“In 2018, the University of California celebrates its sesquicentennial. For 150 years, Berkeley has been a beacon of opportunity for students of all backgrounds, a place devoted to expanding our understanding of the world, and an institution committed to serving the economic and educational needs of our state and our nation. May the university continue to shine for many decades to come—Fiat Lux!”

—Chancellor Carol Christ
Golden Bear Orientation, the new weeklong event we need to be better at fostering collaboration and beyond individual majors. I’ve also heard that the curriculum goes beyond classroom experiences. Students want to examine real-world phenomena, and they care deeply about using land proceeds to establish new schools—gave life to our nation’s educational system. On March 23, 1868, the University of California was born. And Berkeley, its first campus, is today the most distinguished public university in the history of higher education.

Guided by the motto Fiat Lux, our duty is to bring new knowledge to light—to illuminate solutions for bettering the human condition and to be a beacon of opportunity for promising young minds and top faculty. “Berkeley 150,” our year-long celebration, honors this legacy and projects it forward for another 150 years.

We invite you to participate in Berkeley 150 throughout 2018. Visit 150.berkeley.edu for stories, Berkeley150 social media posts and details on the following events:

**Q&A Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost Paul Alivisatos**

This past summer, UC Berkeley Chancellor Carol Christ tapped Paul Alivisatos to be the campus’ executive vice chancellor and provost, to assist her in implementing her priorities and to lead the institution’s academic enterprise. We sat down with Alivisatos—a distinguished chemist and accomplished administrator who’s served as vice chancellor for research at UC Berkeley and as director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory—to get his take on students’ current needs, what’s underway on the academic front and why “discovery experiences” should be an essential part of the undergraduate experience.

There are more fundamental concerns, too. We have to better satisfy undergraduates’ demands for the gateway courses so that students can get into the classes they require. We need to help with housing—a new dorm will open this year and much more development is underway—so that students can focus on their studies without added stressors. Crime and safety are always concerns in an urban area like Berkeley, and we have some plans in the works to do better in that area: This semester, for example, we’re tripling the number of UCPD-trained student Community Service Officers so that we can significantly expand the BearWALK program, providing free escort to students traveling around campus after dark.

**Part of your title—the “provost” part—gives you responsibility for managing the entire academic side of the campus. What’s on the horizon in that area?**

Such a tremendous number of academic programs and activities are going on that it would be impossible to talk about them all. But at the highest level, we’re working hard on a plan to grow the faculty size by 100 and to improve the student-faculty ratio, and we’re focusing academic expansion on areas that address the big interdisciplinary questions our community cares about—reducing inequality, climate change, robotics, new kinds of space exploration, data science and more.

**Before becoming executive vice chancellor and provost, you served as Berkeley’s vice chancellor for research. How do you view undergraduate involvement in the research side of the university?**

Berkeley is one of a few great universities when it comes to the creation of new knowledge, and students want to be involved in this act of discovery. It benefits them, too—their future careers will put them in positions where the ability to think creatively, synthesize multiple concepts, work with others and address a real-life problem will serve them immensely well.

We know that around two-thirds of students are already involved in what we’re calling “discovery experiences”—deep, immersive, self-initiated learning experiences that include, but are not limited to, research projects—and we want to explore how much further we can take that. We’re going to make it more systematic and easier for students to find mentorship and engage in these transformative forms of scholarly and experiential learning; I want people to know Berkeley as “the discovery campus.”


**Charter Day Celebration** The biggest party of the year, featuring an alumni procession, student performances and local fare. Friday, March 23, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., Sproul Plaza.

**Cal Day** Our annual open house, with lectures, tours, science and art activities and more fun for everyone. Saturday, April 21, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., entire campus.

**Commemoration** An exhilarating ceremony honoring the Sesquicentennial Class (Class of 2018). Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m., California Memorial Stadium.

**Reunion and Parents Weekend at Homecoming** Our largest annual weekend gathering that includes alumni and family events, lectures, tours, the Bear Affair Tailgate BBQ and Homecoming football game. Friday, Oct. 12–Sunday, Oct. 14, entire campus.

**Big Game** The annual face-off between the Golden Bears and the Stanford Cardinal—and the last formal chance to wish Cal a happy birthday. Saturday, Nov. 17, time TBA, California Memorial Stadium.

**Berkeley 150 Roadshow.** Before becoming executive vice chancellor and provost, you served as Berkeley’s vice chancellor for research. How do you view undergraduate involvement in the research side of the university? The biggest party of the year, featuring an alumni procession, student performances and local fare. Friday, March 23, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., Sproul Plaza. Our annual open house, with lectures, tours, science and art activities and more fun for everyone. Saturday, April 21, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., entire campus. An exhilarating ceremony honoring the Sesquicentennial Class (Class of 2018). Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m., California Memorial Stadium. Our largest annual weekend gathering that includes alumni and family events, lectures, tours, the Bear Affair Tailgate BBQ and Homecoming football game. Friday, Oct. 12–Sunday, Oct. 14, entire campus. The annual face-off between the Golden Bears and the Stanford Cardinal—and the last formal chance to wish Cal a happy birthday. Saturday, Nov. 17, time TBA, California Memorial Stadium.
Student Housing Expands to Meet Growing Need

Student housing is a big concern shared by our Golden Bears and their parents. The rising cost of rent in the Bay Area, and in Berkeley, in particular, is creating serious financial challenges for students, while pushing them further away from campus in search of available and affordable housing. By some estimates, Bay Area rents have increased more than 29 percent since 2000.

Chancellor Carol Christ has made the development of new, affordable housing a key priority for the campus and has publicly committed to doubling the number of housing units for Berkeley students.

In June 2016, then-Provost Christ formed a task force charged with developing a master housing plan for the campus, given UC Berkeley’s growing student population. Last April, to help inform campus decisions on housing matters, students were invited to participate in a survey. The task force will use the data and feedback from that survey to best meet student needs.

An exciting UC Berkeley housing project recently announced by the chancellor is David Blackwell Hall, at 2400 Bancroft Way, just one block from campus. The residence hall, which will house about 750 students on seven floors starting in Fall 2018, honors David Blackwell, Berkeley’s first tenured black professor and a preeminent statistician. Blackwell, who died in 2010, is an “exemplar of what Berkeley stands for: scholarly excellence of the highest caliber tied to a mission of social justice and inclusion,” Christ wrote in a letter nominating Blackwell.

Blackwell Hall’s ground floor will contain retail space and Stiles Hall, a community center for students. The hall will have an onsite fitness facility, lounges and study rooms on each floor and laundry facilities. Only one block away will be Cal Dining’s Café 3.

Q&A Callen Lappin, Golden Bear Orientation student coordinator

Last August, the new Golden Bear Orientation (GBO) introduced more than 9,500 incoming students to UC Berkeley during eight jam-packed days of training sessions, ice breakers, tours and academic programming. It was considered the largest orientation of its kind at a U.S. university.

Hundreds of student orientation leaders were assigned to small groups of students for the week. Callen Lappin, an anthropology major and GBO’s current student coordinator, was one of 42 student mentors who trained those leaders. In this Q & A with the Division of Student Affairs, the Anaheim resident reflects on what she gave and received in that role.

Why did you decide to get involved with GBO?

I was involved with the former orientation model, CalSO, in 2016, its final year. I wanted an opportunity to pass everything that I had learned to the next generation of orientation leaders, and I did so as an orientation mentor last summer for the start of GBO. It was a unique opportunity to work with such a large group of passionate and altruistic people with the shared goal of helping and supporting others.

Biggest takeaway from being a GBO mentor?

I was able to watch 529 orientation leaders for whom I was responsible to learn, grow and flourish as leaders in their own right. Being one of 42 orientation mentors meant helping others reach their full potential and being part of a community that truly values individual and collective growth.

How has your experience with GBO influenced your academic and professional goals?

Before working with orientation, I honestly did not think of myself as a “people person.” Through orientation, however, I have discovered that being part of a team is often my favorite part of the work that I do. Knowing this now, I can’t imagine working in a career that doesn’t involve meeting, helping and working with a variety of people.

What would you like to say to the donors who make GBO possible?

Thank you! GBO is a student’s first introduction to life as a Cal student. The opportunity to learn about student resources, academic opportunities, social activities and so much more is integral to helping 9,600 new students feel supported and comfortable at Cal.

After working with Berkeley’s orientation programs for over two years, it is my sincere belief that participating in orientation builds a foundation for students to be happier and more successful over their college careers. This could not happen without your support, and the impact of that support is more profound and widespread than I can ever convey. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I’d also like to ask everyone to join me in supporting GBO and in creating a strong foundation for successful student experiences at Cal. Your financial gift will help UC Berkeley continue to welcome and support new generations of Golden Bears!
When Chancellor Carol Christ’s staff asked her how she wanted to be sworn in as UC Berkeley’s 11th chancellor, she immediately knew the answer: with 600 new graduates and their families.

Christ, who is the first woman to lead the campus in its 150-year history, was formally inaugurated last semester on Sunday, Dec. 17, at Winter Commencement, just minutes before presenting Ph.D., master’s and bachelor’s degrees to the graduating class.

Named to the position in March 2017 by UC President Janet Napolitano, Christ formally took over last July. She was able to serve as Berkeley’s top administrator without ceremony, but could not confer degrees until she was officially sworn in.

“You are completing your college education and beginning that period I always imagine in capital letters—LIFE AFTER COLLEGE,” Christ told the crowd of some 8,000 people at Haas Pavilion. “And I, too, am beginning a momentous task.”

Christ asked graduates at the 10:30 a.m. dual investiture and commencement ceremony to never forget Berkeley and its long-standing commitment to scholarship and public service.

“As you begin to contemplate your own future, continue to question the status quo, continue to learn and explore—and determine how you can contribute to the greater good,” Christ said.

“I believe that Berkeley instills in its students a great capacity to reevaluate and reorient themselves; you will need to exercise this skill in order to live the rich and fulfilling life that I hope lies ahead for each of you.”

Housing Fair
During spring semester, in April, Cal Housing hosts a housing fair. The fair assists UC Berkeley students with their housing needs and makes the housing search easier. This unique opportunity connects students with local property managers, financial aid, co-ops, Cal Rentals and other resources. For more information: http://www.housing.berkeley.edu/housing-fair

Spring Athletics
Spring is an active season for Cal Athletics, with more than a dozen sports in action and lots of opportunities to watch Bears games. New baseball coach Mike Neu will lead Cal out on Evans Diamond with a veteran roster that features Andrew Vaughn, reigning Pac-12 Freshman of the Year. Cal softball, under the direction of veteran coach Diane Ninemire, seeks a return to the NCAA Tournament behind senior Jazmyn Jackson, a member of the U.S. National Team.

Cal’s men’s and women’s rowing teams continue to pursue national championships, as do the men’s and women’s tennis teams and women’s water polo squad, which includes several athletes from the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio.

Coach Justin Wilcox’s Cal football squad, looking to build on the improvement seen last fall, will hold its annual spring game on Saturday, April 28 at California Memorial Stadium. Activities get underway at 11 a.m., and admission is free.

For more details on all Golden Bear programs, visit CalBears.com or follow @CalAthletics on your favorite social media accounts.

Save the Date: Parents Weekend
Reunion and Parents Weekend at Homecoming, to be held Oct. 12–14, is UC Berkeley’s premier annual gathering for parents and alumni. Come enjoy three days of parties, family events, faculty seminars, special tours, museum and library open houses and the Cal vs. UCLA football game. Registration begins July 1 at parentsweekend.berkeley.edu.

Cal Softball utility player Jazmyn Jackson, a senior majoring in Business Administration at Haas School of Business

Facebook Live!
Cal Parents invites you to two Facebook Live sessions. Join in on the conversation with Undergraduate Studies Dean Bob Jacobsen on Feb. 27 and with David Surratt, interim associate vice chancellor for Residential and Student Service Programs, on March 20. Both 30-minute sessions begin at 6 p.m. Facebook.com/calparentsberkeley
Where is the Class of 2016 now?

The Career Center prepares students to make informed decisions about their futures by providing comprehensive resources. According to its Career Destinations survey (https://career.berkeley.edu/Survey/Survey), here’s what recent graduates went on to achieve:

Fifty-six percent of students who graduated in 2016 were employed full-time immediately after graduation. Of the rest, 19 percent went on to graduate school, 18 percent were seeking full-time employment and the remainder were involved in volunteer work, family commitments, taking a year off or other pursuits.

The top three employment sectors were for-profit (73%), education (13%) and nonprofit (8%). The top three sources for landing a job were through networking (19%), internships or prior employment (17%) and on-campus recruiting (17%).

Across UC Berkeley’s professional schools and colleges, almost half of the 2016 graduates had full-time employment lined up after graduation. This is particularly evident with graduates of the Haas School of Business and the College of Engineering. Immediately after graduation, 90 percent of Haas graduates and 71 percent of engineering graduates went into the workforce.

The Career Center (http://career.berkeley.edu) provides many other resources, including career fairs, career counseling and peer adviser in-person assistance, to help students achieve their goals.

Berkeley Connect: Students tout beloved program in their own words

Since its launch in 2010, the Berkeley Connect program has empowered 1,400 undergraduates each semester to expand their academic horizons by matching each one with a personal graduate student mentor who’s pursuing a Ph.D. in the undergrad’s major. The mentors provide individual attention and coach students on how to build productive relationships with their professors. Berkeley Connect also offers small group discussions where students discuss ideas and skills related to specific majors, special events for mingling with professors and alumni and field trips to explore more of what the campus offers.

There are no prerequisites, extra fees or homework assignments, quizzes or exams. All undergraduates are welcome, regardless of major or year. Ninety-three percent of those who took part in Berkeley Connect say they’d recommend it to a friend, 84 percent say it increased their confidence about succeeding at Berkeley and 82 percent say it upped their sense of belonging on campus.

Funded in part by gifts to the Cal Parents Fund, Berkeley Connect—now in 13 departments and growing—blends the university’s intellectual strength with a supportive community that students might find at a small liberal arts college. Academic lives of its students in surprising ways.

The following two stories, written by undergrads as part of the program’s Student Voice Contest, illustrate how Berkeley Connect enhances the academic lives of its students in surprising ways.

**Danny Hutto, fourth-year student in philosophy**

My favorite Berkeley Connect moment is not a singular moment so much as it is what the program—and my mentor, Richard Lawrence—as a whole as afforded me.

As a graduating senior, what Richard’s small group meetings offer is more than just a space to discuss topics related to the field of philosophy; they provide a dedicated time and space that reminds me: I am not alone. What I mean by that is, a lot of my academic experiences at Berkeley have been ones requiring isolation. Such is the life of an English major, I suppose.

For better or worse, the majority of work done outside the classroom in my field can be lonely, but Richard’s sections always reminded me that I’m not alone. Whether it’s a student giving advice to another student or just group suffering, I leave my Berkeley Connect section with a renewed sense of my place within the broader Berkeley community. In such a large, competitive academic environment as Berkeley, it is comforting knowing that there is one place I can go to escape the “noise” and just connect (no pun intended) with other people.

To learn more about Berkeley Connect, including how you can make a gift to support the program, visit berkeleyconnect.berkeley.edu.

**Sean Tseng, first-year student in music**

Music fills the classroom, and a hush falls across the room. It’s as if at all once, we’ve leaned in to listen. I’ve never heard this song before, but somehow it feels familiar in my bones. As Pink Floyd’s “Hey You” pours out of the speakers, the strangers sitting around me are suddenly not so strange anymore.

This is my first Berkeley Connect music session, and I am enthralled. Despite joining late in the semester and missing several previous sessions, I feel more connected in this moment than in all the classes I attend regularly. In these four minutes of guitar riffs and haunting vocals, we all get to know each other more deeply than expected, in ways I never anticipated.

To me, this is the significance of Berkeley Connect. I walked out of that class energized, inspired and awed at the depth of a subject I’ve always loved.

Our class discussion only kick-started a broader conversation, and experiencing such ideas in quality company embodies Berkeley Connect’s spirit. To be given a constructive and supportive environment to ponder these ideas without pressure is one of the truest forms of education I have encountered in my time here at Berkeley.

**Danny Hutto (left) and mentor Richard Lawrence**
The Big Give by David Peterkofsky

Big Give fundraiser moves to March

Big Give, UC Berkeley’s annual one-day fundraiser to support students, faculty and research, is making a big move in its fourth year—from Big Game week in November to Thursday, March 8. Though the date has changed this year, all the event’s popular contests and social media fun will return, with exciting improvements and even more big boosts to your generosity to Cal.

This year’s theme is “Your Berkeley Moment.” From your student’s acceptance letter to graduation day, freshman orientation to his or her 50th class reunion, the UC Berkeley experience is made up of a million little moments. Moments of realization. Moments of glory. Moments of truth. Aha moments and moments that your student—and you, as Cal Parents—will remember the rest of your days.

What’s your big Berkeley moment? The first time you walked through Sather Gate on your student’s orientation day? The last time you heard the Campanile bells ring? Or when you first attended a Homecoming game with your son or daughter to cheer on the Golden Bears?

During last fall’s annual Big Give, our peerless Cal community—alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff and friends all over the world—together to give 9,666 gifts totaling nearly $11.7 million, making Berkeley moments possible for years to come. Your generosity to your favorite schools, colleges and programs made last year’s Big Give a very big moment indeed.

This year, as UC Berkeley celebrates its 150th anniversary, we invite you to make more Berkeley moments possible through Big Give. Visit BigGive.berkeley.edu today to tell us about your own favorite Berkeley moment. Then come back March 8 to join thousands of alumni, students, parents and friends to make this year’s Big Give truly momentous.

Paying it forward, inspired by the power of women

Cal Parents Annie Kuo and Roger Liang typically focus their philanthropy on three specific areas: education, health care and minorities. In fact, the couple created an endowed scholarship at Berkeley several years ago to help expand students’ educational access to the same type of world-class education enjoyed by their two daughters—Katie (’15) and Daphne, a current undergraduate.

Knowing these parents well, the Cal Parents team recently approached the couple about boosting their support by making a gift to the Chancellor’s Impact Fund. The fund, a vital campus resource, provides research and innovation opportunities for Berkeley faculty and students in each of the couple’s areas of interest.

This resonated with Kuo and Liang, but they wanted to include their daughters in the decision-making process. And for good reason: Katie and Daphne both plan to eventually participate in the family business, BizLink—a global manufacturing company that provides electrical components to businesses including Tesla, a neighbor to BizLink in Fremont, California.

“We look forward to continuing the family business with powerful female leaders,” says Kuo, who worked as an accountant at Bizlink, then later bought out the company and become its president. Ultimately, the family made a $200,000 gift to the Chancellor’s Impact Fund, and their generosity didn’t stop there. Inspired in part by current female leadership and women’s initiatives at Berkeley, they also made a $100,000 pledge to the newly established Center for Gender, Equity & Leadership at the Haas School of Business.

“We are all so impressed with Chancellor Carol Christ’s strong leadership,” says Liang, who is BizLink’s chairman, “though powerful women are not new to our family.”

They’ll graduate before you know it!

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.

888.CAL.ALUM | alumni.berkeley.edu/join
Cal Parents in Tennessee host student for custom externship

A request emailed to all Cal Parents Ambassadors to sponsor an externship for a Berkeley undergraduate turned into a rewarding experience not just for a student, but also for a Tennessee couple who answered the call.

Julie and Paul Cummings made their first visit to Berkeley as Cal Parents this past fall to see their son Charlie, a first-year chemistry major, at Reunion and Parents Weekend at Homecoming. “It was phenomenal,” says Julie, recollecting highlights such as meeting the dean of the College of Chemistry and attending a lecture.

Later, back home in College Grove, Tennessee, the couple got an email asking Cal Parents Ambassadors to consider arranging a winter break externship for a student. “Since we live out of state and not among other Cal Parents or alumni,” Paul recalls, “we felt like it would be a great way for us to be involved and establish a connection with the Cal network.”

They decided to take part in the learning opportunity, too. Both of them work in the health care field—Julie is an engagement manager for The Advisory Company, a health care consulting firm, and Paul is chief operating officer for InVivoLink, a care-management technology company—so they created a three-day program to introduce a student to each workplace.

Working with the Cal Parents program, the campus’s Career Center matched the couple with Jason Chang, a first-year microbial biology major from Walnut, California, who is focusing his studies on evolution and computational genomics. In January, Jason flew to Nashville—his financial aid covered his travel costs—and spent a day and a half at each company, absorbing all he could about health care relationships and database concepts (at Julie’s office), as well as ways to combat health care costs and optimize patient outcomes through software solutions (at Paul’s).

“It was definitely a whirlwind tour,” Paul says. “In the time we had, I thought that our best agenda would be to present Jason with as much of a real-world landscape as possible of how the health care industry works, to help give him context about how his future studies fit into that landscape.”

The externship, as brief as it was, made a big impact on Jason, both professionally and personally. “Before my trip, I wasn’t expecting too much, just a regular internship,” he says. “However, the way that Julie and Paul both approached me changed my opinion completely. Somehow, I felt like I was part of this enormous Cal family. I am still making my plans for this summer, but I am more convinced to return and work in Nashville, the largest health care community in the United States. This experience has kindled my interest in developing my skill set in mapping, reducing and analyzing the massive amount of data in the medical world.”

The externship clearly has enriched the lives of the Cumingses, too—allowing them to give back to their son’s university, even though they are on the other side of the country. And they strongly encourage other Cal Parents to follow their lead and lend a hand as Cal Parents Ambassadors.

“Find ways to get involved,” Julie suggests. “By talking and meeting with others, you start to get a sense of the culture of the university and have a frame of reference for what your child is experiencing on a day-to-day basis.”

“And volunteering creates a connection to the university,” Paul adds. “It gives you a sense of belonging and allows you to add value toward the greater institution.”

To learn more about volunteering as a Cal Parents Ambassador, visit calparents.berkeley.edu/ambassadors.

A PARENT’S PERSPECTIVE

By Cristian Cibils

Somehow, our daughter Gaby knew Berkeley was her place. As her parents, my wife Vivianne and I only knew Berkeley as one of the world’s finest higher education institutions, with renowned faculty, famous alumni and breakthrough discoveries.

Such a large institution posed so many questions for us nearly four years ago, when Gaby began her freshman year. We wanted to learn everything about her home for the next several years. Would she be safe? Who would her roommate be?

So, we decided to attend Cal Day in April 2014, and our minds were blown!

Berkeley’s prestige and fame are immense, and we meet some of the people responsible for its reputation. By the end of that day, we’d been introduced to many incredible staff and faculty, parents of incoming students, parents of former students and not one, but five, Nobel Laureates!

Berkeley is a big institution, with many small universes full of wonderful people who teach by example about resilience, faith, strong will and how to overcome daily—and seemingly impossible—challenges. This is also true of Berkeley as an institution. The way the institution overcame the challenges of the past few years and is facing the ones ahead is nothing short of remarkable.

During Gaby’s freshman year, we were fortunate to visit Berkeley quite often. We still see her very frequently and watch her learning first-hand how to conquer the world, one semester at a time.

Almost four years down the road, Gaby is about to graduate with a major in cognitive science.

We have seen her grow in so many dimensions. It’s definitely been a life-changing experience that opened up her mind to a vast universe of knowledge.

And she’s now fully equipped to jump into the outer world, and take it by storm! Fiat Lux and Go Bears!
You are our light.
You are our future.

CalDay
Your future awaits

Saturday, April 21
9 AM to 4 PM
Free admission
calday.berkeley.edu
#calday