Continuing the Berkeley legacy:

Gifts that span generations to serve others

This issue of Cal Futures illustrates Berkeley’s enduring reach across time — through generations of families, including two whose career paths focused on public health and service to others.

**Kathleen Miller Ph.D. ’77**, the late daughter of Arlene Miller, came to Berkeley to earn a doctorate in immunology so she could help people suffering from neglected diseases. **Marilyn Barkin ’69, M.P.H. ’89** returned to Berkeley for an advanced degree so that she could be an advocate for patients. The planned gifts made by Arlene and Marilyn will assist eligible students in forging paths to serve the wider community. Another planned gift from the estates of two alumni who graduated more than 100 years ago was just received and is now benefitting student programs, both old and new.

For well over a century, alumni have honored their Berkeley education by giving back to the university through bequests and life income gifts. Our donors demonstrate the reach, potential, and flexibility of planned giving and the unwavering commitment of alumni to this university. These gifts will support students, faculty, and research for many years to come — handing off the Berkeley legacy to future generations.

Who is this Famous Alum? Answer inside!
Through her childhood, Kathleen Miller Ph.D. ’77 witnessed her extraordinary mother, Arlene, work hard to get an education and then devote her life to helping others through a career in social work. Kathy, in turn, dedicated her career to working on treatments for deadly diseases that affect the poor in developing countries. Mother and daughter inspired one another.

In the 1950s, it was unusual for the mother of a 10-year-old to head back to college. Arlene, a lifelong Milwaukee resident, took that leap, earning a bachelor’s degree in home economics. She taught junior high and high school home economics, putting in extra hours to help her students. However, she soon realized that many students needed more than domestic training to overcome significant challenges in their lives. Returning to college, Arlene got a master’s in social work from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.

As an inner-city social worker, Arlene was available day or night. The family was also involved in civil rights causes: Arlene and her husband were among 2,500 people in Milwaukee who took part in a 1965 civil rights march. They were taunted by onlookers and hit with bricks — including one that gave Arlene a head wound — but were determined to be there, even helping others in distress along the way.

“I was put on this earth not to do things for myself but to do things for other people,” says Arlene. It’s an attitude that rubbed off on Kathy.

Kathy, long interested in science, forged her own path to a career that would help improve the lives of others. She received a bachelor’s degree in microbiology from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, followed by a Ph.D. in immunology from Berkeley. While at Berkeley, she received the Chancellor’s Patent Fund Award for Graduate Student Research. She subsequently built a career focused on neglected diseases such as schistosomiasis, which affects 240 million people worldwide, primarily in poor communities.

Kathy soon had personal experience with just such a disease. In 1977, she skipped her Berkeley graduation ceremony for a four-month adventure across Africa, where she contracted malaria. Happily, she made a full recovery after returning to Milwaukee.

Her illness didn’t sway her from further world travel. She spent a few years as a parasitic immunologist at the National Institute for Health Research in London, then moved to Rio de Janeiro for an academic research post.

Work opportunities and a fondness for Berkeley brought her back to the Bay Area to work at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, where her research focused on malaria. Later she joined Chiron Corporation, where she tested pharmaceuticals for quality and effectiveness.

Kathy made important research breakthroughs and was hoping for a lifetime of meaningful contributions. That potential was cut short when she passed away suddenly in 1994 at age 44 from a genetic heart arrhythmia.

Her many friends and colleagues set up a memorial scholarship in her honor through the Association for Women in Science, where Kathy had served as a board member. The scholarship supports female community college undergraduates in the East Bay who are pursuing the sciences.

This was the spark that led Arlene to establish the Kathleen L. Miller, Ph.D., Endowed Fund in Biological Sciences. Each year the fund supports students in the Henry Wheeler Center for Emerging and Neglected Diseases, with an emphasis on encouraging young female scientists.

Arlene has made a number of outright gifts to the fund and has included a bequest in her trust to benefit the fund. In addition, she recently set up a charitable gift annuity that will benefit the fund. Arlene’s annuity provides her with income for the rest of her life. It also simplifies her finances by compiling multiple sources of income into one dependable income stream.

This year, two Kathleen L. Miller Fellows are receiving support for their microbiological studies of diseases that disproportionately strike poor populations globally, exactly the kind of work that Kathy was passionate about.

“Kathy’s dream was to make an impact on the treatment and eradication of deadly diseases in the developing world,” says Arlene. “I think she should get what she wanted, even if it has to be through the work of other young scientists.”
Alumna’s gift is powerful medicine

Heading to graduate school at Berkeley was a defining experience for Marilyn Barkin ’69, M.P.H. ’89. Initially, it was a frightening one. After all, two decades had passed since Marilyn’s first time on campus, when she earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology.

“I was scared to death to go back,” recalls Marilyn, who had spent the intervening years working as a registered nurse before concluding it was time to return to the classroom.

Marilyn’s fears about entering the master’s program at the School of Public Health quickly vanished, and today she credits Berkeley with transforming her life.

“It just opened up worlds of opportunity that I never would have had,” says Marilyn, whose position as a quality coordinator at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center in Oakland caps a fulfilling career in healthcare administration.

Marilyn is demonstrating her appreciation to Berkeley with a specially designed planned gift. Her charitable gift annuity addresses her needs as she approaches retirement and will, in the future, generously support the campus. She is receiving tax advantages and a steady flow of income over her lifetime.

“It’s a win-win,” she says. “I’m doing something that makes me feel wonderful, but I’m taking care of myself, too.”

Marilyn’s father owned an electrical repair shop on San Pablo Avenue in Berkeley and worked to provide a lovely home in Oakland’s Rockridge district for his family and a college education for his daughter.

Marilyn attended the old Anna Head School south of campus. In her senior year of high school, she spent hours writing term papers at nearby Caffe Med and dreamed of what it would be like to go to Cal. “I just couldn’t imagine going anywhere else,” she says.

Not surprisingly, she leaped to accept Berkeley’s offer of admission. While soaking in Berkeley’s academics, Marilyn faced the financial realities of needing to prepare for a career. One of the options open to women of her generation was nursing. Marilyn took anatomy, biology, and other science courses before transferring to UC San Francisco’s School of Nursing.

Leaving that program before graduating, she went to work in a private practice run by the late Dr. Morton Meyer, the chief of medicine at Berkeley’s Student Health Service and a strong advocate of patients’ rights.

Marilyn was especially drawn to cancer patients and their courageous battles. “What spoke to me was my relationships with patients,” says Marilyn, who worked part time while finishing her nursing degree at California State University, East Bay and her bachelor’s at Berkeley.

Over many years in nursing, Marilyn witnessed cancer patients struggle to pay mounting medical bills and navigate a complex treatment terrain. “You would see people with absolutely horrible bills. There was just a lack of support services.”

Ultimately, Marilyn decided she would have a more powerful influence by tackling the broader issues of healthcare financing, preventive care, and support services. That’s what brought her back to Berkeley.

In the M.P.H. program, Marilyn not only gained the knowledge and skills to embark on her second career, but also emerged with an expanded world view.

“It totally broadened my focus,” she says. “You don’t go to a program like Berkeley’s public health school without coming out a changed person at the end.”

With those changes came exciting job prospects. One of them was an offer to run an outpatient AIDS clinic at Alta Bates Hospital. Among Marilyn’s successes was winning the program’s first Ryan White federal grant, which paid for social services.

In 1995, Marilyn became director of the HIV Institute at Davies Medical Center in San Francisco, where she oversaw a busy department conducting multiple HIV/AIDS-related clinical trials. She also helped launch and then directed a program to address the needs of women in the surrounding community.

Continued on last page

Answer to “Famous Alum”

Julia Morgan, Class of 1894, was a trailblazing architect in California’s distinct Arts and Crafts style, best known for designing Hearst Castle. She studied civil engineering — before the architecture department existed — and became the first woman to earn a certificate from Paris’s prestigious École des Beaux-Arts. After returning to the Bay Area, she worked on Berkeley’s regal Hearst Memorial Mining Building and Greek Theatre, among other gems.

She then started her own firm and designed an estimated 700 buildings. This cemented her reputation as California’s first prominent female architect and one of the West Coast’s greatest designers of all time. Berkeley awarded her an honorary doctorate in 1929. “My buildings will be my legacy,” said Morgan. “They will speak for me long after I’m gone.” To find more of Berkeley’s famous alumni, visit berkeleywalloffame.org.

Cal Futures 3
A gift spanning three centuries

Thirteen years into the 21st century, new funds have just been given to Berkeley from the estate of an alumna who graduated in the 19th century.

Gertrude Henderson graduated from Berkeley in 1895 and her brother, Victor, graduated in 1900. Gertrude and two other sisters inherited Victor’s estate upon his death. As the eldest surviving sibling, Gertrude created a trust in 1951, the terms of which would benefit herself and one surviving sister for the remainder of their lives. After their deaths, the trust benefited Gertrude’s 10 surviving nieces and nephews. The trust stipulated that upon the death of the last niece or nephew, the remaining funds would benefit Berkeley.

Fittingly, Gertrude’s far-sighted estate plan is now aiding both an old program and a new one. The former is the university’s oldest existing society, the Order of the Golden Bear, which Victor co-founded. The Order still operates under its original charter “to bring people dedicated to the university together to discuss issues important to the institution.” The Henderson gift also benefits a noteworthy new program, Berkeley Connect, which pairs graduate-student mentors with undergraduate students. These programs, and the students who benefit from them, will help carry Berkeley’s legacy well into the future.

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Powerful medicine

In her current job, she concentrates on patient care — and ways to improve it — from a systems perspective.

For Marilyn, it all comes full circle back to Berkeley. “The thing I value so much was the education I got from Berkeley and the people I knew at Berkeley,” she says.

But Marilyn’s planned gifts — a gift annuity and bequest that will benefit the School of Public Health — are more than an expression of thanks. She also wants to fuel solutions to some of the serious issues facing health care. “If there’s hope to getting all these problems fixed, it’s from people coming out of places like Berkeley,” she says.

Arlene Miller says, “The thing I value so much was the education I got from Berkeley and the people I knew at Berkeley.” She also wants to fuel solutions to some of the serious issues facing health care. “If there’s hope to getting all these problems fixed, it’s from people coming out of places like Berkeley,” she says.

Director’s Column

At Berkeley, gift planning is not a “one size fits all” proposition. Working with individual donors, we create planned gifts that further their financial, estate-planning, and charitable-giving goals while supporting programs that have meaningfully impacted their lives.

Whether the life income gift is a charitable gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust, it can be structured to begin payments at the time that best fits the particular donor’s needs. Arlene Miller was looking to simplify a multi-asset income stream with a single quarterly fixed payment. For Marilyn Barkin, the fixed income stream was a desirable way to supplement her other retirement income. In both cases, the annuity payments started immediately.

For donors who are planning for their future retirement but like the idea of making a commitment to support Cal now, other gift plans are available. For instance, they can structure their income stream to begin at a particular time in the future, most commonly upon reaching a specified age. For other donors, a life income gift is an excellent choice to provide an income stream — immediately — to a family member or other loved one.

For more information about charitable giving as a component of estate planning, please contact us.

Fiat Lux!

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