As a child, Sigrid Rupp watched in fascination as a postwar construction boom rebuilt her native Germany. That early experience sparked an enduring passion for structural design that both shaped her career and provided her with a way to help others.

Born in the German port city of Bremerhaven, Sigrid moved to California with her family at the age of 10. She learned to speak English and went to grammar, middle, and high school in Oakland, California. She went on to earn a B.A. in architecture from Cal, where she was mentored by a number of renowned architects and professors, including Joseph Esherick, Harold Stump, and Donald Reay.

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The first award will be made in the 2008–09 academic year. The second will be awarded in the 2009–10 academic year.

There’s a new place on the Web for gift planning information.

From Legacy Planner, an interactive guide to gift planning, to donor stories that inspire and inform, you can find it all at UC Berkeley's new gift planning Web site: http://giveto.berkeley.edu/giftplanning

We invite you to visit our new Web site soon.

Kevin T. Grilly
Director, Office of Gift Planning
Notes from the Director

Different paths, different vehicles

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These stories also show that there is a way to support the University that can fit almost any financial situation.

Ida Jackson made an outright gift of real estate. Sigrid Rupp donated, through a charitable remainder unitrust, 75 percent of the value of her property and kept the other 25 percent for living expenses. In both of these cases, our real estate office marketed and sold the property for the donor.

Nat Cohen and Rocky Mars provided for Cal in their wills. Ms. Mars’s bequest will continue to support endowed funds established during her lifetime.

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The Office of Gift Planning’s senior staff has 30 years of experience in charitable gift and estate planning and can help you find the best planned gift to further your philanthropic, financial, and estate planning goals. Let’s plan together.

This issue of Cal Futures tells the stories of five extraordinary women linked by a deep love for Cal and an equally deep commitment to support the University and its mission. They are, at the same time, a vivid illustration of the wonderful diversity of our Cal family — in background, experience, talents, and interests. It is this infinite variety that is one of our University’s greatest strengths.

We hope you will enjoy their stories, and find in them new reasons to stay involved with the University and take pride in your Cal family.

Who is this Famous Alum? Answer inside!

Ida Jackson ’22, M.A. ’24

Overcoming barriers, and helping others to do so, were at the center of Ida Jackson’s life.

The daughter of a former slave, she was born in Vicksburg, Mississippi, in 1902. Throughout her childhood, her father instilled in her the value of education — a gift that would shape her life. When she earned her teaching degree at New Orleans University (later renamed Dillard University), she was not yet 16 years old.

Ida moved to California a couple of years later and enrolled at UC Berkeley. She was one of only 17 African American students on campus, and she often felt invisible to classmates and professors alike. In her freshman year, Jackson and a few of her friends cofounded the Rho chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority to help make the campus more hospitable for young African American women.

Ida’s ability and determination allowed her to do big things. She earned her bachelor’s degree and then a master’s in education at Cal. In addition to being the first African American
Continuing her efforts to help other African Americans achieve better lives, in 1972 Ida donated hundreds of acres of that Mendocino property to UC Berkeley. She requested that the proceeds from the property’s sale be used to support graduate fellowships for black students working on their dissertations at the University. To date, more than 30 students have been supported through her gift.

The University has recognized Ida’s extraordinary accomplishments, and support for her alma mater, by awarding her a Berkeley Citation and, in 2004, naming a graduate student residence in her honor. The San Francisco Chronicle called the dedication of the Ida Louise Jackson Graduate House “a glowing tribute for a woman who broke through barriers of injustice, paved roads to advanced education for African Americans, and inspired generations of others with her devotion.”

It was, in fact, Nati’s unwillingness to sit still that made her a part of Cal life. One day, she did the unthinkable — she stood up and cheered at a Bears football game. At that time, organized cheers were a jealously guarded prerogative of the Men’s Rooting Section. But Nati started something, and soon women were cheering at every game. Nati remained one of the truest — and most vocal — Bears fans for the rest of her life.

She had a long career as a personnel administrator for the Army Corps of Engineers, and in her spare time enjoyed opera, ballet, Broadway shows, and travel. But her irrepressible energy and competitive spirit found its primary outlet in tennis, in which she was a bona fide star. On the court at Cal, she was superb, and in the state of Georgia, she was a legend. “I was a certified tennis umpire for 30 years, during which time I supervised hundreds of matches. In 1976, she clashed with Ilie Nastase, one of tennis’s top players and notorious for batting umpires. Nati held her ground with Nastase, though, and on the next day she knelt on the court and presented her a dozen roses.”

“Nati,” said a friend, quoted in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, “led about as full of a life as you can lead.” As busy as she was, Nati showed her loyalty to her alma mater in dozens of ways. She was a founding member of the Redding Co-operative Preschool, the Shasta Community Orchestra Women’s Guild, and the Pink Ladies Auxiliary Group at Mercy Medical Center. She was a member of the Shasta County Board of Education, and the first chairperson of the lumber worker’s display that became the Turtle Bay Exploration Park. Besides her volunteer efforts, she was known for her acts of philanthropy to beneficiaries “all over Redding.” But as her son John explains, “there are many things we never were even aware of.” She was a quiet philanthropist.

After Bill’s passing in 1981, and with her children grown, Rocky could branch out in other ways. An avid reader and a lover of poetry, she wrote and published three books of her own poems. She also drew closer to her alma mater, whose intellectual side she valued as much as watching Bears Football. She sat on the Library Advisory Board, was past president and an active member of the Cal alumni group “the Northern C’s,” served as chair of the Class of ’39 reunion, and the Pink Ladies Auxiliary Gift Committee, which raised a record amount for the campus. In 2005, she compiled and contributed to Hail California, a book of poetry by members of the Cal community in appreciation of the University.

Rocky left a bequest to Berkeley in support of four endowments that she and her husband created during their lives. These endowments reflect many ties to the University, including a distinguished speakers program in the College of Natural Resources, an alumni scholarship, a poetry collection, and the Bear Backers Endowment Fund benefitting the Cal football program.

Natalie Cohen

A native of Atlanta, Georgia, she was only 18 when she spent four nights and three days coming to the Bay Area by train — only to have to stand in line for several hours with other incoming students. She was a legend at Cal, she was superb, and in the state of Georgia, she was a legend. “It was fact, Nati’s unwillingness to sit still that made her a part of Cal life. One day, she did the unthinkable — she stood up and cheered at a Bears football game. At that time, organized cheers were a jealously guarded prerogative of the Men’s Rooting Section. But Nati started something, and soon women were cheering at every game. Nati remained one of the truest — and most vocal — Bears fans for the rest of her life.

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Maxine Hong Kingston ’62, C. Sing ‘65, award-winning author and poet, and emeritus faculty member in the UC Berkeley Department of English. The daughter of Chinese immigrants, Kingston is known for insightful literary work that weaves together American and Asian culture, the fantastic and the real. Her best-known book, The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts, received the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1977. A scholarship recipient, Kingston began at Cal as an engineering major, but she soon switched to English literature.

“Beating at Cal,” she says, “taught me how to live. And it showed me that there was so much in the world.”
Answer to “Famous Alum”

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Iona ‘Rocky’ Main ’49

Iona Main, “Rocky” to her friends, was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, went to high school in San Diego, California, and then earned a B.A. in humanities at UC Berkeley. Besides providing an education, Berkeley brought Rocky into contact with Bill Main, a forestry major and member of the ‘44 Rose Bowl team who would soon become her husband. After obtaining her teaching credential, she taught elementary school in the Bay Area for two years before moving north to Redding and embarking on what would become her more-than-full-time career — being a homemaker and raising with Bill the couple’s five boys, all about two years apart. Bill ran Main Lumber Company, a lumber manufacturing business, and later, Main Industries.

Somehow, Rocky found time to be active in community service: somewhat to officiating. She was a certified tennis umpire for 30 years, during which time she supervised hundreds of matches. In 1976, she clashed with Ilie Nastase, one of tennis’ top players and notorious for his raucous attitude. “I passed out. I said, ‘I can’t do this!’” But she got over that hurdle, completed her B.S. at the School of Public Health, and went on to a successful career in clinical laboratory science.

Joan Lam ’62

“I had no idea until senior year I had to actually put a needle in someone’s arm,” Joan says with a laugh. “I passed out. I said, ‘I can’t do this!’” But she got over that hurdle, completed her B.S. at the School of Public Health, and went on to a successful career in clinical laboratory science.

Joan philanthropy to her alma mater reflects her broad Cal experience. She established a deferred gift annuity at the University that will eventually benefit the School of Public Health, which has provided her with the great pleasure of knowing that one of her scholarship recipients was accepted to medical school. “I was so proud!” she remembers. For the Department of Music, she replaced 100 copies of the Brahms Requiem, and in 2006 another gift established the Joan Lam Choral Endowment Fund. Asked why she was her strong supporter of Berkeley, Joan gives two responses. First, she feels a sense of responsibility: “We have already graduated, so we should be mentors to the next generation.” Her second reason is more personal: “Being at Cal,” she says, “taught me how to live. And being at Cal showed me that there was so much in the world.”

From front page

woman to be certified to teach in the state, she became the first African American teacher of either gender to teach in the Oakland public schools.

As an alumna, and as national president of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Ida led sorority trips to the Deep South to help educate blacks, particularly in her native Mississippi. She founded a summer school for rural teachers there in 1933, followed the next year by the Mississippi Health Project, which helped inoculate more than 4,000 infants and children against diphtheria and cholera. She was invited twice to the White House, in 1934 and 1935, and spoke to President and Mrs. Roosevelt about conditions in Mississippi and her work there.

After a brief interval as dean of women at Tuskegee Institute, Ida returned to Oakland, where she taught at McClymonds High School until her retirement in 1953. Two years later, she took over managing her family’s sheep ranch in Mendocino County.

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Great news! If you are . . .

• At least 70½ years old,
• Taking mandatory distributions from your IRA, and
• Looking for a way to support Cal tax-free . . .

New legislation allows you to make gifts directly to Cal totaling up to $100,000 a year from your Roth or Traditional IRA — without incurring income tax on the withdrawal. The provision is effective only for the 2007 tax year, so you must act by December 31 to take full advantage of this golden opportunity. For more information, call us at 800.200.0575, or e-mail us at cgp@berkeley.edu.

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Kevin T. Crilly
Director, Office of Gift Planning

Notes from the Director

For more information: University of California Berkeley Office of Gift Planning University Relations 1995 Addison Avenue 1971 Addison Bedroom 4290 Berkeley, CA 94720-4200 510-642-6300 x8600 cgp@berkeley.edu philgiving@ucb.berkeley.edu