UC Berkeley is turning challenge into opportunity. In spite of unprecedented state funding cuts, the University has enabled higher enrollment for California residents and non-residents alike, maintained its world-class faculty, and expanded its course offerings. U.S. News & World Report has just ranked Berkeley as the top public university in the nation — again.

“Private philanthropy has helped us maintain our public character,” said Chancellor Robert Birgeneau, who will step down at the close of 2012, after eight years of promoting “access and excellence” at Berkeley. “We have been able to keep our doors wide open — and that’s only possible because of philanthropy.”

The scholarship donors we feature in this issue of Cal Futures are among those who help keep the doors open for excellent students of all backgrounds.

These donors came through Cal at different times, with different hopes and dreams, but all worked as teachers at some point in time. Lori Henderson ’43 studied political science and met the love of her life. Decades later, Ralph Elder M.A. ’87 fueled his passion for teaching, and his husband, Jim Bullock ’69, M.B.A. ’78, found a path to the Peace Corps.

Through meaningful and enduring gifts for scholarships, these alumni are returning the favor of a Cal education.
Lori Henderson ’43 says UC Berkeley took a young, unsophisticated girl from East Oakland and transformed her into an educated, global citizen. She credits her mother’s steadfast belief in education with landing her at Berkeley.

“My mother was a Berkeley girl who always wanted to go to Cal, but there was no money. She had to work to support her family when she graduated from Berkeley High School,” says Lori, 90, sipping tea beside her daughter, Nancy, in her Rossmoor home. “She was determined all her life that I should go to college and, hopefully, to Cal.”

Hoping to help today’s Cal students afford school, Lori and her late husband, John Henderson ’42, have made several planned gifts to the campus — their commitment to Berkeley sparked well over a half-century ago.

Like many other kids during the Depression, Lori lived at home for much of her college career — commuting on more than one streetcar to make her way to campus each day. A graduate of Oakland’s Castlemont High School, she was the first in her family to go to college.

“Education opened doors to the world of friends and family who contributed their wartime ration tickets to purchase food for the wedding feast.

From the time they first drove John’s blue 1937 Chevy — storing wedding presents in the rumble seat — to Ann Arbor, where John would study naval architecture at the University of Michigan, the couple crisscrossed the nation. John spent five years in the Navy before beginning a 38-year career with Chevron and its subsidiaries.

Once their kids, Jim and Nancy, went off to college, John and Lori traveled the globe for John’s work — living in such places as the Bahamas, England, Scotland, Holland, and Saudi Arabia. Lori worked as a teacher who focused on kids with special needs.

The couple loved to entertain friends and professional colleagues — sometimes from the most elite circles. Once when the king and queen of Sweden were required to attend the birthday party for the king of Norway, Lori was asked to “christen” a ship, standing in for the Swedish queen as the ship’s godmother. “It was exciting to be queen for the day,” says Lori.

Nancy often joined her parents in their foreign assignments, working as a teacher of international students. Both she and her mom say they realized that to understand people, you have to live as they live. “Listening is not just with your ears, but with your heart,” says Nancy. “That’s the gift of living overseas.”

Lori becomes choked up when she thinks about how her Cal education served her and her husband throughout their lives. It’s why the couple spent time mentoring students, serving on boards, and giving so generously to scholarships and other programs across the campus over many years.

Lori says that in any situation — whether she was entertaining company officials on the East Coast or meeting important people overseas — she felt comfortable because of her Cal credentials. She says, “Cal gave me everything I needed in life to hold my head up, to be myself, and to be proud.”
Answer to “Famous Alum”

When Alice Waters ’67 opened the world-famous restaurant Chez Panisse in 1971, she never imagined that offering “real food” would help spark a revolution. A restaurant owner, activist, and author of several books, Waters is one of the most influential figures in the movement to eat fresh foods that are grown locally and sustainably. She has brought politicians and celebrities to the table to talk about healthy food. Her latest focus, the Edible Schoolyard Project, aims to get children into the garden and kitchen to change the way they eat, one student at a time. “After ten years, we’ve discovered that if children are involved in the growing and the cooking of the food, they eat it,” Waters told California magazine. “And it doesn’t matter what it is. It can be kale; it can be rutabaga.” To find more of Berkeley’s famous alumni, visit berkeleywalloffame.org.
pulled him to the Bay Area, where he owned his own studio in West Berkeley, teaching dance, gymnastics, performing arts, and improvisational theater.

“In my early 30s, I decided my life would be easier if I had health insurance and a steady income,” says Ralph.

Ralph realized that he loved to teach and went back to Cal for his master’s in education. He spent his career in the Oakland Unified School District, often teaching third graders, and also working at Cal as a supervisor for students in the Graduate School of Education.

When Jim and Ralph met through friends in 1984, Jim was recently divorced with two kids, ages two and six. The couple dated for three years before moving in together in a south Berkeley Craftsman and, when California law allowed, getting married.

“We first became hitched through a mortgage,” laughs Jim, sitting next to Ralph in their living room. “It was the bank that originally tied the knot!”

The two men are retired from their main careers, but busier than ever. Ralph still teaches at a charter school and spends time helping Jim with his second-career passion: restoring and selling houses.

“We are very good partners because we are very different,” says Ralph, who wants to know the details, sees everything that could go wrong, and nails down a plan, while Jim can’t wait to pull out the jackhammer. “Jim has the ability to walk into a house and see what it could be.”

A few years ago, Jim and Ralph spent 10 weeks traveling the world. They even returned to Lesotho and met some of Jim’s former students — several of whom are now teachers.

Both say they are pleased that the Berkeley scholarship is named in perpetuity for Ralph’s parents, Bob and Coley Elder, who have been married more than 66 years and live in Boston. Coming of age during the Depression, the Elders emphasized education and made sure each of their three kids went to college. In fact, all three have graduate degrees.

“It seemed a natural way to honor Bob and Coley, who truly value education,” says Jim.

Ralph and Jim say they also appreciate how the endowed gift will live on — providing scholarships to deserving students for generations to come.

Director’s Column

This summer, I was fortunate enough to take a vacation to Scandinavia, where I made it a priority to visit the Nobel Museum in Stockholm, Sweden, and Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, Norway. While I knew that Alfred Nobel created the Nobel Prize, I was not aware that he established it via a bequest.

After making a number of specific gifts, Mr. Nobel left the residuary of his estate — approximately $2.3 million — to create an endowment that became the Nobel Foundation. In his will, he directed four organizations to be responsible for granting the awards.

I learned that Mr. Nobel did not inform those organizations nor his relatives about his intent. After he died in 1896, it took five years to award the first prizes, as his executor had to negotiate with his relatives and the awarding institutions.

Lori Henderson and her husband, John, as well as Ralph Elder and his husband, Jim Bullock, all worked directly with the Office of Gift Planning to create planned gifts via charitable remainder trusts, charitable gift annuities, and bequests.

The foresight of these donors enables us to ensure that we can fulfill their wishes — without significant delay.

When donors create estate gifts directed to Cal without informing us, complications can arise. Did the donor intend to create a permanent endowment, as did Mr. Nobel? Did he mean to benefit graduate students or undergraduates when he used the term “scholarships”? Did she know that the minimum gift amount for naming funds changed between the time she created her gift and when we received it?

We strongly encourage you to talk with the friendly and knowledgeable experts on our staff. We want to work with you to ensure that Berkeley can comply with your wishes. And we want to make sure that it does not take five years for the students, faculty, and all of California to benefit from your generosity.

Fiat Lux!

Kevin T. Crilly, J.D.
Director, Office of Gift Planning
UC Berkeley
You can make a difference for generations to come.

Complete and return the information inside to discover the benefits waiting for you — including the potential for substantial tax relief and lifetime income — while providing for Cal’s future.

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Name(s) ____________________________

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