Welcome back to Berkeley
Some people say it’s who you know that matters, others that it’s what you do. What if it is really a combination of both those things?

Jerry Arellano graduated from UC Berkeley in 1996 with a bachelor's in molecular and cell biology. He was a first-generation student from San Francisco. His mother was the first in her family to move to the U.S. from Nicaragua. “She was a single mom living paycheck to paycheck,” he says. “The neighborhoods that we lived in were on the border of poverty.”

“There wasn’t a lot of opportunity if you didn’t create it for yourself,” he adds. Arellano took school seriously and excelled in spite of the challenges his family faced. He worked hard, and a tremendous opportunity arrived for him in the form of a Berkeley scholarship.

In 1949, Wilmer Fong graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in international relations. Now retired, he had a full career as a teacher and YMCA youth program director. In the early 1990s, when Arellano was about to graduate from high school in San Francisco, Fong was already an actively involved alumnus and supporter of the university. He served on a scholarship selection committee for UC Berkeley that awarded Arellano a Berkeley scholarship — the opportunity he had been awaiting. The two connected during Arellano’s Cal days but lost contact after he graduated. Little did they guess that years later life would bring them together again in a critical, personal way.

Arellano went on from Berkeley to medical school, and became a cardiologist at Kaiser Permanente. Fong, a patient at Kaiser Permanente, was in need of a cardiologist. His primary doctor gave him a list of doctors in the cardiology department, and he thought to himself: “This name is familiar. Jerry Arellano! What a small world.”

The two reconnected, developing a new relationship as patient and doctor. Fong describes his deep appreciation for their connection: “I’m sitting here with a very serious illness. I may have saved him (by awarding the scholarship), but he is saving my life.” All these years later, a scholar he supported was able to change Fong’s life. He says he learned to give back from his own father, who was very active in his community, and that he believes firmly in doing whatever he can to contribute to the university.

For Arellano, “It is people like Wilmer Fong who have led me to contribute and donate to scholarships that I believe in.” It is transformational what people can do for each other by supporting a cause they believe in. The story of Fong and Arellano demonstrates that there is power in education, power in bringing people together, and that it is indeed who we know and what we do that make a difference in the world.

https://give.berkeley.edu/scholarships

“...I may have saved him (by awarding the scholarship), but he is saving my life.”

— Wilmer Fong on Jerry Arellano
Despite playing host to 175,000 visitors per year, UC Berkeley has never had a permanent location to welcome guests and prospective students to campus. That changed on Sept. 1 with the opening of the Koret Visitor Center at California Memorial Stadium.

Featuring themed alcoves, interactive video boards, timelines chronicling the illustrious history of the university and an interactive world map that showcases Berkeley’s global impact, the Koret Visitor Center is a place that champions the accomplishments of the university while also welcoming in future generations of Berkeley students and guests.

“It’s a place where guests and visitors from around the world will come to hear the Berkeley story,” says La Dawn Duvall, the campus’s executive director of visitor and parent services.

More than a static meeting place, the Koret Visitor Center is dynamic and experiential. Guests are able to see some of the cutting-edge research being done by Berkeley’s alumni and faculty. Patrons of the center will also be able to select from some of Berkeley’s most distinguished alumni and professors—including Michael Pollan, Randy Schekman, Nancy Scheper-Hughes, and Jennifer Doudna—and hear them talk about their unique experiences at one of the leading universities in the world. An extension of a campuswide renaissance, the center also serves as an anchor of the campus’s push to activate Memorial Stadium as a multi-use space that will serve as an academic hub as well as the home of the Golden Bears on Saturdays in the fall.

While the Visitor Center will certainly be a highlight for admitted and prospective students, the facility also serves current faculty and students, alumni and the general public.

“Berkeley is a public institution,” says Duvall. “It belongs to the state of California and is part of the fabric of our community. We want the public to engage with it.”

“It’s a place where guests and visitors from around the world will come to hear the Berkeley story.”

—La Dawn Duvall, Executive Director, Visitor and Parent Services
FALL SPORTS

Golden Bears climbing the charts

Cal football returns to action in Strawberry Canyon this fall with the Golden Bears hosting an impressive schedule of opponents at Kabam Field at California Memorial Stadium. The six-game slate features Texas, Utah, Oregon, Washington, Stanford and UCLA.

Cal is coming off a 2015 season that saw the Bears finish 8-5 overall with an Armed Forces Bowl victory over Air Force. While quarterback Jared Goff—the No. 1 overall pick in the 2015 NFL draft—is gone, the roster features a number of talented student-athletes who are sure to keep Cal's high-powered offense running smoothly. Among those to watch are running backs Tre Watson and Khalfani Muhammad and quarterback Davis Webb, who have all been chosen preseason honors candidates.

In addition to football, many of Cal's 30 intercollegiate sports will also be in action during the fall. Volleyball season starts in late August with all home matches in Haas Pavilion, and the Bears' men's and women's soccer teams will field strong lineups once again at Edwards Field. In addition, the men's water polo team will be seeking a berth in the NCAA Championship rounds, which will be held at Spieker Aquatics Complex Dec. 2-4. Field hockey, rugby 7s and cross-country round out the programs in season during the fall.

Legends Aquatic Center nears completion

Now, the future of these athletes and Cal Athletics looks even brighter with the arrival of Legends Aquatic Center, scheduled to open in late September. Located on Bancroft Way, next to the Tang Center, it’s designed primarily for the training of Cal's intercollegiate swimmers, divers and water polo players. Legends Aquatic Center is complete with a 52-meter pool, a team room, locker rooms with radiant heat flooring, outdoor videoboards and Berkeley’s first diving tower, which is 10 meters (about three stories) tall with a glass-enclosed stairwell.

The diving tower is especially welcomed since our divers' only access to a tower was available at Stanford. “It’s been hard for recruiting and challenging for the men and women who've had to drive 45 miles to Palo Alto two times a week,” adds McKeever. “And it’s been hard on the program from a competitive standpoint.” Since swimmers and divers are on the same team, the team suffers at meets if there aren’t enough divers to earn points in diving events.

See the complete story at [bit.ly/2dhGrSU](http://bit.ly/2dhGrSU)

Berkeley Rocks the 2016 Summer Olympics

Berkeley athletes won 21 Olympic medals. If Berkeley were a country, it would rank 11th in the world for medals.

Ryan Murphy, a second-year student at Berkeley, shown at the Olympic trials, went on to win three gold medals at the Olympic Games in Rio.

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Exciting updates are underway at Wheeler Hall as it approaches its 100th birthday. Wheeler Hall is closed now through May 2017 for an extensive renewal project that includes new mechanical and electrical systems, telecommunications infrastructure, elevator replacement, roofing and waterproofing systems replacement and accessibility and life safety system improvements.

The hall was built in the center of campus in 1917 and was named for Benjamin Ide Wheeler, university president during Berkeley’s “golden years” from 1899 to 1919. The French Baroque facade includes arched doorways leading into a vaulted auditorium lobby, Ionic columns across the middle floors and a colonnade ornamented with urn-shaped lamps symbolizing, according to designer and first campus architect John Galen Howard, “the light of learning.” Though some minor window updates will be made, the outside of the building is slated to stay the same. The lobby is getting new flooring and better lighting. Wheeler Hall was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

All building projects and major renovations in the University of California system are required to receive a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver certification or higher, and the Wheeler project is expected to rank Silver or better. Highlights of the project’s green initiatives are new energy-efficient light fixtures and more conservative water faucets and other plumbing.

Wheeler is home to the English department, the College Writing Programs, Summer Sessions and various other units and programs. It also holds an auditorium that seats 700. While Wheeler is getting its touchup, classes, offices and computer space have been moved to overflow locations on campus. Construction should be completed by the end of the Spring 2017 semester.

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs retires
After 35 years of service to UC Berkeley, Harry Le Grande will retire from his position as Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs on Dec.r 31. During his time at Berkeley, he created the innovative financial aid program Middle Class Access Plan, celebrated the opening of the new ASUC Student Union, launched the campus’s first-ever office for confidential care advocates to support survivors of gendered violence or harassment, oversaw the largest housing development program the campus ever undertook, created the first university dining service certified organic salad bar, and much more. Throughout his career he has been driven by the mantra that “students are not an interruption to our day; they are the reason we are here.” His leadership and dedication to student life will be missed.

Wheeler Hall gets modernized, green infrastructure
Tens of thousands of people will gather on campus to attend hundreds of events during the spring semester to celebrate Cal Day, a festival for anything and everything Berkeley.

Cal Day was established in 1968 as a one-time open house that proved so popular it eventually evolved into an annual event. During Cal Day 2016, more than 40,000 people attended, and there were more than 400 booths tabled by student groups, campus departments and organizations and university partners.

The event is free and open to the public and is often listed as a must-attend San Francisco Bay Area event. It’s also a favorite of admitted and prospective students and parents. Attractions include faculty talks, campus tours, music and dance performances, and science and art activities for kids. Admission to all of Berkeley’s museums is free, including some facilities that are open to the public only on Cal Day. Public transportation is advised to get to campus, and on-campus transit will be available.

Program Co-directors
David Ortega
Director of parent services & communications
Jason Smith
Director of parent philanthropy & engagement

Cal Parents Board Chairs
Susan and Mike Gillfillan

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SAVE THE DATE
Cal Day — April 22, 2017

Elena Zhukova
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As Cal sustains its excellence, the role of philanthropy grows

As Cal parents, you may receive the occasional mailing or phone call from campus asking you to make a gift to the Cal Parents Fund or other areas of campus in support of your child’s education.

Your family already pays tuition. UC Berkeley is a public university that receives state funding. So why does Berkeley make such requests so often, you may wonder? The answer: Because private gifts are more important than ever to growing and sustaining its world-class excellence.

The numbers tell the story — state support for Berkeley has plummeted in recent years, requiring a new financial model built on a strong partnership between public and private sources of funding. Today, the state of California provides about 13 percent of Berkeley’s annual budget — down from 50 percent just 30 years ago — with the remainder coming from tuition, research funding, philanthropy and other sources.

At the same time, gifts from parents, alumni, corporations and other supporters made up 16 percent of Berkeley’s revenue stream in 2014–15, according to the University of California Office of the President.

And giving to campus is at an all-time high. In 2015–16, Berkeley set new records for both the number of gifts and the amount raised in private support. In all, more than 65,300 donors made nearly 100,000 gifts totaling $479.1 million. (Thanks to all of you who generously contributed to this record-breaking fundraising year.)

So the next time you get a letter or call from campus asking for your support, remember that it’s an opportunity to be part of something bigger: the desire of parents, alumni and others to maintain Cal’s place as the world’s top-ranked public university and to push it forward as we continue to lead the way in higher education. Increasingly, private gifts — at every level — from donors like you make all the difference.

To learn more about what the Cal Parents Fund supports, visit calparents.berkeley.edu.

Nixle emergency messaging keeps campus safe

This spring, the University of California Police Department launched its relationship with Nixle, an emergency messaging system that allows police to send emergency alerts to the Berkeley community.

Nixle enables students, parents, faculty, staff and anyone else to register to receive alerts from UCPD. Registration is automatic for students and allows them to get real-time updates during developing emergencies.

Parents can register for free online at www.nixle.com to ensure that they get the same messages their students receive.

Though the service keeps students and parents informed of crimes and other emergencies happening on or near campus, violent crime rates are going down at Berkeley. The number of violent crimes on campus reported in 2015 was the lowest it has been since 2007.

That’s likely due to a bevy of modernized law enforcement techniques in addition to the Nixle service. UCPD uses a proactive approach to crime reduction, including a combination of directed enforcement, both high-visibility and plainclothes patrols, safety outreach efforts and reallocation of resources based on crime trends and analysis. The department also works collaboratively with the Berkeley Police Department to help investigate crime occurring both on and off campus.

While the campus is becoming safer, UCPD has some tips for students to stay vigilant and out of harm’s way.

• From dusk until 3 a.m., seven days a week, you can access BearWalk to ask for a safe way home, and to see a live map of night safety buses and where they are relative to your location. Call BearWalk at (510) 642-WALK (9255).

• In case of an emergency, use the “blue light” telephone stations located around campus. These can be used to notify UCPD that assistance is needed.

• Don’t use your phone, earbuds or electronics while walking. Offer to walk in groups and be alert to the safety of your neighbors.

Give your student a Cal Alumni Association membership! They’ll enjoy alumni benefits while on campus and you’ll receive California magazine at your home.

They’ll graduate before you know it!

888.CAL.ALUM | alumni.berkeley.edu/join
Career Center program educates students by deepening alumni relationships

Counselors, recruiters and faculty often give students sound career advice. But students also appreciate the advice of alumni, whose suggestions resonate deeply because of their shared experiences at Cal.

Observing this phenomenon, Berkeley’s Career Center worked closely with the Cal Alumni Association and campus partners to create an innovative event series that brings students and alumni together for casual networking conversations with members of Berkeley’s rich alumni network. In the fall of 2015, Career Connections was born.

“It’s become our most popular networking series,” says executive director Tom Devlin. “Students have an opportunity to interact with alumni representing a wide variety of employers — and they get to do so in an informal environment.”

Career Connections is one of the newest offerings of the Career Center, which for decades has eagerly helped undergraduates, graduate students, alumni and employers achieve their goals. The center helps students achieve clarity in their career goals, enhance their career competitiveness through real-world experiences such as internships, and foster connections by engaging with employers and alumni.

An exciting first year

More than 20 events were rolled out in Career Connections’ inaugural year. Most focused on traditional areas such as consulting and engineering, but other times industries were flipped on their heads, with themes such as with “Non-Technical Roles in Tech” and “Business Roles in Health.”

The events broadened students’ perspectives by showcasing the diversity of careers found in a given field. “It wouldn’t be surprising, for example, to find an alumnus who majored in English working in the banking industry,” Devlin says.

The series, which will continue again this year, is not limited to campus, with events having been staged from San Francisco to Los Angeles. Career Connections “treks” take place during spring break and other times with Google, Walt Disney Imagineering, Riot Games and more.

To learn more, visit career.berkeley.edu.

BY THE NUMBERS

How useful a resource is the Career Center to Cal students? The numbers tell the story:

13 staff members assist with counseling and 8 interact with employers

63 employers were visited by staff members during the last year

More than 1,000 employers attended career fairs and conducted interviews at the Career Center in 2015–16

317 alumni participated in Career Connections events last year

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Fall semester is in full swing!