Dear Alumni and Friends,

It’s been another incredible year at UC Berkeley and the Cal Alumni Association (CAA). I’m extremely proud of the wide range of CAA programs that engage and inspire the Cal alumni community. From the introduction of The Berkeley Network webinar series to the expansion of CAA Alumni Scholarships and our nationwide volunteer program focused on student recruitment and career networking, today’s dynamic CAA programming is successful largely thanks to the investment and support of a growing number of CAA donors like you.

In this issue of Giving Notes, we highlight how alumni and donors make a difference for Cal students, and support of a growing number of CAA donors like you.

As an independent and self-funded 501(c)(3) organization, CAA relies on your philanthropic and membership support to make our programs and new initiatives successful. Thank you for all that you do and all that you are. Together, we are keeping Cal golden.

Happy summer! I hope to meet you at one of our many CAA events and programs in Fall 2015.

Fiat Lux and Go Bears!

Jefferson C.M. Coombs ’89
Executive Director
Some alumni start giving back to Cal from the day they graduate. Others plan their giving. "It's never too late—or too soon—to give back to Cal," says Perkins. "Like many CAA Alumni Scholars, Jibril has overcome his share of adversity. Neither of his parents attended college, although both of his paternal grandparents did. Raised in the "hood of Sacramento, Jibril found an escape in the peaceful garden of his own backyard. Both of these realities shaped his future. Through Cal's academic programs and services that ensure Cal's legacy as the greatest public university in the world. CAA relies on private funding to provide the programs and services that ensure Cal's legacy continues. Please join your fellow alumni and make a gift to CAA today. Thank you for your support—you make our mission possible.

Shaping the Future—A Smart Investment

Did your time at UC Berkeley change your life? Were you gifted with knowledge, intellectual discipline, and a shared community that continue to enrich your life long after graduation? There are so many ways you can give back to Cal. A planned gift to the Cal Alumni Association (CAA) is one way. Your contribution can pay you income for life, save you money on your taxes, or establish a lasting legacy that honors your time at UC Berkeley while ensuring Cal's status as the best public university in the world.

CAA provides a wide range of flexible programs to ensure your planned gift is one of the smartest investments you'll ever make. We give back because we are Golden Bears. For more information, please contact CAA's development department at 510.520.5000 or development@alumni.berkeley.edu.

Support CAA and Create Your Lasting Connection to Cal

Pride. Connection. Keeping Cal Golden. These are all good reasons to give. As alumni, we are the Cal legacy. Through the Cal Alumni Association (CAA) we are part of a great University that shaped our lives and enabled our dreams. A gift in support of The CAA Fund keeps us connected to UC Berkeley, and to each other. Your generous gift honors your success as a graduate of the best public university in the world. CAA relies on private funding to provide the programs and services that ensure Cal's legacy continues. Please join your fellow alumni and make a gift to CAA today. Thank you for your support—you make our mission possible.

To make a gift to CAA, please visit alumni.berkeley.edu/give.

Despite obvious fatigue from the pressure of midterms, Jibril Kyser remains enthusiastic about Cal, and emphatic about the critical role his scholars play. Jibril is a recipient of the Kruttschnitt Aspire Scholarship Program (KASP) and The Leadership Award. "Freedom, that's what it means. KASP freed me. It provides social and academic freedom. It liberates me from a cycle of debt," Jibril says. "And the kindness and generosity of 30 Kruttschnitt and others at CAA is phenomenal. They have changed the course of my college education and allowed me to explore a multitude of options."

Like many CAA Alumni Scholars, Jibril has overcome his share of adversity. Neither of his parents attended college, although both of his paternal grandparents did. Raised in the "hood of Sacramento, Jibril found an escape in the peaceful garden of his own backyard. Both of these realities shaped his future. Though absent through much of Jibril's life, his father provided a male influence in his early years. He taught Jibril chess and gave him books. Jibril grew up knowing the stories of Frederick Douglas, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., Haitian revolutionaries Toussaint L'Ouverture, and Huey P. Newton. Transforming negative circumstances into motivation, Jibril saw a bigger picture for himself. "I always know something greater was in my future."

In high school Jibril qualified for the Program in America and California Explorations (PACE), an intensive four-year English/history honors program. "PACE fed our minds, exposed us to new things. It was a seminal point in time for me. Through PACE Jibril met a fellow student who was reading Plato, Voltaire, and Aristotle. Together they started the General Honors Book Club. Jibril reached out to other students and formed a cohort of scholars who engaged in the independent study of great literary works. He used his chess skills to start the school's first competitive chess club. Jibril's commitment to community service grew through his work with Transforming the Hood for Good, a program in sustainable agriculture that teaches kids about community gardening and provides an alternative to a dangerous life on the streets. "Kids didn't know that you can put a seed in the ground and it will grow food."

At Cal Jibril plays a leadership role in the black community on campus and believes "we must take it a priority to exemplify the ethnic community's value on campus by continuing to achieve the incredible goals we set for ourselves." Jibril not only believes in giving back, he practices it. As Director of Publishing at Nova Mentoring, he mentors his students in creative writing and performance.

A Genetics and Plant Biology major, Jibril sees his future as dedicated to using his science education, and eventually a law degree, to address global issues. This includes one day becoming President of the United States, a lofty goal he states with such calm humility that one can’t help but see it as a possibility for this visionary young scholar.

The CASA Leadership Scholarship program provides $25,000, 67 of whom are eligible for more than $17,000 in matching funds. DACASA Gives to The Leadership Award

(Courtesy of Louisa Dube) - Akin Ona [right], a senior at UC Berkeley created the CASA Leadership Scholarship Fund to support The Leadership Award, a CAA Alumni Scholarships program. To date, 99 undergraduate students have donated $25,000, 62 of whom are eligible for more than $17,000 in matching funds through UC Berkeley’s one-time “Class of 2014” challenge match.