



THE
PHI BETA KAPPA
SOCIETY
ALPHA OF CALIFORNIA

Dear Fellow Members of ΦBK,

Greetings from Cal! Phi Beta Kappa champions freedom of inquiry and expression, disciplinary rigor, breadth of intellectual perspective, the cultivation of skills of deliberation and ethical reflection, the pursuit of wisdom, and the application of the fruits of scholarship and research in practical life. We are confident that a world influenced by these values will be more just and peaceful. All of our members have two things in common: the pursuit of excellence and the spirit of giving to society. Our Alpha of California Chapter is no exception.

Thanks to you, we have made a significant contribution to student life here at Cal with our Graduate Fellowship Program. Through your generosity last year, we awarded \$7,500 fellowships to two outstanding doctoral students, Melissa Cradic and Esther Yu. Please join us this year in making a contribution to our Graduate Fellowship Fund to continue this outstanding tradition of philanthropy.

Melissa Cradic joined ΦBK at George Washington University before coming to Berkeley to pursue a Ph.D. in Ancient History & Mediterranean Archaeology. Her dissertation is entitled “Transformations in Death: Funerary Practices and Personhood in the Bronze Age Levant.” Melissa expresses her sincere thanks for the fellowship and notes that the funding “contributed substantially to the success of [her] research travel [to Israel] during summer 2016.” Esther Yu, who received her undergraduate degree from Stanford University, is pursuing a Ph.D. in English. Her dissertation is on “Experiencing the Novel: The Genre of Tender Conscience,” and she is similarly grateful.

Over the years, Alpha of California has awarded fellowships to students in a diverse range of fields, but what all of these students face is the financial burden that comes with pursuing higher education. We award our fellowships to students in the final stages of dissertation, a point at which other funding sources have been largely exhausted.

What better investment in our future can we make than to support our graduate students and fellow Phi Betes?

To make a donation online, you may participate in the Big Give on November 17, 2016 during Big Game Week (biggive.berkeley.edu) or may go to givetocal.berkeley.edu/pbk at any time. The donation form is easy to use – don’t forget to see which employers match gifts. The site provides additional information for those of you who are able and wish to do more: donating securities, making gifts in kind, and how to contact the foundation to establish an endowment. **Contributions by regular mail** are also welcome. Your check should be payable to *Phi Beta Kappa (Fund B0430)* and sent to the UC Berkeley Foundation, Gift Operations, P.O. Box 774, Berkeley, CA 94701-0774.

Please accept my most sincere thanks. If you are a new donor, I welcome you to a most worthwhile investment in the future of scholarly excellence. To keep up with Chapter news, please visit our website (pbk.berkeley.edu) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ucberkeleyphibetakappa). With your support, we look forward to continuing our tradition of furthering the pursuit of excellence in the liberal arts and sciences.

With gratitude,

Richard Calendar

Professor Richard Calendar, President
Executive Council
The Phi Beta Kappa Society
Alpha of California