Garth Taylor ’71 and Sharon Sandeen ’80, LL.M. ’02 had experiences of Cal that couldn’t be more different. Yet they share common ground: each had an “Aha!” moment upon realizing the important role they could play to ensure that Berkeley thrives into the future.

This shared sense of opportunity has inspired each of them to take action: Garth and Sharon have made bequest commitments to Berkeley that acknowledge their personal Cal stories, while empowering future generations of students to continue to make our world a better place.

Planning your estate is a decisive moment, one in which you choose how your legacy can impact the future. Your philanthropic choices, and those of your fellow Cal alumni and friends, are essential to sustaining the Berkeley experience. As you move forward with these important decisions, we offer a range of creative and flexible approaches to giving. These can help you achieve your charitable and financial goals while supporting Berkeley in the ways that are most meaningful to you. You help shape the university’s future, and in doing so, you help shape the future of California — and the world.
Discovering who you are is part of every college experience, but for Garth Taylor ’71, Berkeley helped set him on a path he would follow for the next 40 years.

“Most colleges pride themselves on being able to serve up a good identity challenge,” says Garth. “What puts Berkeley in the elite pool is that the campus and the community provide lots of resources and opportunities for engagement — to step up, put that new identity to work, be who you are.”

For Garth, a bookish, philosophical Midwesterner interested in social change and alternative culture, it would be an educational experience in and out of the classroom.

Garth joined the Peace Brigade, a group committed to non-violent action, after seeing members form a human barrier between police and a group of angry rock-throwing protestors. He had studied non-violent philosophies, and seeing them actively embodied proved irresistible. He eventually played a leadership role in the group, savoring the feeling that he was learning and doing something at the same time.

Back in class, Garth had an opportunity to analyze an opinion survey on a hot political topic: whether people would vote for or against a referendum to establish community policing boards. Surveys were to be conducted before and after participants spent an evening on the beat with the Berkeley police. He took on the project thinking he might be remotely interested; instead, it pointed to his future. “I could have worked for hundreds of hours on that project,” he said. “I subsequently learned that’s the sign you’re doing the right thing.”

It was a path that took him from a psychology degree at Berkeley to a Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Chicago. He went on to teach at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and at Chicago, but missed the surveying and polling that had drawn him into the field. He took a position as director of research and planning at the Chicago Urban League, and then a few years later, stepped up to the helm of a new organization created to survey the region. For the next 20 years, he conducted public opinion surveys and quality of life measures as the executive director of the Metro Chicago Information Center.

Garth’s retirement in 2010 set a new chain of events into action. He was an early retiree among his group of friends, and philanthropy was something he would read about — millionaires making jaw-dropping gifts, something other people did — and think, I’m glad that happened. But his view shifted when it came time to plan his own estate.

“A lightbulb came on,” he said. “This is where you make those choices: How much do you spend, how much do you keep for your loved ones, how much do you give back?” He asked friends which institutions they were planning to support; it was the first they’d thought about it, too. He realized that if he was going to talk about philanthropy, “I needed to lead the way.”

“I discovered a need to take responsibility to support the institutions I cared about — to go beyond the notion that someone else would sustain the institutions and activities that were most important in my life.” He continued, “It was a really conscious choice. Every institution I cared about was under financial stress.”

He had planned to make a gift to Cal’s Survey Research Center — then found that it had closed its doors in 2010 due to budget cuts. “To have that gone is a huge loss,” he says. Now he thinks of the institutions he cares about as being a bit like endangered species: if people don’t step up, these places will disappear.

He’s made a gift in his will to support undergraduate scholarships at Berkeley in sociology, psychology, and political science. It is important to him that students aren’t left out of the Berkeley experience — and everything it has to offer in shaping their lives — simply because they cannot afford it.

In planning his giving, which also includes the University of Michigan’s Institute for Social Research and a music school he founded in Three Oaks, Michigan, Garth thinks back to his own attitude when he was young and trying to figure out what would come next: “More education will not harm you, and it might actually help.” It’s a mantra that has shaped a life doing work he loves — and that he’s happy to be able to pass on to a new generation.
A family’s winding roads point to Cal — and beyond

While Sharon Sandeen ’80, LL.M. ’02 would eventually graduate with two Berkeley degrees, her choice in high school to study clarinet — in lieu of a Spanish course required for Berkeley admission — was her first step on a circuitous path to Cal.

Instead, she started college at Cal State Hayward and transferred to Berkeley, graduating with a major in political science. She went on to law school at the University of the Pacific’s McGeorge School of Law, later returning to Berkeley for her master’s of law (LL.M.). She’s a first-generation college graduate, but her Cal story — and her family’s — hardly ends there.

Sharon’s aunt, Emi Yabe, was a student at UCLA when Pearl Harbor was attacked; of Japanese descent, she was sent to an internment camp in Wyoming. But Emi didn’t let that dissuade her from finishing her degree: she eventually returned to California, settling in the Bay Area and graduating from Berkeley in 1950. “I never remember her talking about college as I was growing up,” says Sharon. “When I started finding out about her story, I was extremely proud of her, having the courage to go back to school after that experience.”

Farther up the family tree, Sharon’s niece, Marisa Compesi, had applied to Berkeley and wasn’t accepted — at first. She started college at UC Irvine, and excelled there. Not only was she able to transfer to Berkeley, in her junior year at Cal she was nominated to become a member of Phi Beta Kappa, an honorary society acknowledging exceptional academic achievement. She graduated in 2007, following her aunt into the field of law.

Sharon looked back at these experiences and saw that, while all transfer students have their own stories, Berkeley runs in her family.

Now Sharon is honoring these stories with a gift in her will acknowledging the many roads that talented, hard-working women travel on their way to Cal. She’s created the Yabe Sandeen Compesi Scholarship — naming three generations of Cal women who graduated with degrees from the College of Letters & Science — to support scholarships for transfer students.

It’s a commitment she’s planned on making for a long time. “Being able to go to Berkeley is a gift — period,” she says. “But having a circumstance that prevents you from going the first time, and then being able to transfer, is truly a gift.”

As an undergraduate, Sharon worked in the library at the law school. “I used to hang out there and just dream — ‘maybe this is something I can do someday.’” She worked her way through college, taking on odd jobs and working for political campaigns. After graduation, working full-time in the state capitol, she earned her law degree taking classes at night, and built a career as a practicing attorney. Then, 15 years ago, she set her sights on becoming a law professor.

Pursuing her interest in intellectual property law, Sharon discovered that Berkeley had a unique international master’s program that allowed her to focus on law and technology. Returning to Berkeley, her affinity for the university was renewed. Echoing the University of California’s motto — Fiat Lux, “Let there be light” — Sharon’s personal motto is that “we shouldn’t lock down information too much.”

Sharon is an expert on trade secret law. An emerging area of study when she did her master’s work, trade secret law is now a robust field that Sharon has played a role in developing.

Continued on next page

Answer to “Famous Alum”

Tamara Keith ’99, M.J. ’01

Keith, a National Public Radio (NPR) reporter, was so enthralled with the 1984 Summer Olympics that she had an Olympics-themed birthday party later that year. When an NPR editor asked if she’d be interested in covering Sochi in 2014, she didn’t skip a beat. “I think I was chosen specifically because I’m not a sports reporter,” she said in a Q&A with UC Berkeley’s NewsCenter. “We (the Sochi reporters) like to have fun with our reporting ... and try to bring a sense of wonder to our stories.” Keith, who joined the White House beat in early 2014 after covering Congress for two years, launched her career as a student at Berkeley’s Graduate School of Journalism, covering agriculture, the environment, and other topics for KQED’s California Report. When she’s not lobbing questions at congresswomen, she’s fielding their fly balls for the Bad News Babes, a journalist softball team that plays congresswomen to benefit breast cancer. Learn more about Berkeley’s famous alumni at berkeleywalloffame.org.
Gifts the university can use today

Real Estate
Life Insurance
Brokerage Accounts
Bequests
Retirement Plans — IRA/401(k)/403(b)/other

Gifts that take effect at your passing

Real Estate ($150,000 minimum)
Cash/Securities/Mutual Funds

Please
I am/We are not sure which gift plan would work best. Please contact me/us.

I/We have already included Cal in my/our estate plan.

Office of Gift Planning
How to contact the

call me/us

See your impact doubled when you create a new endowed scholarship

You can see your support matched dollar for dollar when you partner with fellow alumni to support Cal students. A generous bequest from Berkeley honors student Ruth (Janke) Johnson ’38, C.Mult. ’39 has created the Ruth Johnson Undergraduate Scholarship Match Program, which will match 50 new scholarship funds of $100,000. Having treasured her Berkeley education throughout her life, Ruth sought to help make the Berkeley experience possible for many others — a vision that will only be fulfilled with your support. Please call the Office of Gift Planning at 800.200.0575 to learn more about this special opportunity to double your impact.

New Recognition for Gifts from Wills and Trusts

Berkeley is excited to announce that it has just launched a new bequest commitment program that recognizes and celebrates the unique importance of future gifts to the campus. Alumni and friends who provide for an estate gift to Berkeley will now have that gift specially recognized in their personal campus giving history and in our capital campaigns. For more information, please call or email our office.

Receive Cal Futures electronically!
If you would like to go paperless, please sign up at calfutures.berkeley.edu to receive your Spring 2016 issue of Cal Futures electronically. You can also view, download, and share current and past issues. Go Bears. Go green!

A Note from the Executive Director

As they embarked on the process of planning their estates, Garth Taylor and Sharon Sandeen each had an “Aha!” moment about their alma mater and its role in their lives. That moment is one so many Berkeley alums will recognize: looking back and realizing how choosing Cal can change a life. Garth and Sharon each decided that it was time to invest in the institution that supported and shaped their dreams. Each chose to support Berkeley though an estate gift.

Each worked with our office to develop language ensuring that their gifts will be used in the way that is most important to them. For Garth, that meant supporting scholarships for students majoring in political science, sociology, or psychology; for Sharon, that meant supporting transfer students in the College of Letters & Science. Many committed Berkeley supporters have made similar estate plans, choosing to fund scholarships to benefit talented students, but Berkeley alumni and friends support this extraordinary place in myriad other ways as well. In conversation with our alumni we often reflect on a Berkeley truism: if something is important to you, the odds are that Berkeley is working on it. Over and over again the impact of that work is transformative. Whether what’s important to you is expanding access to the arts, making sure our food supply is safe and sustainable, leading the way with undergraduate education in product design innovation, developing new approaches to combat the life-threatening and disabling diseases that touch us all in one way or another, or making big data make sense, Berkeley is there.

Let us help you make your estate gift one that reflects how Berkeley has changed your life. When you give, you help secure the Berkeley experience for future generations. Simply put, estate gifts make Berkeley’s future possible. Visit our website at planyourlegacy.berkeley.edu or contact our office at 800.200.0575 or ogp@berkeley.edu to take the first step in creating that future.

In closing, a reminder that this year we celebrate the centennial of Sather tower, known to most as the Campanile. Perhaps Berkeley’s most famous symbol, the tower stands 307 feet tall and is the third tallest bell and clock tower in the world. While the Campanile is indeed well known, its history is less so. In 1900 Jane Sather met the newly arrived university president, Benjamin Ide Wheeler, and worked closely with him on several gifts that would benefit her beloved campus. The Campanile was made possible through a life-income gift from Sather, who died in 1911. Berkeley’s future in no small measure has always depended on those committed to this institution, and in particular, on those who have made a planned gift. Please join us in keeping that commitment for future generations.

Fiat Lux!

Kevin T. Crilly, J.D.
Executive Director, Office of Gift Planning
UC Berkeley

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.
How will you make a difference?

Discover the benefits that await you when you help ensure Cal’s future.

Complete and return the form on the reverse for more information.
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.

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