# The CAAFund Society Jund Society

The Cal Alumni Association gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the donors who contributed \$1,000 or more to The CAA Fund between January 1 and December 31, 2011.

The CAA Fund Society is a group of alumni and friends who create a lasting connection to Cal through their commitment to and affinity for the Cal Alumni Association. A yearly contribution of \$1,000 or more to our annual fund establishes your membership in The CAA Fund Society.

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CAA's 140th Distinguished Alumni Lecture and Reception honored pioneering neuropsychiatrist Dr. Louann Brizendine '76, who spoke on "The Female Brain vs. The Male Brain." Cecile Ehrmann '73 (right), a member of The CAA Fund Society, attended the event with Maria Luisa Perez



### The CAA Fund

CAA needs your help to achieve our 2012 fundraising goal by December 31, 2012. CAA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and self-funded organization and we rely on the generous financial support of alumni, friends, and CAA members. Your gift helps us launch new programs, continue to attract the best and brightest students to UC Berkeley, and award scholarships annually to Cal students. Your support makes this all possible. We urge you to make a tax-deductible donation today so we can continue to offer and expand our suite of programs and services for alumni, students, and the University. Make a gift online at alumni.berkeley.edu/donate or return the enclosed envelope today.

**Photography Credits:** Katherine Fiordalis, Paul Española and Cynthia So Schroeder

## **Estate Gifts: An Investment in Cal's Future**

An estate gift is a meaningful way to extend your commitment and generosity to CAA. Whether you make a bequest or set up a trust, an estate gift helps you enjoy tax savings through careful structuring and timing of your donation. Your estate gift to CAA will have a significant and lasting impact on students, alumni, and the University for years to come. For more information, please call 510.643.3919.

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### LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Cal alumni and friends,

As CAA celebrates 140 years of alumni excellence and service to our alma mater and the Cal community, we are focused on shaping UC Berkeley's present and future. Like Cal's alumni community, CAA programs embody the quality and innovation of our University. Recently, CAA's board of directors unanimously approved a new five-year strategic plan that will enable the development of programs to better serve the professional, cultural, and intellectual interests of Berkeley alumni. I am excited to bring you updates as the plan begins to roll out in 2013.

In the meantime, I am delighted to share more about your alumni association in this issue of Giving Notes. The breadth and depth of CAA's alumni programming remains a point of pride. Our program portfolio has been designed to meet the interests of today's alumni. We continue to offer volunteer opportunities through CAA Alumni Scholarships and YES Berkeley! Student Recruitment. We provide many other ways for you to stay connected to Cal and fellow alumni. We recently launched Online Alumni Communities, our Alumni Chapters are active across the country, and our award-winning California magazine keeps you abreast of the issues, discoveries, and people of the University of California, Berkeley.

Our work benefits alumni, students, and the University and is made possible thanks to you. In this issue of Giving Notes you can peruse The CAA Fund Society Honor Roll, learn more about young alumni giving opportunities, and read about Barbara Meyer, an alumna whose philanthropic priority is CAA's Equity Scholarship. She is among the many alumni who make our work possible through generous donations.

As we move ahead, we will continue to ask you to support the mission of your alumni association. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and self-funded organization, CAA relies on financial support from friends and alumni like you. Thank you for your generosity and commitment—together, we keep Cal golden.

Fiat Lux. and Go Bears!

Jefferson C.M. Coombs '89 **Executive Director** 

**FALL 2012** 

## **Cal Alumna's Appreciation**

It takes all kinds of alumni to make a difference for Cal students. From the spirited Golden Bear to the dedicated volunteer, many alumni give back to Cal via the Cal Alumni Association. Like most enthusiastic and committed alumni who regularly visit Alumni House to stay connected to Cal, Barbara Meyer '58, '59 is a dedicated and proud UC Berkeley graduate who wants to make a difference.

Barbara was raised on a farm in the rural town of Brawley, 20 miles north of Mexico. The proximity to the border meant she grew up in a close-knit and predominantly Mexican-American community. She recalls the farm workers who made a difference for her family, "We could not farm without help from the Latino community."

Barbara's early childhood experiences, coupled with her father's political ideology, motivate her today. "My father was a committed Democrat in his small rural town. Looking back, he was in a sea of Republicans." Like her father, she believes in giving back. After graduating from Cal, Barbara returned to her home town to teach first grade. Later, she taught in Los Angeles, Japan, and Washington, D.C. She eventually returned to the Bay Area.

Today, Barbara stays connected to Cal through Cal Discoveries Travel and California magazine, which is how she learned about The Equity Scholarship. Barbara has generously donated to The Equity Scholarship since 2010. This CAA Alumni Scholarship inspired Barbara because it takes on the challenge to increase the number of underrepresented minority students on campus and helps to close the financial-aid gap that often prohibits prospective students from attending Cal. "I want to see California communities represented at Cal, and I am most pleased to donate to The Equity Scholarship. Diversity makes for a better university and experience."

The Equity Scholarship targets high-performing African-American, Chicano/Latino, and Native American/Alaskan Native students from California communities. Barbara's appreciation for her Cal education makes it easy to give back. "Scholarships are a great blessing. This is what I want to do. It is a way to give back for my Cal education. I am thankful."



Barbara earned her B.A. in Humanities and her graduate degree in Education. She recently saw Daisy Esparza at Alumni House. "I enjoy my relationship with Daisy and I am thankful to have the opportunity to get to know her." Daisy is a sophomore and one of 25 Cal students receiving a \$20,000 Equity scholarship thanks to donors like Barbara

## The CAA Challenge

#### Celebrate 140 years with a gift to your alumni association!

Founded in 1872 by the first 12 students to receive Cal degrees, this year CAA celebrates 140 years of alumni excellence and service to UC Berkeley and the alumni community. From now until the end of our anniversary year, we ask you to support your alumni association with a special anniversary contribution of \$140 or more to The CAA Fund. Your supplemental gift today will help CAA serve our alma mater and the vibrant Cal community for years to come. Can CAA count on you to help us keep Cal golden for another 140 years?



## **Young Alumni Giving Rises**

nator in the University Affairs Division of Chevron Corporation, and

to The Equity Scholarship to help fund our newest cohort. Executive Director Jefferson Coombs '89 welcomed Nancy Costa, College Recruiting

her husband Bill to Alumni House at the Equity Scholarship Reception

After a successful New Alumni Challenge in 2010–11, CAA challenged young alumni to double their impact again during the 2011–12 fiscal year—and they did just that! The \$15,436 raised through 197 gifts for CAA represents an increase of 63% in the number gifts received from the year before. The New Alumni Challenge recently ended its third campaign and raised more than \$715,581 campus-wide from 5,209 young alumni.

#### The 2012-13 New Alumni Challenge is here!

The challenge is now open to all undergraduate and graduate alumni from Classes of 2008 through 2012, plus all students who will graduate in the 2012–13 academic year. When you make a gift to CAA today, it is matched 1:1. Small contributions go a long way. Show your support for Cal and boost your impact today!

#### SAVE THE DATE for

#### **CHARTER GALA 2013**

Saturday, March 16, 2013 The Palace Hotel, San Francisco

For more information, please visit alumni.berkeley.edu/chartergala.

# **Against the Odds**

Norma Loza was often told she'd get pregnant and amount to nothing. After all, she attended San Fernando High School where the teen pregnancy rate was high and success was low. But Norma worked hard, earned good grades, and participated in the Puente program. Despite the odds, she persevered and was accepted into UC Berkeley.

Being accepted to Cal was not enough—Norma knew her family could not afford the financial commitment. Her two older sisters started college but never

finished. Norma applied for The Achievement Award Program (TAAP) scholarship to help offset the cost of attending Cal. "I was ecstatic and amazed when I found out that I received the TAAP scholarship. My mom cried!"

Norma remembers attending her first TAAP retreat in fall 2006. She received a warm welcome from the CAA family. She also met her good friend, Salvador Limon '10, who reassured Norma when she didn't want to spend the night with "strangers." Being away from home and in a new environment was not an easy transition, but the TAAP family helped Norma find her niche and she eventually learned to step out of her comfort zone. Three short years later, she was a senior at Cal.

During her final semester at Cal, Norma's life changed forever. On that fateful winter day in February 2010 she decided to skip class and cancel her afternoon tutoring session. Norma had a bad headache—far worse than the ones she had all her life. A few hours later Norma's roommates found her incoherent and drove her to the hospital where she underwent an emergency craniotomy. Norma had suffered a seizure as a result of a cerebral arteriovenous malformation (AVM), an abnormal connection between the arteries

## Did you know...?

- With 80 Alumni Chapters around the world, we keep more than 27,000 alumni connected to campus and each other through networking events and volunteer opportunities.
- We recently launched Online Alumni Communities for those who want to stay connected via social media. Currently, we have six online communities—one for financial professionals and five based on location (Central Oregon, New Haven, Phoenix, Tucson, and Tulare-Kings counties).
- We held 26 new-student receptions (12 in California, 14 out of state) this past spring through our YES Berkeley! Student Recruitment program. Of the 975 admitted students who attended a reception to learn more about Berkeley, 58% (approximately 566 students) submitted their Student Intent to Register at Cal.
- Our award-winning California magazine has been in publication since 1905.
- Last summer, more than 300 alumni participated in phone interviews and reading events to award 280 incoming Cal students with CAA Alumni Scholarships. Most recently, 404 returning and transfer Cal students were awarded The Leadership Award and received scholarships in the amount of \$2,000. This academic year, CAA is funding 25 Equity Scholars, 89 TAAP scholars, and 653 Leadership Award Scholars.



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and veins in the brain that usually forms before birth. Brain AVMs occur in less than 1 percent of the general population and the chance of an AVM bleeding into the brain, causing brain damage and stroke, is 25 percent.\* Once again, Norma was fighting the odds.

Six weeks after her first surgery, Norma left the hospital in a wheel chair, with no movement on the right side of her body. Norma does not remember the details of her early recovery, but she vaguely recalls asking about getting back to Cal. "I asked Mom, 'What about school?' and she told me

they took care of it." Relieved, Norma went through intense inpatient stroke recovery treatment for six months. When she had exhausted all her medical resources, Norma turned to her friend, a physical therapist, who developed a home therapy plan for her. During the next 18 months, Norma fought to get her life back. She eventually learned to walk and use her right hand again. Norma began to think about returning to Cal.

In January 2012, Norma started the process of re-enrolling in Cal, and five months later she was set to start back in fall 2012. Today, Norma is back on campus finishing up her B.A. in film. Although she has no movement in her right foot, faces short-term memory limitations, and experiences fatigue, Norma is determined to cross the commencement stage in May 2013. She graciously and humbly acknowledges it was not a journey without support. "The TAAP family was a motivating factor to come back to Cal. I knew I wanted to come back to my TAAP family. Through TAAP, I learned you can reach anything you set your mind to. Today, I have a new-found appreciation for what this really means."

\*http://www.strokeassociation.org/STROKEORG/AboutStroke/TypesofStroke/HemorrhagicBleeds/What-Is-an-Arteriovenous-Malformation-AVM\_UCM\_310099\_Article.jsp