroy '09
Jonathan Stein M.P.P./J.D. '13

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KASP Scholar Ups Her Cal Game

Accepted to all twelve colleges where she applied, including UC San Diego and Loyola Marymount, Frida Hernandez always had Cal in her sights. “I was used to being first in my class,” she says. “At Cal, everyone is, and some of my lectures are bigger than my entire graduating class. It means I’ve had to up my game. I loved school, and I wanted the challenge of Cal. I love that it is the number one public university in the world.”

Raised in San Diego, she is the first in her family to attend college. “From the beginning, they were talking about college,” she says of her experience at High Tech High. As a straight-A student, her counselors urged her to consider other options, but for Frida, it was always Cal.

“Acceptance to Cal was bittersweet,” she says. “It was great to be accepted, but I thought, ‘How are we going to afford this?’” Her parents have always been enthusiastic about college for their children, and her mother insisted there would be a way. The Kruttschnitt Aspire Scholarship Program (KASP) and other financial aid currently cover the cost of her tuition, housing, and books.

A mass communications major, Frida got her

start in marketing by helping her parents promote and build their business by managing photo shoots, document design, and rebranding. She likes the idea of being an entrepreneur and wants to own her own marketing firm after graduation.

In addition to her professional goals, Frida has a deep commitment to community service. She tutors students in reading and math at The Pro Kids Golf Academy and teaches Spanish at the elementary and middle school levels. She has a vision of using her marketing expertise to empower younger students by teaching them to use media to tell their stories.

Being away from her parents and siblings is hard. “Being more independent, managing my own time, being organized and a self-starter is an affirming experience. Being a grown-up is good,” says Frida. They text daily and stay in touch with video chats and Google Hangouts.

Frida believes that not all students who dream of college get the encouragement she received. “Lots of kids don’t get the help they need. Often, counselors don’t support them and suggest they lower their expectations. Opportunities aren’t



“Find your own path. Don’t just accept what others set out for you.”

always presented. My high school taught me to look for my own resources,” she explains. “Reach out. Find your own path. Don’t just accept what others set out for you. If it isn’t what you want, it isn’t good for you.”

Sometimes uncertain about where life after Berkeley will take her, Frida is ever the optimist. “The possibilities are endless. No matter what happens, Cal provides a great future.”

Learn more about the Kruttschnitt Aspire Scholarship Program at alumni.berkeley.edu/kasp.

Cal Alumni of Los Angeles Are on the Move

Cal and Stanford—besties? Yes, according to CAA’s Los Angeles chapter president Gerald Nicdao ’08. “We reached out to Stanford alumni with an invitation to join our Big Game viewing party, and a couple hundred Golden Bears and Cardinal fans got together for the Big Game. We want to broaden and deepen our connection to a traditional rival.”

In addition to other social events with young alumni and viewing parties throughout football season, the rival alumni have formed a partnership for community service. “We’re planning more community service events in partnership with Stanford this coming year,” says Gerald, “including volunteering with the local food bank and participation in our partnerships with non-profit organizations, where we help students in areas like South Central, East LA, and Watts succeed academically.” The Cal–Stanford partnership helps make admission to top universities possible for students from these low-income, underserved communities, many of whom will be the first in their families to attend college. Alumni tutor students and serve as mentors and motivators.

The Cal Alumni of Los Angeles chapter actively engages in community outreach to increase its membership, growing its numbers by an impressive 200-plus alumni between October 2016 and January 2017. “We’re trying to build

an extension of the Cal family. The Los Angeles chapter is the second largest of Cal’s alumni chapters and is a robust network,” Gerald believes. “We represent all major industries in Los Angeles, including entertainment, government, law, and non-profit organizations. We’re not just about social events, we’re also about Berkeley alumni caring about the community.”

In 2016, the Los Angeles chapter received the Loyal Company Outstanding Volunteer Group Award, which recognizes a chapter committed to Berkeley and to community service. Members represent all age groups, from 21 to beyond 70. They dedicate their time to organizations such as Reading to Kids, increasing literacy skills at the elementary school level; a partnership with College Summit, a national group focused on helping underserved students get into and succeed in college; and Most-e, where they mentor underserved girls and provide academic support.

“We also support students through fundraising for the Kruttschnitt Aspire Scholarship Program (KASP) at our annual Spring Benefit,” says Gerald. “This will be our fourth year that we have supported KASP. So many low-income and underrepresented students can’t access a university like Cal. We support KASP because it is targeted at an underserved community.”

Cal Alumni of Los Angeles is about keeping

in touch. “Cutting through the noise is a challenge. We have lots of social media presence and use email to let people know about our frequent events and opportunities to engage.” Clearly, with hundreds of new members, the Los Angeles chapter is on the move.

Learn more about the Cal Alumni of Los Angeles chapter at calalumlosangeles.org.



Cal Alumni of Los Angeles chapter members Sherman Chin ’95, Gerald Nicdao ’08, Danielle Silveira ’11, Anne Kim ’09, Surag Betageri ’11, Stephanie Ramos ’15, Jonathan Kim ’07, and Reuben Duarte ’08.

59 KRUTTSCHNITT ASPIRE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
FOUNDED IN 2014 \$173,000 endowment,
5 named endowments

Your Dedication Is Appreciated—Thank You!



Cal alumnus Art Wong ’63 (above, second from right) joined KASP scholars at the Kruttschnitt Aspire Scholarship Program reception held at Alumni House.



The Berkeley Network launched the Alumnae Career Advancement series with a panel titled Overcoming Obstacles, Empowering Each Other, and Balancing the Rest. Panelists were (above, l-r) Pac-12 Networks reporter Kate Scott ’05; Bank of the West Senior Vice President Jenny C. Flores ’00; Pandora Media, Inc. Lead Employment Counsel Adelmise Rosemé Warner ’97, J.D.; and Prismwork CEO and founder Lisen Stromberg MBA ’91, with moderator Hewlett (center). More than 120 alumnae attended this first-ever event at Alumni House. A special thank you to our networking reception sponsor, Bank of the West.



Photography: Kelley L. Cox, Katherine Fiordalis, Ronald Davis, and Kenneth Macaraig



In **CALIFORNIA Live! A Dream Denied?** The Immigrant Experience in the Campus Community, Diane Dwyer ’87 (above, far right) moderated a discussion about what UC Berkeley’s students can do to protect themselves and what we as alumni can do to support the most vulnerable members of our community. The panel included (above, l-r) Robert D. Haas ’64, Chairman-Emeritus, Levi Strauss & Co.; Saira Hussain ’09, J.D. ’13, Staff Attorney, Asian Law Caucus; Meng So ’10, M.A., Director, Undocumented Student Program; Valeska Castaneda-Puerto ’16, Program Manager, Student Support, CAA; and Seth Grossman, Chief of Staff to University of California President Janet Napolitano.



The CAA FUND

As CAA celebrates our 145th year serving the Cal community, your generous support allows us to sustain and grow many exciting and innovative programs and services. CAA keeps alumni connected through more than 80 dynamic Alumni Chapters. We advocate for the University through Cal Advocacy, help careers with The Berkeley Network’s professional development programs, shine a light on important current affairs at our CALIFORNIA Live! events, and ensure an ongoing legacy of world-class scholars through the YES Berkeley! Student Recruitment program. We’re here because Golden Bears care.

Help keep Cal golden through your tax-deductible gift to The CAA Fund online at alumni.berkeley.edu/give.