Who are “Carson” and “Cade”?

Answer inside.
Greetings, and welcome to the fall issue of Cal Futures! As Kevin Crilly begins his well-earned retirement, I am serving as the Office of Gift Planning’s interim executive director. I have worked with many of you during my more than 14 years here, serving as deputy director for many of those. I and the whole OGP team look forward to continuing to assist you with your gift planning needs.

I also wanted to share some stats about our stellar cohort of accepted students — including 9,637 admitted freshman from 50 California counties. Gifted, civic-minded, and accomplished, they have performed at Carnegie Hall, participated in the Science Olympiad, achieved Eagle Scout status, and earned the Girl Scout Gold Award. Of our admitted transfer students, nearly 95 percent come from California Community Colleges, a reflection of our commitment to building bridges to a world-class education.

Cal’s donor community is also impressive! Collective gifts totaled $634,898,330 in fiscal year 2019 — a record amount. We are grateful for our donors’ loyal and generous support, including those who’ve made planned gifts and joined Berkeley’s Benjamin Ide Wheeler Society!

This record-breaking fundraising year was made possible by donors like Mike and Ruth Cheng, whose story is highlighted in this issue. They established a charitable remainder trust (CRT), funded with appreciated securities, to eventually benefit various campus units. You, too, might be interested in receiving income and enjoying tax benefits while supporting Berkeley.

To learn more about CRTs or other ways to support Cal’s excellence, please contact us at (800) 200-0575 or ogp@berkeley.edu. We look forward to hearing from you. Go Bears!

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Left to right: Mike and Ruth Cheng during a recent visit to Cal, and the young couple after they met on campus in the 1970s.

Good Chemistry
Alumni couple form a lasting bond with Cal

For Mike ’77 and Ruth ’77 Cheng, all it took was a lecture to bring them back to Cal.

It was the late ’90s, and Mike — who earned a degree in chemical engineering — was invited to a talk hosted by the College of Chemistry. He’d been away for 20 years, so he thought, “Why not?”

“I ran into my old professor there, John Newman,” recalls Mike, who also holds an M.B.A. from Golden Gate University. “When he saw me, he said, ‘What took you so long to come back?!’” Laughing, Mike admits he doesn’t recall the topic: “Chemistry lectures can be really esoteric!”

But what he — and his wife, Ruth — do remember is the party they attended shortly thereafter. Sponsored by the College of Natural Resources (CNR), it was hosted by Sandra ’67 and Bernard Magnussen at their home on the Peninsula, located in the Chengs’ neighborhood. Though Mike and Ruth had no connections to CNR at the time, they received an event invitation. Ruth, who earned a B.S. in economics, recalls thinking, “I drive by this house all the time! I wonder what it looks like inside?” And Mike, always game for a good party, thought, “Why not!”

For the Chengs, that reception — which honored graduates from CNR’s summer-based Beahrs Environmental Leadership Program — set off a chain reaction of service and philanthropy to Cal that coalesced with a generous new gift to CNR and the College of Chemistry through a charitable remainder trust. The gift will not only benefit Cal, it will also provide the Chengs with income as well as an immediate income tax charitable deduction.
“Mike and Ruth have been terrific partners,” says CNR Dean David Ackerly. “Their gift is another testament to their commitment to our students and programs.”

Mike, who today guest lectures in both colleges and sits on CNR’s advisory board, says, “The value of giving to Berkeley is that it gives back. I get intellectual stimulation and hopefully make society a better place in the future. You don’t always have to give money. You can also give time and your experience.”

And that’s exactly what the Chens are doing. Inspired by the people they met at the Magnussen party, the Chens now annually sponsor a fellow accepted into the Beahrs program. Mike, who retired from a successful career in the high-tech industry, also teaches corporate social responsibility courses in the Beahrs program and CNR’s Master of Development Practice program. Equally active in the College of Chemistry, he holds office hours for students and is working to create two professional development programs: one for industry professionals and another to prepare undergraduate students for the workforce once they earn their degrees.

“Our alumni play an invaluable role in the college,” says College of Chemistry Dean Douglas Clark. “Mike and Ruth’s support is enabling students to make an even greater impact on society after they leave our campus.”

The Chens’ bond with Cal runs deep. They first began dating on a dare as sophomores. Ruth, who paid for college via scholarships and campus work-study jobs, was the cafeteria gatekeeper — checking student IDs at mealtime. To Mike, a harried transfer student with a full load of science classes, she was a highlight in his day. Like his dorm roommate, he had a crush on her, but he wasn’t sure if she shared his attraction. “She didn’t check me out, she checked me in!” says Mike, laughing. His roommate, too shy to ask her out, dared Mike to instead. He thought, “Why not?” She said yes, and their futures converged. Today, as they celebrate their fortieth wedding anniversary and the pending birth of their fourth grandchild, they are no less enamored of each other — and their continuing relationship with Cal.

“Our objective is not just giving back, but giving forward,” says Mike. Ruth agrees. “We want to make the next generation better than we are.”

As for the Magnussen house — and that fateful party? Ruth says, “It was everything I expected and more.”

**Answer to “Who are ‘Carson’ and ‘Cade’?”**

In 2017, a plucky pair of Peregrine Falcons were discovered nesting atop UC Berkeley’s Campanile. To the delight of the Cal community — and bird nerds everywhere — these federally protected raptors, once on the brink of extinction, have since fledged seven chicks from their lofty perch — including their first born, aptly named Fiat and Lux. This spring, brother duo Carson and Cade made their debut. Named after *Silent Spring* author Rachel Carson and Cornell professor Tom Cade, who launched the falcon conservation movement in the ’80s, the brothers were also the first of their feathery siblings to hatch via live-stream around the world. Thanks to the Cal Falcons Fund, a crowdfunding effort that raised $14,000 to install two 24/7 webcams in the bell tower, folks from around the world eagerly egged on the chicks as they wriggled free from their shells, precious new feathers in the Cal Falcon squad’s cap.
Secure a Double Tax Benefit through a Gift to Berkeley

A gift of appreciated securities is a smart way to support Berkeley, benefitting the programs you care about most. You could enjoy a double tax benefit! If you have held the securities longer than one year, you would be eligible to claim an income tax charitable deduction based on their current fair market value and avoid capital gains tax on their appreciation. Contact our office to find out more about how we can help you leverage your appreciated securities through a tax-advantaged gift to Cal.

**EXAMPLE: GIFT OF $100,000 IN STOCK (cost basis of $40,000)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gift of stock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal income tax savings from income tax deduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal capital gains tax savings</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cost of gift</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Assumptions: donor subject to highest federal marginal income tax and capital gains tax rates (including 3.8% Medicare Surtax) and will be able to recognize entire income tax deduction. Asset held for more than one year.

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**GO BEARS, GO GREEN!**

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This newsletter offers only general gift planning information. We urge you to seek the advice of an attorney in developing your personal estate plan, as the Office of Gift Planning may not render tax or legal advice to friends and alumni of the university. If you would like more information concerning charitable giving as a component of estate planning, we would be happy to provide you with more specific ideas.

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