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 Axlund for the Lawrence Berkeley Lab doing satellite simulations of spacecraft for the SNAP project 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. “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-Google 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.”

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“...learn more about CAA’s Cal Corporate Alumni Committees at alumni.berkeley.edu/corporate-programming...”

Former Leadership Award Scholar Gives Back

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Letter from the Executive Director

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2017 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

ALUMNIUS OF THE YEAR
Paul Jacobs ’84, M.S. ’86, Ph.D. ’89

Berkeley Founders Award
Ira Herschfield

Campanile Excellence in Achievement Award
Vanessa Morrison ’90
Margaret Murnane Ph.D. ’99
James Schamus ’92, M.A. ’97, Ph.D. ’03

Fiat Lux Faculty Award
Edward E. Penhoet

Mark Bingham Award for Excellence in Achievement by Young Alumni
Michael Giray ’09
Jonathan Stein M.P.P./J.D. ’13

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 recommit 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 Last of the Golden Bear, and growing your career through professional-development workshops 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!

Cathilde Hewlett ’76, J.D. ’79
Executive Director

CAA Philanthropy Newsletter
Philanthropy Newsletter
Notes
Giving Notes - Philanthropy Newsletter - Spring 2017

Spring 2017
KASP Scholar Ups Her Cal Game

Accepted to all twelve colleges where she applied, including UC San Diego and Loyola Marymount, Frida Hernández always had Cal in her sights. “It 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 had to try a lot harder. I loved what I was doing. I joined Cal’s alumni and networking groups.”

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 parents’ expectations. “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 public university in the world.

“Acceptance to Cal was bittersweet,” she says. “It was great to be accepted, but I thought, ‘How am I going to pay for this?’” Her parents did not support the idea of being an entrepreneur and wanted 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.

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 always presented. My high school taught me to look for my own resources,” she explains. “Research your options. 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.”

Cal Alumni of Los Angeles Are on the Move

The Cal Alumni of Los Angeles chapter member Sherman Chiu ’95, Gerald Nicdao ’08, Danielle Silveira ’11, Anne Kim ’09, Suraj Betageri ’11, Stephanie Ramos ’15, Jonathan Kim ’07, and Ruben Duarte ’05.

In CALIFORNIA Live! A Dream Denied! The immigrant experience in the campus community, Diane Dwyer ’77 (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 ’54, Chairman-Emeritus, Lent Strauss Co.; Saira Hussain ’09, J.D.; Tast Maker, Asian Law Caucus; Meng So ’78, M.A. Director, Undocumented Student Program; Valeska Castroneda Puerto ’16, Program Manager, Student Support; CAA; and Sush Grossman, Chief of Staff to University of California President Janet Napolitano.

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