Cal women forge their own paths
Alumnae honor ties that last a lifetime

Berkeley’s alumni community numbers in the hundreds of thousands, and each alum carries a Berkeley story out into the world. Individually vibrant, these stories strike a common chord around the ways that a Berkeley education continues to make a difference year after year.

This issue of Cal Futures shares the stories of Professor Ling-Lie Chau Ph.D. ’66 and Kathryn Conway ’61, two women looking back on the doors opened by their time at Berkeley — and giving back to make such opportunities possible for students today and tomorrow. Each woman challenged the boundaries of the time through hard work and a passion for intellectual exploration, paving the way for adventurous learners of all stripes.

As you reflect on how Berkeley has helped shape the person you’ve become, consider that the university offers a range of creative and flexible ways to help you meet your charitable and financial goals while supporting campus work that means the most to you. Planned gifts of all varieties enable you to create a legacy honoring your own Berkeley story, while making possible the student stories that are yet to come. 

Who is this Famous Alum?
Answer inside!
A life of passion for physics inspires giving

Professor Ling-Lie Chau (喬玲麗) Ph.D. ’66, whose motion through space and time has been ever-forward, graduated from Berkeley in 1966 with a Ph.D. in theoretical physics — amongst the earliest of Berkeley’s female graduates in that facet of the discipline.

Her story, her love of physics, and her path to Berkeley began early. In 1949, at the age of ten, she and her family were forced to flee Shanghai for Taiwan. In a fortunate turn, this brought her to the Tainan Girls’ High School in Taiwan, where similarly uprooted elite intellectuals taught many classes. Her attraction to physics was cultivated in the classroom of an outstanding science teacher: “I still remember my joy when I could understand centrifugal force!” She went on to earn her bachelor’s degree in physics in 1961 from National Taiwan University — and to gain admission as a graduate student at Berkeley.

“Berkeley’s physics department was at the top of the world,” says Professor Chau. In the midst of her time at Berkeley, the Free Speech Movement galvanized the campus. She was “an alert observer” during the crux of the Free Speech activities in 1964, and the movement further shaped her own spirit, fueling a career that would simply not acknowledge the possibility of boundaries.

As a first-year graduate student at Berkeley, she was awarded the IBM Fellowship — a pivotal moment in her education enabling her to live in International House and fully concentrate on her studies as she transitioned from life in Taiwan to Berkeley.

Her research at Berkeley evolved under the mentorship of Professor Geoffrey F. Chew. She and her cohort of 13 would gather weekly for a seminar with Professor Chew in the Lawrence Laboratory — a popular event attracting postdoctoral researchers and faculty alike, and whose meetings were eventually moved to the professor’s own home and hosted by he and his wife, Ruth. “Those meetings were so interesting and stimulating — not only discussing physics, but also anything under the sun,” recalls Professor Chau.

After completing her Ph.D., she was recruited in 1967 as a visiting research member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, one of the world’s leading centers for theoretical research and intellectual inquiry. Two years later, she was recruited by the Theory Group at Brookhaven National Laboratory in Long Island, New York, where she advanced to the position of senior physicist and was the Theory Group leader for several years during her 17-year career there. In both careers, she was the only female physicist among her colleagues. She was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society in 1984, recognized for “her contributions to a broad range of elementary particle physics theory including Regge phenomenology, weak decays, W production, and Yang-Mills Theory.”

Professor Chau was recruited to the faculty of UC Davis in 1986, becoming the first female professor in the physics department — and remaining its only female professor for eight years. She was recognized as “a Distinguished UC Davis Educator” by her students in 2004 with the Excellence in Education Award from the Associated Students of UC Davis. She retired in 2006 in order to concentrate on research — yet that hasn’t stopped her from continuing to mentor Ph.D. candidates.

Professor Chau’s deep appreciation for Berkeley and the opportunities that fueled her education spurred her to create a pivotal opportunity for students today. She established the Ling-Lie Chau Excellence Award in 2013 during The Campaign for Berkeley, supporting high-achieving first-year graduate students in physics. With student excellence taken as the first consideration, the award offers preference to female candidates. Professor Chau has also designated the remainder of her gift annuities plus her estate gifts to create the Ling-Lie Chau Fellowship Fund in Theoretical Physics. This fund will support Ph.D.-candidate graduate students at the Berkeley Center for Theoretical Physics, support specified for women until the theoretical physics faculty gender ratio has equalized. Professor Chau will plan to increase her donations to Berkeley as her good health and fortune continue.

Thanks to Professor Chau, talented, hard-working physics students now have new ways to set their own futures in motion. When students ask her advice, she says, “Find what you cannot live without. Don’t worry about what is hot or cold in the world — find and pursue what you love to do the most. Everything else will fall into place.”
Answer to “Famous Alum”

Jennifer M. Granholm ’84 recently completed two terms as Michigan’s first woman governor, leading the state through a brutal economic downturn resulting from a meltdown in the automotive and manufacturing sector. Granholm promoted public policies that helped diversify the state’s economy, helped to strengthen its auto industry, and added new sectors to its economic portfolio. After leaving office in 2011, she hosted Current TV’s political news analysis show “The War Room” and co-authored A Governor’s Story: The Fight for Jobs and America’s Economic Future. Granholm is now zeroing in on creating jobs in the clean energy sector. She is back at Berkeley as a distinguished practitioner of law and public policy at the Goldman School of Public Policy, and was recognized by the Cal Alumni Association in 2014 for Excellence in Achievement. Learn more about Berkeley’s famous alumni at berkeleywalloffame.org.

Kathryn Conway ’61 received a call from her dear friend, Joy Holmes Maguire, inviting her to join her 50th reunion committee, she reflected on how Berkeley had shaped her life. She had graduated with a degree in anthropology, forged lifelong friendships as a Kappa Alpha Theta sister, and thrived in a 30-year career in telecommunications. Looking back, Kathryn realized going to Berkeley “was probably one of the best decisions I ever made in my life — it was serendipity.”

A native of Hastings, Nebraska, Kathryn had two years at Stephens College under her belt when it came time to choose a university. Accepted at Berkeley and Stanford, she made her way to Cal and never looked back. She loved San Francisco, only a bridge away, and she loved Berkeley’s size: “The bigger, the better. I liked to be a fish in a big pond.”

She dove into coursework in anthropology and physics, worlds across the spectrum. She signed up for a physics course with renowned Hungarian-born physicist Edward Teller, and found her niche in a class of hundreds by meeting with Teller’s teaching assistants for an extra hour after every hour-long lecture. “I would go to his office and those TAs would give me everything they loved about physics. I soaked it up.”

Seeking the full college experience, Kathryn pledged Kappa Alpha Theta, where she became fast friends with two other junior pledges. The three of them would remain lifelong friends.

Approaching graduation, a sorority sister connected her with Pacific Telephone & Telegraph. After just a couple of years on a team of 500 San Francisco service representatives, senior management singled her out — noting physics and the debate team in her background — for a public relations position with the science group. It was the mid-1960s and President Kennedy had announced that America would go to the moon by the end of the decade. Kathryn recalls that conversation: “They said you’ll be working with engineers and delivering presentations on lasers, microwaves, space communications. I said OK. Never say no!”

Kathryn traveled around the Bay Area every day, a rare young woman in a company car, and truckers on the bridges took notice with their air horns. She spoke with science clubs and community groups, retired professors and high school seniors, crowds ranging from 30 into the hundreds. The country was fascinated with where technology was headed. After a 30-year career that she loved, she struck out on her own, working in finance and risk-management.

Then she received the reunion call. Kathryn joined her Class Council, and her Berkeley ties were reinforced. She believes in paying it forward: Kathryn made a gift to help establish The Class of 1961 Chair in Undergraduate Education, in conjunction with the Hewlett Challenge. Her class set a record for amount raised in a 50th reunion year, contributing $5.2 million from 523 donors to establish the class chair. Kathryn later created a charitable gift annuity to deepen her support.

“50 years after I graduated, I was able to understand what Berkeley had done — and was continuing to do — for me. You realize that in your association with Berkeley, doors have opened, personally and professionally, that might not have otherwise.” She adds, “I am so pleased to be a part of Berkeley. It just keeps making me happier.”

Caption

Kathryn Conway ’61, photographed at Stinson Beach in 1981, and shown with Kappa Alpha Theta sisters and fellow junior pledges Nancy Leach Muller (right) and Vicky McNamara Palmer (seated), circa 1990s. Photos, top and center: courtesy Kathryn Conway. Photo, bottom: Keegan Houser
Dr. Samuel King and Randall Roth, in their book Broken Trust, describe the Bishop Estate as a case where the beneficiaries did not receive what was intended. The estate was created in the late 1880s in the last will of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, great-granddaughter of King Kamehameha I, who united the Hawaiian Islands.

A portion of Pauahi’s will stated that her estate should create a trust devoting a portion of each year’s income to support and educate orphans and others in indigent circumstances. Five trustees were to ensure that Pauahi’s intent was carried out, but by the late 1990s there were serious questions as to whether the trustees were complying with their fiduciary duty to the trust. Eventually, through public pressure and Internal Revenue Service oversight, all five trustees resigned, the organization was restructured, and much more income was put to use to support the intended beneficiaries.

As I read, I contrasted the case of the Bishop Estate with all the ways in which the University of California, Berkeley Foundation (UCBF) manages the charitable gift annuities created by Charles M. Schwab. UCBF employs a team of professionals who are dedicated to ensuring that the charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts are managed in a way that maximizes the remainder gift that the campus ultimately will receive. Thinking of public oversight and trustee responsibility, I considered UCBF’s board — comprised of unpaid volunteers from varied professional backgrounds working within a strong committee infrastructure — and the charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts responsibly overseen by the board’s Finance & Administration Committee. And thinking of the ongoing work needed to maintain the highest levels of professionalism in gift administration, I reflected on the rigorous and extensive process Berkeley employed in selecting an institution — Kaspick & Company — to assume the gift administration, I reflected on the rigorous and extensive process Berkeley employed in selecting an institution — Kaspick & Company — to assume the ongoing investment management and administration of life income gifts.

If a charitable gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust fits within your philanthropic, financial, and estate planning goals, you can have an important impact on Berkeley’s world-class students and faculty. The Office of Gift Planning is here to help you make your beneficence a reality.

Fiat Lux!

Kevin T. Crilly, J.D.
Executive Director, Office of Gift Planning
UC Berkeley
How to contact the
Office of Gift Planning

call 510.642.6300 or 800.200.0575 (toll free)
email ogp@berkeley.edu
web planyourlegacy.berkeley.edu
facebook facebook.com/biwsociety

Please ☐ call me/us ☐ send information about:

Gifts the university can use today
☐ Cash/Securities/Mutual Funds
☐ Real Estate ($150,000 minimum)

Gifts that pay you income
☐ Cash/Securities/Mutual Funds ($20,000 minimum)
☐ Real Estate ($150,000 minimum)

Gifts that take effect at your passing
☐ Retirement Plans — IRA/401(k)/403(b)/other
☐ Bequests
☐ Brokerage Accounts
☐ Life Insurance
☐ Real Estate

☐ I/We have already included Cal in my/our estate plan.
☐ I am/We are not sure which gift plan would work best. Please contact me/us.

Name(s)

Best time of day to contact me/us: ____________________________ a.m./p.m.

( ) ( )
Home Phone Business Phone

Email
How will you make a difference?
Discover the benefits that await you when you help ensure Cal’s future for generations to come.
Complete and return the form on the reverse for more information.

University of California, Berkeley
Office of Gift Planning
University Relations
2080 Addison Street #4200
Berkeley, CA 94720-4200