Nemea
Berkeley’s Greek Revival
A Legacy of Excellence and Diversity

In early December 2003, UC President Emeritus Clark Kerr died at the age of 92. He was an icon in higher education, perhaps the most important figure in the field in the second half of the twentieth century. For us, he was the architect of The California Master Plan, created in the 1960s, the vision that created the best public university in the nation.

The cornerstones of that vision were excellence and diversity. A great university needed both, he believed — one without the other would not produce greatness. Berkeley, as the flagship of the UC system, has, in my opinion, gone further than any other major research university in the country in achieving that goal.

Excellence is measured in many ways, but by all national rankings, the graduate programs at Berkeley are at the top among major research universities. We offer 105 graduate programs — almost all are in the top ten and most are among the top five. We award the most doctorates in the country (930 per year is the current pace) — representing a veritable smorgasbord of intellectual activity, but more importantly, according to the National Research Council, we have more top-ranked doctoral programs than any other university anywhere in the world.

Diversity takes many forms, and can be subtle. But as you walk down Sproul Plaza, you see faces of many hues — none of them making up a majority. Today, no single ethnic or racial group comprises more than 30 some percent of the entire student body.

The undergraduate population is diverse in a different way than the graduate student body. The most gifted high school students in California, from all backgrounds, compete to come to Berkeley. These are incredibly smart and hard-working students — and 60 percent of them have at least one parent who was not born in this country.

Graduate students have a far wider geographical base. They are superbly talented students from all over the country and the world. The great majority are not Californians; about 30 percent are minority students and another 20 percent are international students.

This diversity in our student population is critical to the excellence of our university because it provides the best possible learning environment: critical thinking honed by different perspectives. If all students came from the same cultural and intellectual background there would be few ideas to exchange.

Both excellence and diversity are facing severe challenges, right now and in what we can see of the future. Our efforts to preserve them will shape the university for generations to come.

These are difficult economic times for our society and unusually stringent budget times for the university. In order not to lose the greatness that Berkeley has achieved, we must all rise to the challenge and work harder. In particular, it is vital that we retain our stellar faculty and we still must recruit the best, brightest, and most diverse graduate students in the world.

Friends of the university are stepping up to help support this mission. We recently received a major bequest for graduate student support from a loyal and generous alumnus, William V. Power. We are using it to provide a competitive edge in attracting the best graduate students. Our surveys have shown that one factor, a small difference in stipend, can make the difference as to whether a student chooses Berkeley over another university. The Power Award will allow all departments to make that difference.

Finally, we must remember Clark Kerr’s vision — a great university is built on a foundation of both excellence and diversity.

Mary Ann Mason
Dean of the Graduate Division
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By the Power Vested
An unpretentious alum's gift to graduate students

William V. Power, Class of 1930, donated $25 to the university not long after he graduated. In August 2003, he capped a lifetime of giving with a $46.5 million bequest — one of the largest gifts in Berkeley's history.

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William V. Power

Power asked only that his gift be applied toward the university's most pressing needs, designating $5 million to establish a new endowment for graduate student awards. An additional $1 million from the Power estate will provide matching gifts to encourage others to donate funds for fellowships and other support.

Last fall, 118 Berkeley students representing more than 100 graduate programs — from African American Studies to Vision Science — received a Power Award, a $2,000 supplement to basic fellowship offers for entering students. For some, the award was a key factor in accepting Berkeley's offer of admission.

“It makes a huge difference as an incoming graduate student to have this additional financial assistance,” says Katherine Lewis, a student in education. Lewis came to Berkeley to research the difficulties students experience when learning algebra, in hopes of identifying and correcting learning problems, increasingly important with the introduction of high school exit exams that include algebraic competencies, notes Lewis. “The Power Award has helped make this pursuit possible.”

Born and raised in San Francisco, Bill Power had a deep respect for education and was determined to go to college. A motivated child, he began earning money at age seven as a caddy. His classmates at Berkeley, Bob Bridges and Hubert “Denny” Eller, knew him to be a hard-working student, fine baseball player, and very persuasive fellow.

After graduation, Power started an insurance company with classmate Jim Dalziel. It was the Depression, without doubt a most challenging time to start a new business, but “Bill convinced us that now was the time you need insurance,” recalls Bridges, laughing. In the following years, Power would build the company into one of the most successful brokerages on the West Coast, merging with Marsh & McLennan, the largest insurance brokerage in the world, in the 1970's.

After he “retired,” Power continued working to raise millions for various charities and the university. When the Class of 1930 endowed a chair for its 50th anniversary, Power was the lead donor on the project. Later, he gave funds to create the William V. Power Distinguished Professorship in Bio-science and left his Portola Valley home to the university.

Power's philanthropy will provide support for Berkeley graduate students, faculty, and research for many years to come through the William Power Faculty Excellence Fund, the Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute, and the Graduate Division.

William V. Power died on August 17, 2003, at the age of 94.

Don McQuade, Vice Chancellor for University Relations, says, “Bill Power's life and magnificent generosity exemplify how the opportunity that a Cal education creates for one student can come full circle and create life-changing opportunities for others.” — Lisa Harrington

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Opening the ‘Gateway’ to Talented Grad Students

By Cathy Cockrell

Getting accepted to a selective Berkeley graduate program is only one hurdle for many first-rate students here and abroad. The next big question is how to fund their education, especially in light of rising fees.

Talented candidates from around the world now have an improved shot at a Berkeley education with the advent of the Gateway Fellowship Program, a creative partnership between the university, the Graduate Division, and International House. The Gateway Fellowship includes campus funding for two years of doctoral level work, room and board at the International House, and a stipend from the Graduate Division. The campus has pledged to provide its share of as many as 25 of these matching scholarships each year; I-House is currently fundraising to match the offer, as part of its 75th-anniversary campaign.

In 2003–2004, five first-year doctoral students from the U.S. and four international students received Gateway Fellowships. The I-House board’s long-term goal is to fund room and board for 25 Gateway fellows each year from the interest generated in perpetuity by 25 named endowments of $250,000, or combined contributions in smaller amounts to support the program.

The campaign got off to a resounding start with a half-million-dollar pledge from Cal alumnus Manuel Cabello and his family. Their gift is in memory of his younger brother Winston Dwight Cabello, a Chilean economist who was killed following the 1973 coup against President Salvador Allende led by Augusto Pinochet. Winston was a 28-year-old regional planning official in northern Chile who worked for the coalition Popular Unity government at the time of the coup. He was arrested the day after the coup and killed five weeks later, along with 12 other civilian prisoners. The junta allowed “big names” to leave the country, explains Manuel Cabello, director of an Oakland-based international student-exchange program. But they set out to kill “middle-level people” who could potentially lead resistance efforts.

After Winston’s body was exhumed from a common grave in 1991, the Cabello family was eventually able to bring civil charges against his murderer in a U.S. court. In October 2003, a Florida jury found former army officer Armondo Fernandez Larios liable for torture, crimes against humanity, and extra-judicial killing in Winston’s case. It was the first time a Pinochet government figure has been tried in the United States for human-rights abuses in Chile, and the first jury verdict in the U.S. for crimes against humanity. The jury awarded the family $4 million in damages — though, according to Manuel, they are unlikely to ever collect.

The Cabello family has deep ties to Cal. Manuel and his wife Dana (both of them Cal students at the time of the coup), and sisters Zita and Karin all earned degrees at Berkeley, as did three nieces and nephews. Niece Dania Cabello is currently a Cal varsity soccer player.

Manuel praises I-House as “a nurturing place and a symbol of internationalism.” The Gateway Fellowship, he says, is “a great opportunity” to stretch his family’s contribution to I-House through the matching agreement with the university. The Cabello family also hopes to identify individuals in Chile and elsewhere who will contribute to the endowment in Winston’s memory. They are working to establish a board of scientists and academics in Chile to help identify promising Chilean scholars and guide them in applying for the Winston Cabello International House Fellowship at Berkeley. Additional information can be found on the Web (http://www.WinstonCabello.org).

Cathy Cockrell is a writer for the Public Affairs Office at Berkeley.
When Shilpi Gupta didn’t receive an honorable mention at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival awards ceremony, she was disappointed. But moments later, the first-time filmmaker found herself on stage, behind the podium. Never mind an honorable mention — she’d won the Jury Prize. Gupta’s 24-minute documentary, “When the Storm Came,” tied for top honors in the short filmmaking category, besting 82 films.

“I was so adamant that a documentary wouldn’t win,” the 26-year-old said a few days later at a cafe near her Berkeley home. “I never expected even to be at Sundance, much less to win.”

Gupta’s passion for filmmaking is relatively new. The Brown University graduate didn’t spend countless hours playing with her parent’s video camera as a kid; she didn’t even pick it up. It wasn’t until she enrolled in a photography class at age 15 that she thought at all about the kind of stories she could tell through a lens. Eight years later, Gupta began classes in the documentary program at Berkeley’s Graduate School of Journalism, having nixed law school at the last minute.

Gupta’s parents emigrated from India before she was born, but the Long Island, N.Y., native spent six weeks there every summer as a child. Still, she doesn’t speak Hindi, and she never set out to do her masters’ project in India. In fact, she was so wary about being typecast as an Indian American filmmaker that she hesitated when she tripped across the idea for “When the Storm Came” during a trip to India in 2002. She’d won a Berkeley Human Rights Center fellowship to document the ways in which women and children suffer in regions of conflict. Tensions between India and Pakistan over control of Kashmir had been mounting for decades and paramilitary groups were growing increasingly visible along the border. Within a few days of her arrival in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir, she caught wind of a mass rape that had occurred more than a decade earlier in Kunnan Pushpora, a tiny village at the foothill of the Himalayas.

“They were known as the rape village,” she recalls. “It was the most talked-about story in the valley.” And although numerous local social service agencies had promised, at the time, to help the village heal, none had. An estimated 36 women had been raped in one night, purportedly by Indian Security Force officers in search of militants. Finding none, villagers say, the officers dragged the men out of the houses and raped the women. Gupta spent a day in Kunnan Pushpora and promised to return.

Four months later, she arrived with her three-person crew — classmate Turaya Bryant, a translator, and a driver — and stayed in a hut with a family of nine. For two weeks they slept on thin mattresses on the mud floor and didn’t bathe for a week. The single lightbulb in the small room where some interviews took place was so weak that a gas lantern and flashlight were needed to film the shots. The experience, she says, was amazing. The women performed the hard work in the village, trekking through the surrounding hills to the
jungle, climbing trees and cutting wood. Gupta and Bryant went with them, struggling to keep up. Gupta says she was amazed by both their mental and physical strength.

“These were mostly women who were 30 years older than us, but we were dying. I was trying to run in front of them and shoot, but it was hard,” Gupta says. Her relationship with her host family proved the most fascinating part of her journey, even in moments of trepidation — like the time when an aunt from a more militant region of Kashmir paid a visit. When Gupta asked her translator what the family was talking about, he turned to her and said: “The aunt asked if you are from the same America as Osama bin Laden did his great act in.” Gupta often told people outside the village she was Canadian.

Gupta felt the stigma of being an American — ironic because the film itself is largely about the stigma of that one brutal night. “The whole world heard that scream,” says a man whose wife and daughters were raped. In a culture where arranged marriage is the norm, finding a husband for a rape victim is nearly impossible. Many women who married outside the village return, unable to tolerate their taunting in-laws. Even young boys, not yet born in 1991, struggle to maintain their dignity beyond Kunnan Pushpora.

Sundance’s Mike Plante, one of three short-film programmers who watched 3,500 entries in order to whittle the number to 83, described Gupta’s film as “one of those things you are looking for, and it is finally there.”

“For somebody in film school in America to be doing something like this is pretty amazing,” he says. “Her documentary was about one of the forgotten subjects, and she knew how to present it. You could see she had a deep respect for the people.”

Jon Else, head of the documentary program at the Graduate School of Journalism at Berkeley, calls “When the Storm Came” an astonishingly important film.

“It’s important because those villages in Kashmir and those women have long ago fallen off the international radar, and certainly the radar in America,” says Else, who works with about 10 students a year on their documentary masters’ projects. “Shilpi’s great accomplishment is that when no one else would, she got herself to that village and told their story.”

Gupta’s film has also been awarded the silver prize in the student Academy Awards and the second prize in the student Emmy Awards. But she isn’t finished yet. Gupta admits that at Sundance, with thousands of strangers bearing witness to the intimate details of the Kashmiri subjects’ lives, she felt a bit like she was exploiting them. Although she completed the film over two years ago, no one in Kunnan Pushpora has seen it.

There are no televisions in the village. Gupta is applying for grants so she can go back and share the film with the residents, perhaps even document her subjects’ reactions to it and expand it into a feature-length film. Funding is hard to come by — Gupta estimates she’s spent about $10,000 out of pocket to produce the film. If she’s lucky, it will be picked up for national broadcast and pad her pockets for her next venture. If she returns to Sundance, Gupta will no doubt get slightly different treatment.

During her 10-day stint at Sundance she got a lesson in humility whenever she entered the filmmakers’ lodge. “Nobody believed I was a director,” she says with a laugh. “People kept asking,

‘Are you a volunteer or an actress? What film are you in?’”

“Getting into Sundance has been my dream since I made this film,” says Gupta. “And now my goal is to get back there again before I’m 30.”

Lauren Gard received her MJ from UC Berkeley’s Graduate School of Journalism in May 2004. Her article originally appeared in The San Francisco Chronicle.
If talking to plants helps them survive, then maybe, similarly, a kind word or two every few centuries helped the remaining three columns of the Temple of Zeus at Nemea stand their watch without toppling. They’ve been there, tall and lonely — visited rarely, but complimented on their grandeur by those who stared at them — essentially by themselves for more than 1,550 years.

That takes us back to roughly 435 A.D., when a faction of humans, for Byzantine reasons of their own, systematically knocked down the temple’s 31 other columns. Together, they had stood for some 770 years, ever since the Parthenon-like structure was completed, 330 or so years before the Christian era began.

The three still-standing columns have defied gravity and earthquakes for more than 2,500 years. How they did that, in a seismically volatile region, is worth study for Californians, similarly beset.

And study they are receiving, by UC Berkeley faculty and graduate students, as they have for the last 30 years. At the same hands, they have gained companions: two nearby columns, reassembled, reach once again for the sky.

The temple has been the landmark, but is only part of a 40-acre archaeological dig in the Nemean Valley on the Greek Peloponnesus, off the beaten path. In ancient times Nemea was one of the four major sites of the original Olympic Games. In those days, as now, the location migrated — but then, the venues were limited to Olympia, Delphi, Isthmia, and Nemea. Olympia set the four-year interval used today. Nemea was twice as active, an athletic fairground for Greeks from everywhere, who would come every two years and, literally and figuratively, drop their money — and their bowls and drinking vessels, which would break. They wrote on walls. Like their thunder-lizard predecessors millions of years before, they even left tracks in mud.

Vast quantities of these forgotten traces — garbage at the time — have been found, mainly by graduate students and hired Greek workers, and elevated to the status of artifacts, from which a great deal can be learned about ancient Greek political unity and the daily life of people at the time.

In summer of 2004, another Berkeley crew was in Greece, celebrating the 30th digging season at Nemea and helping re-create the ancient Nemean Games just weeks before the modern Summer Olympic games returned, in Athens, to the land of their birth.

How this campus got into the business of digging trenches an ocean and nine time zones away is a matter of some planning and a goodly measure of luck.

In 1937, the Ph.D. program in Classical archaeology was instituted at Berkeley. Over the next 30 years, it became clear that our eastern competitors had a decided advantage: established, even famous, sites where students could learn the basics of archaeology in the field.
Eventually, Berkeley’s bright minds came up with a countervailing force: Nemea, a nearly virginal place mentioned frequently in Classical history, where students could have a guaranteed opportunity for hands-on excavation experience with excellent prospects for finding and/or analyzing “new” artifacts, even buildings, for theses and dissertations.

The campus administration bought in, a proposal went to the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, the umbrella under which all American archaeological research takes place on Greek soil, and Berkeley was given the next available permit to excavate at Nemea.

But before the project could break ground, it needed someone to run it.

This is where Stephen G. Miller enters the picture. Miller, whose Ph.D. is from Princeton and who had studied, as it happens, at the aforementioned American School in Athens, was looking for a project and a job. He found that and more: a career and a reputation, with an extended family — colleagues, students, alumni, benefactors, Greeks in Greece and Greeks in America, and tourists — to whom Nemea initially seemed mildly interesting and morphed into a lifelong cause.

Miller signed on in the early 1970s as a Berkeley faculty member in Classics and as director of the Nemea excavation.

Meanwhile, Albert Bowker, Berkeley’s chancellor at the time, facing the twin horsemen of Reality and Necessity head on, was about to change the funding landscape at Berkeley forever.

By 1973, it had become clear that public backing for higher education had eroded. Clark Kerr had been fired in 1968, his nemesis Ronald Reagan was then in his second term as Governor, and the UC budget had become a much-played political football. The University’s period of expansion was over. A new phrase crept into the popular wisdom: the University was changing its status from publicly supported, as it had been from its founding, to “publicly assisted.”

To Bowker, that meant finding replacement money for cuts in UC’s state allocation, so that the campus could maintain its excellence. If less from the public, then more from the private: corporations, foundations, and individuals.

He transformed a small gifts and endowments operation into a central development office and invited alumni to play a larger and more consistent role in keeping and enhancing the strengths of the campus.

He needed, at that point, projects that A) couldn’t be funded with state money, and B) had the kind of pizzazz and romance that would be attractive to donors.

Bowker thought Nemea might fit these new requirements. With an untried project director and an official blessing, Nemea was launched into the future to test its magnetism.

Fortunately, people were drawn by its pull, some to go there and work, some to visit, some to donate. Nemea helped get Berkeley’s fundraising ball rolling, though it has never been a record-breaker. Every year has been a scramble to make ends meet. Since the first digging season in 1974, Steve Miller, students, and faculty from Berkeley and other institutions have been on site for at least four months of every year, pulling ancient Nemea out of the ground.

Once the trove of unearthed treasures and trash, all requiring cataloguing, had grown noticeable, it was clear that the project would quickly outgrow its rented space in part of a grape warehouse. What was needed was a building designed to be a work area, storage zone, and museum. And an angel.

Like an answered prayer, the angel appeared, in the form of Rudolph A. Peterson, Berkeley Class of 1925, and former chairman of the Bank of America. For years a benefactor of the campus, he indicated his intent to give a good-sized amount to a then-unspecified program. Chancellor Bowker offered a menu of five choice alternatives, and Peterson opted, in 1974, for Nemea. The periodic international peace that prevailed during its ancient games appealed to him and coincided with his wishes for the modern world.

By 1984, the museum was planned, constructed, and in operation. Peterson remained a steadfast supporter of the museum annually until his death at 98 last December, and to keep the project going he planted the seeds of an endowment.
That first digging season brought word on the excavation’s antiquated crank-style telephone that a group of UC alumni were on their way to Nemea as part of a tour. Steve Miller made sure that the Greek and American flags were flying over the site. The group, disconcerted by anti-American feeling elsewhere, felt welcome in Greece, and let loose cheers and tears at the sight of the flag. Before leaving, one member of the tour quietly handed Miller a $1,000 check for the excavation fund. He was Thomas J. Long ’32, who in 1938, with his brother Joe, opened the first store in what became a chain known as Longs Drugs.

Tom Long, in that same low-key way, became over the years Nemea’s largest single supporter. He died in 1993, but his legacy continues to support the project through the Thomas J. Long Foundation.

To date, Nemea has attracted a total of more than $4 million through foundations and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

What has been found: stadium, track, the ancient world’s first-found “locker room,” a tunnel, a “hotel,” a hero shrine, coins, iron spits for roasting meat, bronze swords, daggers, arrowheads, helmets, inscriptions, graffiti, terra-cotta lamps, pots, jars, pitchers, ladles, reservoirs, baths, houses, altars, shrines, structures from prehistoric, pre-Hellenistic, Hellenistic, Christian, Byzantine, and other eras, and a hippodrome (for horse and chariot races), the first ever discovered in an ancient Greek site.

Reassembling the companion columns to the lonesome sentinels that stood watch for so long was not only used, but not with much success in Greece, because they tip so easily, what with frequent earthquakes and invading armies. A major alternative, used in Nemea, Athens, and elsewhere, was to make the columns in sections, or drums. The stacked-drum method turns out to be structurally more able to flex, to absorb shock, and therefore to withstand earthquakes violent even by California standards. The inspiration for this innovation? Possibly the piled vertebrae of the human spine. (Linguistic evidence: the Greek word for column drum is spondylos, which is also the word for vertebra.)

“As has been the case so often at Nemea,” says Steve Miller, “we had to invent as we went along, to solve problems, only to find that the ancient Greeks had been there before us, facing the same obstacles, and overcoming them with equal or better resourcefulness.” — Steve Miller

Each other had worn or crumbled and become unstable. We devised a paste of the same minerals that compose the stones and spread it like frosting to build up the surface, and that worked well. Later, in excavating and examining other drums, we found traces of very similar material that clearly performed the same function 2,400 years earlier.”

The analyst and consultant for putting the columns back together was Nicos Makris, a professor of civil engineering at Berkeley. As Nemea enters a new phase, Makris will become the director of reconstruction, the first major stage of which will be rebuilding the Temple of Zeus.

In December, after delivering his last annual report on campus to the Friends of Nemea, Steve Miller retired as project director, devoting himself to guiding and contributing to future Nemea publications. An overall director of the Nemea excavations to succeed Miller has yet to be chosen.

Back in Greece, the third Nemean, a modern re-enactment of the ancient rituals, open to all skill levels, took place on July 31, 2004, complete with competitors in bare feet and olive-oiled bodies — but clothed in tunics; no one has competed, so far, in the nude, as was the norm in the ancient games. More than 700 participants took part, representing 34 countries and ranging in age from 8 to 97. Competitors changed clothes (in a tent) at the site of the ancient “locker room,” then entered the stadium through the restored tunnel, exactly as their predecessors did in the fourth century B.C. A wealth of other information is available on the project’s website (http://www.nemea.org).
Being There

Three decades of Nemea through the eyes of its grad students


I enjoy the feeling of discovery, of seeing objects that haven't been seen for a couple of thousand years. Wherever I end up after my Ph.D., I'd like to keep fieldwork as part of my career. Nemea has also given me the topic of my dissertation, which is on the hero shrine that I helped excavate.

James Clauss (at Nemea in 1978) received his Ph.D. in 1983 and is a professor of Classics at the University of Washington, and also a self-confessed “docustar” via a Discovery Channel program and BBC documentaries.

Before going, I did not realize that much of what we were going to do would require me to take almost complete charge of a trench, for which I had no experience. This concerned me considerably, especially given the fact that Steve would casually say that we could destroy history completely and forever if we weren't careful. What I found by the end of the dig was the courage that comes from necessity.

Randall Colaizzi (at Nemea in 1983) earned an M.A. in 1979 and a Ph.D. in 1986 and is a senior lecturer in Classical studies at Wellesley College.

I had planned to go, at the end of my stay, to Italy, my real interest (or so I thought). But by the end of the dig that summer, I didn't want to leave Greece. Living in that landscape overwhelmed me. This was 1983: there were no cell phones or computers there, no ATMs. All day long the cicadas shrill pulsing rose up and down in the heat. It was the most vivid three months of my life.

Rebecca Karberg (at Nemea in 2001) is working toward her Ph.D.

When we laid out our pottery, which had been washed, that's when the research part of the day began. In the field, while digging was going on, we recorded finds, took levels of various layers, updated plans, and made notes on anything of interest in the trench. Our time in the museum was devoted to looking up and confirming (or refuting, as they case may have been) hunches that we had about things earlier in the day. Museum work ended late in the afternoon, and then it was back to the house for a shower.

My trench, much to everyone's surprise, turned up two starting-line blocks. These blocks, laid side-by-side in a layer of flat, well-packed clay, marked the start of a practice track, where the athletes could train before the races of the actual games. We found the blocks after days and days of digging sand and gravel finding almost nothing, not even pottery — which only added to the excitement and unexpectedness of it all.

Jeannie Marchand (at Nemea in 1990) received an M.A. in 1990 and a Ph.D in 2002. She spends every summer in Greece and works at two nearby sites.

The work routine: We got up early, had a quick coffee, and hopped in the truck to be up at the stadium by 7. We then spent all day there excavating, until around 3:30, with a break for lunch, eaten on site. It was very hot by around 10 in the morning, and very dry. I spent most of the time writing in the notebook and talking to the workmen, trying to learn Greek and trying to learn archaeology from them. They were great about explaining what they were doing. After the day's digging, we went back to the dig house and had some down...
time. In the late afternoon, we had a few hours in the museum.

Professionally, it gave me a sense of a relationship to Greece which made me decide to continue for the Ph.D. It also led indirectly to my dissertation at the nearby and related Kleonai, where I now conduct excavations of my own along with a colleague.

Sarah Stroup (at Nemea in 1994 and 1997) received an M.A. in 1994 and a Ph.D. in 2000 and is now an assistant professor of Classics at the University of Washington and a co-director (with Andrew Stewart, a history of art professor at Berkeley, and Ilan Sharon, of Hebrew University, Jerusalem) of the ongoing excavations at Tel Dor, Israel, "a direct relationship to Greece which made me decide to continue for the Ph.D. It also led indirectly to my dissertation at the nearby and related Kleonai, where I now conduct excavations of my own along with a colleague.

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In 1994 I worked with another graduate student in excavating the remaining areas of the tunnel that led from the ancient apodyterion ("un-dressing room") into the ancient stadium. We also learned how to plot, measure, and record (draw!) the architectural details at the far end of the stadium, and I worked on the numismatics collection at Nemea. In 1997 I led a team excavating the area south of the bath house.

My work at Nemea changed me as both a person and a scholar. There is really nothing like it to be had in the "regular" structure of on-campus grad student work or grad/faculty interaction. I truly believe that even the most highly "textual" of literary scholars is made better — more interesting, more critical, and sharply analytical — by a bit of time in the dirt.

Athena Trakadas (at Nemea as an undergraduate research apprentice in 1997 and as a graduate student in 2000) received a B.A. from Berkeley in 1997 and graduate degrees (one complete, one in progress, from institutions in Texas and Denmark, respectively). She has directed a coastal archaeological survey of Morocco for three years, examining remains of early shipwrecks and anchorages.

I knew that excavating includes long, hot days surrounded by dirt and numerous pottery shards, but at Nemea, I got to experience more readily the entire archaeological field process. Nemea is a small site, with only several graduate students every summer, and about 40 local workmen. In the field, you're not only involved in part of the digging, but are directing what happens in your own trench: you're responsible for deciding what will be dug when and how (and when to ask Professor Miller for help), mapping your trench, keeping your daily trench notebook, doing pottery readings, artifact conservation, and writing up artifact descriptions. Because this process is directed by you, you have a much clearer idea not only of the archaeological processes of the site, but also the chronology of your trench in particular and how it relates to other trenches, past and present, on the site.

Favorite Memories

The astonishing ability of many of the workers, some of whom had been employed at Nemea for a decade at that point. They often taught the grad students what to look for. The most important thing in archaeology is stratigraphy, recognizing where one layer of earth begins and another ends. Layers mean a change of time or substance. Recognizing the color and consistency of the soil, and then describing it accurately, is therefore crucial. But the same soil may look different when dry or wet; on a sunny or a cloudy day; in the morning or in the afternoon. Some workers (and Steve Miller) could tell you exactly when the soil was changing, and often the changes were in three dimensions, not just flat layers but shapes of one color barely discernible in another. This could show, for example, an organic object that had disappeared.

A rainstorm breaking suddenly one afternoon late in the season, being caught out by my trench, and huddling under the umbrella that served as my sunshade with about six of the workmen, who put me at the center so that I would get least wet.

The very first day I was in Nemea, which is so rural you could still see people using donkeys, I went out alone in the afternoon for a walk; no one was out, because it was still hot. I was walking down the only main road in town when an old man came out of his house, and without saying a word he went over to his rose bushes, pulled off handfuls of rose petals, walked over to me, and sprinkled them all over my head without making a sound or even really smiling. Then he turned and went back into his house. That was my introduction to Nemea. Working there changed my life, since I met my husband — who is from Archaia Nemea — while digging in the stadium.

Tree frogs in the shower. You'd hardly notice them at all until you turned the thing on after a dusty day of digging and they'd start greeting you with a happy little chorus — a huge highlight, almost as good as finding that big gold coin. A pit viper in the courtyard. A large earthquake in the middle of the night. The very voice of heaven in the silence of a Nemea valley sunset.

Sarah Stroup

I remember hanging upside down in a well we were excavating, examining architectural fragments that were buried in mud and several feet of water.

Athena Trakadas

Mycenaen vases found at the site.
Q: All of the Berkeley chancellors since the Nemea excavations began — Albert Bowker, Ira Michael Heyman, Chang-Lin Tien, and yourself — have been to the site. As the most recent visitor, what was your reaction?

A: I am a historian, so nitty-gritty, down-to-earth, get-your-hands-dirty research is something that fascinates me. Literally being in touch with the past is one of the things that is most fun about being a historian.

So it was fascinating to me to be at Nemea, trying to imagine what this space was like in the ancient world — without the many documents and archival records that help us piece together so much of modern history. Some of what has been excavated there is truly fascinating. It's literally uncovering history. What Steve Miller has created there is a spectacular, visible presence of the University of California, Berkeley, in Greece, commanding the respect, encouragement, and support of Greek authorities, and providing a wonderful opportunity for students to learn the art of archaeological excavation.

Q: Like Chancellor Tien in the first modern revival of the Nemean Games and traditions, you participated in the second Nemean in the summer of 2000 — in a footrace.

A: It was fun to get out there and run, literally in bare feet, although I felt a little self-conscious because I'm not a runner. Just not finishing at the tail end of the pack was a source of great satisfaction. That, and not pulling a muscle.

Q: Competitors change in the apodyterion — literally “undressing room,” because the ancient athletes competed in the nude — and then enter the stadium through a 120-foot vaulted-arch tunnel. What was that like?

A: Going through that tunnel that was one of the most stunning aspects of the visit. As you go through and see graffiti that were scratched on those walls by the athletes of that ancient time, there's a very intimate sense of being in touch with history. Just realizing that so many centuries ago, people entered that same stadium, through that same tunnel, onto that same track — people very much like us, with all the hopes and aspirations, ambitions, conflicts, and fears, that help define us as humans today — I found it quite moving.

Q: Where do you see Nemea and its worth in the context of education in the modern world?

A: I think the fact that Chancellor Bowker recognized the importance of this, and helped highlight it initially, and that subsequent chancellors have done so as well, is important. Overall, as a society and culture, we invest a very small portion of our resources in the arts and the humanities, and to understanding historical places and historical times. Everyone who goes to Nemea, I believe, comes away with an appreciation of how important this project is, not just for the University, but as something for Greece as well. It's a project that has been a singular passion of Steve Miller's, and wouldn't have happened without his vision, leadership, and perseverance. And it wouldn't have happened if it hadn't been for some really generous benefactors, like Rudy Peterson, who saw its importance, cared about it, and put resources into it.

Nemea isn't flashy. It isn't economic development or high-tech, it isn't the new, new thing — it's the old, old thing. So it doesn't immediately capture the world of the venture capitalist. But it certainly captures the affection of anybody who goes there. If you go to Greece, you can't escape a sense — as in Athens, where the Socratic dialogues were held, where Socrates was tried, the place of Plato and Aristotle — that this is the fountainhead of western civilization, in fundamental ways.

These days, people tend to think of universities just in terms of their contributions to economic development. It seems to me that it's important for us to maintain our commitment to human development as well as economic development, and Berkeley has done that, by continuing to be so strong. One of our faculty once said that you can judge the quality of a university by the quality of its humanities departments.

And that's because most universities are committed to building strong science programs, which are extremely important, but only great universities are committed to building strength in the humanities and the social sciences.

Nemea is a representation of the strength we have in Classics, in archaeology, in history, in engineering, and more, and in that sense it is a physical manifestation of Berkeley's determination to continue to be strong across the board.
Local Hero
Carmen Foghorn looks for the best in people, and often finds it.

By Lisa Harrington

Last fall, in celebration of American Indian Heritage Month, KQED Public Broadcasting in San Francisco honored four local heroes, including Carmen Foghorn, coordinator of the American Indian Graduate Program (AIGP) at Berkeley. Her fellow honorees were Lisa Carrier and Quirina Luna-Costillas, of the Mutsun Language Foundation, and Martin Waukazoo, of the Native American Health Center.

In its tribute, KQED noted: “Foghorn devotes a majority of her time supporting, encouraging, and connecting Native American students throughout their graduate school experience at Berkeley. Many of her students have never been away from the reservation and need help making the transition; others seek assistance with housing, financial aid, or finding other Indians on campus. Whenever possible, Foghorn goes above and beyond the call of duty to assist Native American students.”

This fall, Carmen Foghorn will receive one of the university’s highest honors, the Chancellor’s Outstanding Staff Award.

“Carmen has a wealth of knowledge, spirit and energy,” says Carla Trujillo, director of the Graduate Diversity Program. “She works tirelessly to advance the AIGP program and assists students in unique and innovative ways. Carmen also works to assist American Indians at the local level by doing everything from giving dinners, conducting toy and clothing drives, participating in powwows, and so much more.”

Off campus, Foghorn serves on the board of directors of the Native American Health Center, the largest urban American Indian health care provider in the country. She leads by example, inspiring graduate students and others to get involved. There are 30 agencies in the Bay Area where AIGP students volunteer, in addition to the national AIDS Project. In 2003, the American Indian Graduate Student Association (AIGSA), which organizes community service projects, lectures, and conferences, received the Chancellor’s Community Service Award.

“As grad students, we owe Carmen a lot,” says Dory Nason, co-chair of AIGSA. “She’s always been there for us 24/7, supporting the logistics of AIGSA events and writing grants which kept us alive when we were small and couldn’t have done this on our own. She found the resources to help us.”

Nason, a Chippewa Indian from Nebraska and doctoral student in Ethnic Studies, didn’t know what kind of Native American community she would find here until Foghorn contacted her after she was admitted. “Knowing that there was a person who knew I was coming and was excited about it was a large part of why I chose Berkeley,” says Nason.

Phenocia Bauerle, a member of the Crow Nation, also credits Foghorn for her encouragement and support. “Carmen has confidence in us and puts us in leadership positions. She believes we can do things before we even believe it ourselves,” says Bauerle, a graduate student in education who plans to return to her home in Montana after graduation. “Carmen has been very helpful to me because of her ties to the community. She connected me with
education programs in Oakland. She knows what's going on in the Bay Area."

Foghorn came to the Bay Area 17 years ago from Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she grew up as Isleta Pueblo and Navajo. In high school, Foghorn was recruited to attend the University of New Mexico and became the first in her family to attend college.

Her father, who served as a Navajo code talker in World War II, was a day laborer; her mother didn’t go beyond high school for her education.

Foghorn returns to New Mexico often to visit family and friends. Her daughter lives in Taos. “She’s very talented with computers and works in the Taos Pueblo’s computer lab. She also writes the pueblo’s newsletter,” says Foghorn.

Her son is in the Air Force and was stationed not long ago in Germany, where Foghorn had the opportunity to visit, also touring Paris and Amsterdam. “It was wonderful,” says Foghorn. “It gave me a chance to see how other people live. Travel makes you stronger. The more you know about others, the more you understand yourself.”

This fall, she will be on the road again, attending conferences and meetings to spread the word about graduate opportunities at Berkeley and reach out to others. We recently had the chance to talk with her about her own path to AIGP and where she sees the program going.

Q: The choice you made to leave New Mexico for the Bay Area has changed not only the course of your life — but the lives of hundreds of students at Berkeley. Why did you decide to leave home?

A: I was getting older and it was my time to see what I could be. I was working for the gas company in Albuquerque and decided that I didn’t want that to be all, so I brought my son and daughter to San Francisco, where I learned how to interview for jobs — and (laughs) how expensive San Francisco was compared to New Mexico.

Q: Had you been here before?

A: Yes, and I found so much opportunity here, especially for women of color. The women I’ve met here are so confident. I’ve found you can do anything you want to do here and find support from women and men.

Q: What have you found at Berkeley?

A: At Berkeley, people look inside you to see what you can offer. Sometimes in the corporate world women are judged by the way they look, or are supposed to look. Here, you can discover your strengths and achieve your goals.

Q: How did you establish new roots in the Bay Area?

A: When I first arrived, I located the Native American community and began working at the American Indian Child Resource Center. I worked with their foster care program.

Q: When did you become involved with AIGP?

A: I was hired 10 years ago by Felicia Hodge, the former director, to manage outreach and retention activities. AIGP began in the School of Public Health more than 30 years ago due to the need for public health administrators in Native American health centers. It trained Indians as health professionals who would then return to their reservations to provide much-needed services. Later, the program grew to include the School of Social Welfare. So the majority of our graduates have degrees in public health and social welfare.

Q: How has the program changed?

A: Today AIGP is part of the Graduate Diversity Program, serving all of Berkeley’s graduate programs. Our students are enrolled in programs as diverse as comparative literature, engineering, law, and ethnic studies.

Q: How many new students will you welcome this year?

A: This fall, we’ll have 26 new American Indian and Alaska Native students enrolled in graduate programs at Berkeley, bringing the total number to 90.

Q: By revamping outreach efforts and using the website to reach far-flung communities, you’ve manage to double the enrollment over the past four years. Even so, the budget crisis nearly ended AIGP a year ago. How did you manage during that time?

A: I never lost hope. We have a great advisory committee with faculty and students and alumni, and the deans really pulled for us. I believe that good things happen to good people and good programs, so I never lost hope. I look for the best in people.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?

A: Working with Native American students — thinking how they’ll make a difference after Berkeley. AIGP has helped more than 400 Native American scholars graduate with academic and professional degrees. Most of our students finish their degree programs. Last spring 24 Native American students received their graduate degrees from Berkeley.

Q: How have AIGP alumni made a difference after Berkeley?

A: Some have gone on to become professors and practitioners in the...
AIGP: A Song of Welcome

With tribal drum in hand, John-Carlos Perea (Mescalero Apache) offered a Native American song of welcome to guests at the American Indian Graduate Program (AIGP) new student reception a few weeks ago. Over the next few minutes, Perea’s powerful vocals transported us to Indian Country and visions of windswept plains. Perea, a graduate student in ethnomusicology at Berkeley, is an accomplished musician and composer who performs throughout the Bay Area.

As students mingled and enjoyed Indian tacos, AIGP Coordinator Carmen Foghorn (Isleta Pueblo, Navajo) introduced a number of faculty, staff, and student leaders representing the Native American community at Berkeley.

Larri Fredericks (Alaska Athabascan/Nenana), a graduate alumna, museum scientist, and member of the AIGP Advisory Board, said, “You will find a strong support system here.”

Academic resources and support also include the Native American Studies department, the Native American Studies Collection/Ethnic Studies Library, the Graduate Diversity Program, the Graduate Assembly, and the Graduate Minority Project.

Berkeley graduate Lakota Harden (Minneconjou/Yankton, Lakota, HoChunk, adopted Tlinget, Quechua), a poet and activist who hosts the Bay Native Circle radio show on KPFA, encouraged students to get involved with the local Native American community, to attend gatherings at the Intertribal Friendship House, and said, “If you get lonesome or homesick, we’re here.”

Dory Nason (Chippewa) and Danika Medak-Saltzman (Chippewa), co-chairs of the American Indian Graduate Student Association (AIGSA), invited students to join them in AIGP’s student lounge, 597 Barrows Hall, where AIGSA meetings, study groups, informal gatherings, and office hours are held. “You can always find us there. We live in that room,” said Medak-Saltzman. Student groups also included the Native American Law Students Association (NALSA), the American Indian Education Student Association (AIESA), and a new group in engineering.

Throughout their graduate careers, Native American and Alaska Native students who sign up for AIGP’s listserv will be notified about programs for professional development, career opportunities, networks in the community, powwows, and other events. Among other things, AIGP sponsors programs and events to promote Native American history, culture, and perspectives at Berkeley.

One of the best examples of the spirit of AIGP is the graduation ceremony held each spring for all Native American students graduating from Berkeley. It’s an opportunity for AIGP families and friends to come together to celebrate academic achievement, and many Native American traditions are woven into the event. At the ceremony last May, Pomo Indians performed tribal dances. Environmentalist and human rights activist Chief Oren Lyons of the Onandaga Nation delivered the commencement address. And, to remind them of their years at Berkeley, AIGP offered each graduate a gift — a colorful blanket of Native American design.

Says Foghorn, “It’s my favorite event of the year. This is the last step in their journey through Berkeley, and, for me, it’s almost mystical.”
They Come in Peace

Rotary scholars, not otherworldly at all, are here seeking knowledge they hope to use in saving parts of the planet from the ravages of war and other forms of conflict.

Sergio Rapu can trace the history of his people, the Rapanui of Easter Island, to around 400 A.D., when Polynesian explorers arrived, stayed, and eventually built the mysterious giant stone heads (moai) that captured the world’s imagination.

Later encounters with other explorers were less constructive — from a high in the tens of thousands when the Dutch landed there in 1722, the Rapanui population nosedived to a mere 111 in a century and a half, during which disease, Peruvian slavers, and overgrazing by Chilean sheep led the depredations.

Today, another century later, the Rapanui have bounced back to the low thousands, and have been represented for the last two years on the Berkeley campus by Rapu, a former governor of their territory (and the first native Rapanui to hold that office). Trained as an archaeologist, Rapu came here in the fall of 2002 as one of ten members of Berkeley’s first class of Rotary World Peace Scholars.

None of these scholars is exactly a typical graduate student. Virtually all are returning to the student experience after a substantial hiatus. Rapu, in his mid-fifties, is older even than most of his classmates. But, like them, he has a mission.

In order to build a lasting economic system for his remote Pacific island homeland, Rapu hopes to use expertise acquired at Berkeley to employ an agroecological development plan that would combine traditional farming knowledge with elements of modern agricultural science (excluding most chemical fertilizers and pesticides), to grow what Easter Island needs locally and for export.

The other major element of his plan is to harness education to the already large sector of tourism, so that international groups and governments, and tourists themselves, will help restore some 20,000 archaeological sites on the island (which Rapu calls “a beautiful, open-air museum”), and local farmers and students will learn to appreciate more about their heritage and directly help with preservation and restoration, especially of the 800 or so emblematic moai. (Most lay broken until a Japanese executive heard Rapu talking about their plight in 1988 on a show broadcast in Japan. He called with the offer of a million-dollar crane and instruction on how to use it. Many of the rock figures are now repaired and back in sentinel position.)

Rapu also advocates bilingual education, in Rapanui and Spanish, to help his people interact with the offshore government in Chile and the modern world in general.

Rapu’s class of World Peace Scholars was joined by a second group of ten, one of whom was Sarah Williams, who worked for years as a lawyer in Britain’s music business — “a natural background for conflict, not necessarily resolution,” she says — before deciding to help change the way international institutions craft their laws in ways both idealistic and realistic. Inspired by a friend and associate who worked on legal problems stemming from the wars in Kosovo and Iraq (in the latter he was nearly blown up), Williams believes that preventing war’s horrors means facing them with courage. “Humanitarianism has to be hard-core,” she says, “it can’t be of a fluffy-kitten type. My goal is not to live a long life, but to do something worthwhile.” Her World Peace Scholar “classmates,” each with different but worthwhile goals, were from Argentina, Belgium, Brazil (2), India (2), Korea, and the Phil-lipines (2). Each Peace Scholar is sponsored by a local Rotary group in his or her part of the globe.

The Rotary World Peace Scholarships are the result of a partnership between Berkeley’s International and Area Studies and Rotary International’s Rotary Foundation, which promotes world understanding through international humanitarian service programs, cultural exchanges, and scholarship programs. Scholars are selected by an international committee to study at one of Rotary’s seven worldwide centers.

Berkeley’s Rotary Center, administered by IAS, provides the most sought-after such program in the world, according to its director, Professor Edwin Epstein. The global reputation of the campus is a factor, and so is the way Berkeley encourages the students to adapt the program across departmental and discipline boundaries to fit their individual needs.

The program exists in part through the labors and deep familiarity with Berkeley of Cliff Dochterman M.A. ’50, a former assistant to the late UC President Clark Kerr. Dochterman went on to head the University of the Pacific, and served as Rotary International’s president in 1992–93.

While at Berkeley, the Rotary World Peace Scholars tend to be heavily involved in the array of activities at International House, where it’s convenient for them to get to know each other and network with other students from all over the world. — Dick Cortén

World Peace Scholar Sergio Rapu

World Peace Scholar Sarah W. Williams
A New Bob at the Top

Transitions can be dicey, but Robert Birgeneau, Berkeley's new chancellor, fit in right from the start. In his third week after taking over from Robert Berdahl, he found himself in the curious symbolic position of representing the "other side," the campus administration, in welcoming celebrants who filled Sproul Plaza for the 40th anniversary of the Free Speech Movement (FSM).

As this was a legal, authorized gathering, he was spared decisions about who should be arrested. But he faced an instant image decision. Though a lectern awaited him (fully miked and ready for his formal remarks) on what are now designated as the Mario Savio steps, this FSM reenactment came complete with a platform atop a police car. As Birgeneau stood in the wings, current ASUC President Misha Leybovich addressed the crowd from atop the car, having removed his shoes as his rebellious but considerate predecessors had done four decades previously. When Birgeneau's turn came, he bypassed the lectern and mounted the platform, shoes on but informal in shirtsleeves.

He surprised many listeners by recalling the FSM's influence on his own life. As a graduate student at Yale in the '60s, he did volunteer work in New Haven's inner city, then went to the American South to register voters. He admitted to being naïve until he received a practical political education when he roomed there with two FSM veterans.

The FSM rally took place last fall on October 8. Seven days later, Birgeneau and his wife Mary Catherine were thoroughly decked out in blue and gold for a marathon of Homecoming and Parents Weekend activities, cheerful and indulgent good sports in their newly adopted culture.

They came here fresh from the University of Toronto, Canada's best and largest public university (with 69,000 students, more than twice Berkeley's enrollment), where Birgeneau had served as president since 2000. At UT, Birgeneau doubled the size of its two campuses and increased the amount of research conducted there. He raised the number of faculty women with tenure by 50 percent and brought greater diversity to the administration. He also oversaw a fundraising campaign that brought in $750 million.

The Birgeneaus are Toronto natives, she from a middle-class neighborhood, he from a poor one. Support he received from his community at key points in his education made his upward path possible, and left him committed "to inclusion and to access for people from any kind of background, for people who are financially disadvantaged . . . I could not have done this on my own."

Birgeneau's brilliant record of achievement began as an undergraduate in math at UT and continued at Yale with a Ph.D. in physics. After working at Bell Labs in New Jersey, he went to MIT as a physics professor and administrator for 25 years. At Bell Labs he worked with, among others, another Canadian, Robert Dynes, now president of the University of California, and Steven Chu, Berkeley Ph.D. '76 and winner of the 1997 Nobel Prize in Physics, who in August 2004 became director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Birgeneau looks forward to the many challenges the campus faces, both evident and emerging. He has long been a fan. "I genuinely believe that UC Berkeley is simply the best public teaching and research facility in the world," says the new chancellor, adding that the breadth of its excellence will be needed in the coming years. "Most of today's problems will not be solved by the next Einstein, but by polymaths," he points out. Being preeminent in many fields gives Berkeley "an edge over the rest in solving the world's problems."

— Dick Cortén
Learning to Teach, Teaching to Learn

Each semester, approximately 1,600 Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs) enter classrooms to teach, mentor, and evaluate undergraduates in discussion sections, labs, and stand-alone courses. To ensure that they would be well-prepared for their teaching responsibilities, the Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) Teaching and Resource Center provides an orientation conference for new GSIs. Center programs also include teaching conferences and workshops, individual consultations and classroom videotaping, course improvement grants, the Language Proficiency Program for GSIs who do not speak English as a native language, awards for outstanding GSIs; awards for faculty who mentor GSIs; and a Summer Institute for Preparing Future Faculty.

Linda von Hoene and her team have given to graduate students (and, by extension, faculty and undergraduates) over many years, it's gratifying that the GSI Teaching and Resource Center has received this high-profile recognition,” notes Mary Ann Mason, Dean of the Graduate Division.

Mason, who has congratulated hundreds of GSIs for outstanding teaching during her tenure as dean, said, “It is vitally important that the indispensable contributions of graduate students be understood and recognized by the entire campus community and beyond, including donors, regents, and legislators who ultimately determine levels of support available for graduate students.”

Going well beyond the nuts and bolts of teaching, the center’s programs forge a research-based, reflective approach to teaching and learning. Over the past four years, the center has convened research groups on teaching and learning, in which faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates have studied such issues as the impact of discussion sections on student engagement, and the implications of grading policies and practices for student motivation.

Heather McCarty, a GSI in history, says, “Each program I’ve participated in at the center has taught me a new technique, which I’ve applied in the classroom. The amazing staff not only helped to prepare me for teaching as a first-time GSI; they also offered programs to aid in my continuing growth as an instructor throughout my graduate studies. My experiences with the center have been nothing short of phenomenal.”

Attentive to the pivotal role that faculty and departments play in providing GSIs with mentorship in teaching, the center also developed an annual seminar for faculty teaching with GSIs that’s reached approximately 140 faculty members, many of whom teach the largest courses on campus. Faculty who’ve attended the seminar report significant improvements not only in their mentoring skills but also in their teaching of undergraduates and have said the center’s contributions to undergraduate education cannot be overstated.

In November, Maggie Sokolik and Robin De Lugan, of the GSI Center, and other members of a cross-unit team will receive the Chancellor’s Outstanding Staff Award for creating an online course for GSIs on professional standards and ethics.

During the campus’s recent accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), the review team also took note of the center’s impact on students and faculty and wrote: “An especially important part of the teaching infrastructure at Berkeley is the Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) Teaching and Resource Center, which in the team’s opinion is a model for GSI development programs everywhere.”
Eighty-four years ago, a precocious teenage girl from Vicksburg, Mississippi, enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley, planning to become a teacher. She was one of only 17 African-American students on campus — eight women and nine men. As a student, she often felt invisible, unspoken to by classmates and uncalled upon by professors. But the Biggest Man on Campus, President Benjamin Ide Wheeler, stopped and chatted with her one day, and that raised her spirits, as did a friendship she made with the dean of women, Lucy Ward Stebbins.

The student was Ida Louise Jackson. Her father, Pompey Jackson, once a slave, and her mother, Nellie Jackson, made sure their eight children were educated. Ida, the youngest, could read at the age of three, and she was soon helping others learn that skill. This early teaching helped determine the course of her life.

The accomplishments of that life were commemorated on August 30, 2004, when the “College-Durant Apartments” were rechristened as the “Ida Louise Jackson Graduate House.” The $14-million structure “is the first building at UC Berkeley to bear the name of an African-American woman,” said Mary Ann Mason, Dean of the Graduate Division. “And for this historic first, I don’t think we could have chosen anyone better. Her name will be remembered here as long as the University goes on.”
program budget, Jackson led projects to bring badly needed education and health care to rural areas of the Deep South, particularly in her native Mississippi. “I couldn’t believe some of the things I saw,” she recalled in later interviews. “People were working on plantations, not knowing that they were free.” 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, teaching teachers and helping inoculate thousands of infants against diphtheria and cholera.

In her long journey, Jackson never forgot about the University of California and its influence on her as a person and as an educator. Later on, when she was able to, she gave back to the campus — by creating a fellowship for African-American students seeking their doctoral degrees at Berkeley.

The university came to treasure her, as well. In 1971, she received the Berkeley Citation, awarded to those who reflect the highest ideals of the university. She was elected to the Berkeley Fellows honorary society, whose membership list includes notable names from many fields. She contributed to There Was Light, a book of alumni memories published to honor the University’s first century, and in the mid-1980s the Bancroft Library’s Regional Oral History Office completed her oral history, Ida Jackson: Overcoming Barriers in Education.

Now she will live on not only in hearts and minds, but in an edifice, the purpose of which meshes nicely with her own goals and ideals.

She wrote, in the mid-1960s, “I am more than ever convinced that education is the greatest factor in the upward climb of any person or people. My theme song has been: learn, study, read — continuously.” She added, “The University of California has done for thousands what it has done for me. It has enabled me to realize the vast avenues of learning and culture to be explored, and strengthened a desire to try, and in the exploration to take others along on the journey.” — Dick Cortén

Top: Barbara K. Phillips of Alpha Kappa Alpha came 2,500 miles to attend the rechristening. Bottom: the new name is literally unveiled by Graduate Division Dean Mary Ann Mason (left pole) and Jackson estate trustee Inez Dones (right pole), assisted by Sunny Lee, Graduate Division’s development coordinator.
Yuan T. Lee, Ph.D. ’65, winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for 1986, is a former Berkeley chemistry professor and Lawrence Berkeley Lab investigator who returned to his native Taiwan in 1994 to become the chief executive of Academia Sinica, his country’s foremost research institution. Lee is Taiwan’s first recipient of a Nobel Prize. In recent years, he also has served as senior advisor to the president of the Republic of China. His banner stopped traffic at Telegraph and Blake, but only when the light was red.

William F. Giauque, B.S. ’20, Ph.D. ’22, winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for 1949, invented a technique for cooling to within a few thousandths of a degree of absolute zero (minus 458 degrees) — previously believed impossible — leading to stronger steel, better gasoline, and other advances. Giauque taught chemistry at Berkeley for more than 40 years. His wife Muriel was a physics graduate student here; on the day she filed her Ph.D. thesis, they were married. A man of stern demeanor and keen humor, Giauque was immune to social fads. He didn’t smoke tobacco or drink alcohol, not for moral reasons, but because he didn’t like their tastes. Giauque’s banner kept a careful eye on Blake’s, the longtime eatery and pub on Telegraph near Durant.

Glenn T. Seaborg, Ph.D. ’37, won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for 1951 as a result of transuranium element discoveries that would usher in the atomic age — nuclear weapons, nuclear power, energy sources for space exploration; even the humble smoke detector requires the element americium, part of the Seaborg harvest. His banner flew at the corner of Channing and Telegraph. Seaborg, Berkeley’s second chancellor, headed the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission under President John F. Kennedy, returned to California as a system-wide University Professor, and in “retirement” co-founded and chaired the Lawrence Hall of Science.

Hanging Out on the Avenue

Not exactly what you’d expect of Nobel Prize recipients, perhaps. The Nobelists suspended on banners along Telegraph Avenue from April 2003 until the 2004 holiday shopping season, were Berkeley faculty members, past and present; the ones pictured below did their graduate work on this campus.
Nobel Prize Recipients with Berkeley Graduate Degrees

Harold C. Urey, Ph.D. 1923
Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1934

William F. Giauque (B.S. 1920), Ph.D. 1922
Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1949

Glenn T. Seaborg, Ph.D. 1937
Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1951

Selman A. Wacksman, Ph.D. 1918
Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine, 1952

Willis E. Lamb, Jr. (B.S. 1934), Ph.D. 1938
Nobel Prize in Physics, 1955

Willard Libby, Ph.D. 1933
Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1960

Henry Taube, Ph.D. 1940
Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1983

Yuan Tseh Lee, Ph.D. 1965
Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1986

Thomas Cech, Ph.D. 1975
Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1989

Kary Mullis, Ph.D. 1973
Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1993

Douglass North, Ph.D. 1952
Nobel Prize in Economics, 1993

Mario Molina, Ph.D. 1972
Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1995

Robert F. Curl, Jr., Ph.D. 1957
Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1996

Steven Chu, Ph.D. 1976
Nobel Prize in Physics, 1997

Alan J. Heeger, Ph.D. 1961
Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 2000

Daniel Kahneman, Ph.D. 1961
Nobel Prize in Economics, 2002

David J. Gross, Ph.D. 1966
Nobel Prize in Physics, 2004

In addition to the degree holders listed, a number of other Nobel recipients have spent significant time at Berkeley doing graduate or postgraduate work. They include: Jack Steinberger, who was a research assistant in 1949-50 and won the Nobel Prize in Physics for 1988; Pierre-Gilles de Gennes, a post-doc in 1959 who received the 1991 Nobel Prize in Physics; Robert E. Lucas, Jr., a Ph.D. student in 1959-60, who won the 1995 Nobel Prize in Economics; and Ahmed Zewail, a 1975 post-doc who received the 1999 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Daniel Kahneman, Ph.D. ’61, won the Nobel Prize in Economics for 2002 “for having integrated insights from psychological research into economic science, especially concerning human judgment and decision-making under uncertainty.” Translated from the English, this means that Kahneman, a psychologist by trade, won the economics prize (there being no Nobel Prize in psychology) for grasping the way people really think and the shortcuts they take when making decisions, especially if risk is involved. Such shortcuts may have little to do with probability or logic, but can affect the ways individual investors behave and influence entire financial markets. His research contradicted previous bedrock assumptions in economics — that humans were motivated by self-interest and made rational decisions — thereby changing both methods and the direction of research in that field. Kahneman left Berkeley to teach in his native Israel, returning here as a professor of psychology from 1986 to 1994. From then on he has been a faculty member at Princeton University. Photo to right: Daniel Kahneman receives his prize from King Carl Gustav in Stockholm, 2002.
Charles Man Fong Tung was nervous and tired last December when he walked into the Graduate Degrees Office on the third floor of Sproul Hall to – at long last – file his dissertation.

He had made the required two copies, printed in the required font size on the specified archival paper, but was it perfect? What if it wasn't? Would his years of labor be frustrated?

His worries were not uncommon among degree candidates submitting the fruits of their intellectual labor. But, like most, he did it right (even a few days before the deadline), and he could relax.

At this point, a small ritual collided with a tall Canadian newcomer, and a bit of serendipity occurred. Midway through a get-acquainted tour of the Graduate Division, Chancellor Robert Birgeneau, Berkeley’s new chief executive, was visiting the Degrees Office just as Tung was handing over his doctoral tome.

Both were informed of the longstanding Graduate Division tradition of rewarding each successful filer with a tasty lollipop. Drawing on his deep experience in conferring honors, the chancellor instinctively took up the sacred sucker (labelled “PhinisheD”) and with informal majesty transferred it to the hand of the surprised and relieved Charles Tung.

After congratulating Tung, Birgeneau proceeded down the hall to other Graduate Division offices to meet more people, shake more hands, and absorb yet more information about Berkeley.

Tung, whose degrees are in English, pronounced the encounter “fortuitous” and said, “This is the best administrative day I’ve ever had.” Originally from Phoenix, Arizona, Tung did his undergraduate work at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and earned a master’s degree at Oxford University before coming to Berkeley, which he chose because “it had the No. 1 graduate program in literature.”

His dissertation, entitled “Modernist Temporalities,” is a study of early 20th century British and American writers and their philosophies of time. His dream “has always been to be a professor,” and he is living it, currently as a tenure-track assistant professor at Seattle University, where he lives with his wife, Long-Chau. The two met at Georgetown.

At Berkeley, in addition to his research, Tung honed his teaching skills as a graduate student instructor for seven semesters. — Dick Cortén