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 $5,000 fellowships to two outstanding doctoral students, Charity C. Ketz and Elise Piazza. An additional three Berkeley graduate student nominees received equivalent fellowships from the ΦBK Northern California Association. Please join us this year in making a contribution to our Graduate Fellowship Fund to continue this outstanding tradition of philanthropy.

Charity Ketz joined ΦBK at Penn State University before coming to Berkeley to pursue a Ph.D. in English. Her dissertation is entitled “Willing Suspense: Life-Writing and the Time of Action.” Charity affirms that the “fellowship freed me from other commitments and enabled me to devote this past summer to my research. I am also quite proud to list myself as the recipient of a graduate fellowship from ΦBK's local chapter.” Elise Piazza, who received her undergraduate degree from Williams College, completed her dissertation “Efficient Mechanisms for Perceiving the Auditory and Visual Environment,” and is now pursuing post-doctoral research at Berkeley on “how infants’ brains extract patterns from their caregivers’ speech in order to learn language.”

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. Our awardees agree that the ΦBK Graduate Fellowship has made a lasting difference in their academic careers and aided them in pursuing their dreams.

What better investment in our future can we make than to support our graduate students and fellow Phi Betes? Promising and talented graduate students are, like you, our future leaders and those who will influence the world for the better. You provide the crucial means to continue this extremely valuable and effective fellowship program. Your generous support in this endeavor is a meaningful and rewarding way to further directly the goals and traditions of our great Society.

To make a donation, please visit the following website: http://givetocal.berkeley.edu/pbk. 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 are all explained. 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,

[Signature]

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