

Sample Acknowledgments, Donor Stewardship, University Relations, UC Berkeley

The Chancellor's acknowledgement program responds to outright gifts and pledges of \$25,000+ and pledge payments of \$100,000+.

MENU:

1. Menu
2. Hewlett Chair & new Builders of Berkeley donors
3. Fellowship (named fellowship fund)
4. Incentive Awards Program (large-scale scholarship program)
5. Scholarship/Condolence (named scholarship fund)
6. Cal Fund (campuswide unrestricted giving)
7. Class gift for Sather Gate renovation (reunion class project)
8. multi-interest donor with various designations
9. Law school (unit-specific unrestricted giving)
10. Engineering school (unit-specific unrestricted giving)
11. Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (specific research project)
12. Library (capital project)
13. College of Letters & Science (division designation) (anonymity)
14. Pacific Film Archive & BAM/PFA new building update (capital project)
15. Cal Performances (performance sponsorship)
16. Athletics (multiple sports)

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

It is my great pleasure to acknowledge your magnificent Hewlett-matched pledge to the University, and to the Graduate School of Public Policy in particular. This exceptional philanthropic commitment perfectly reflects your steadfast devotion to the school. Thank you so much for establishing the [REDACTED] Chair in Public Policy, which, I understand, will support the work of a distinguished faculty member doing research in the area of early childhood education policy. Thank you, too, for your years of service on the GSPP Advisory Board, with particular thanks for agreeing this year to serve as chair.

I also would like to welcome you to your new status as a Builder of Berkeley. Builders are a special group of historic and current donors whose lifetime giving totals \$1 million or more. In September 2003, we created a beautiful granite monument on the Doe Library terrace to serve as an enduring tribute to these important benefactors, and we look forward to adding your name next autumn together with others in the 2008-09 cohort. Nancy Lubich McKinney, our director of donor stewardship, will be in touch with you later in the year regarding your recognition preferences.

Once again, I deeply appreciate all that you have done, and continue to do, for your graduate alma mater. I send you my very best wishes from Berkeley and look forward to having an opportunity to meet you so that I may express my gratitude in person.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

Robert J. Birgeneau

Dear Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]:

I have just learned about your June contribution to the University through your family foundation and would like to express my appreciation for your continuing support of the [REDACTED] Memorial Fellowship. I understand that your father and father-in-law was a highly respected planner and economist, as well as an exceptional academic leader, and that he established the Graduate School of [REDACTED] at the University of California, Los Angeles, among other noteworthy accomplishments. We are pleased to be the stewards of this endowed fund that honors and celebrates him here at UC Berkeley.

Yuan T. Lee, one of our distinguished Nobel laureates, once stated, "I came to Berkeley as a graduate student to work with the world's greatest faculty. I came back to Berkeley as a professor to work with the world's greatest graduate students." Your support for these exceptional developing scholars is therefore a critical investment in Berkeley and its future, and I thank you for your loyalty and generosity.

I send you my best wishes from the campus for a superb summer.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

Robert J. Birgeneau

Dear [REDACTED]:

I am writing to acknowledge, with deep gratitude, your remarkable pledge to the Incentive Awards Program (IAP) for Sacramento. I understand that your gift will serve to expand IAP to the Sacramento school district, providing immediate operating expenses and catalyzing further gifts from interested donors.

IAP has demonstrated its value in other areas of the state for many years now. Your commitment to the program has been extraordinary, and I am truly grateful for your leadership role in bringing it to the Sacramento area. As you know, students from communities in need are turning to us for financial aid in greater numbers than ever before. I am determined that the University will continue its policy of providing aid to all qualified students, but I count on the generosity of alumni and friends like you in order to do so. Without such gifts, we could not offer nearly as much to those who seek a Berkeley education. Thank you for your longstanding and wonderful commitment to our students.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

Robert J. Birgeneau

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]:

I am writing to thank you for your heartfelt May gift to the University. Before I continue, though, let me first express my condolences on the recent passing of your husband, [REDACTED], who was also a Cal alum. Losing a loved one is never easy, and the loss of a spouse is truly a deep sorrow. I trust that you have been finding comfort in the support of your family and friends, and I hope that the endowment that you have newly established — the [REDACTED] Scholarship — will in some small way serve as another form of comfort for you. This is a lovely way to pay tribute to his memory here at your mutual alma mater, while providing support for students who, in these challenging economic times, need more financial support than ever. Your husband's legacy as a Cal graduate will live on through the education that these scholarship funds help to facilitate for talented and deserving young scholars.

Once more, I am most grateful for this significant gift to Cal, and again, please accept my deepest sympathy, which I ask you kindly to share with all the members of your family.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

Robert J. Birgeneau

Dear [REDACTED]:

I am writing to acknowledge your generous gift to The Cal Fund through your Individual Retirement Account. The Cal Fund, like the Chancellor's Discretionary Fund that it replaced, is unrestricted. With unrestricted funds we can move quickly on important initiatives like upgrading classroom technology and providing emergency student aid. The Cal Fund gives us the flexibility to act immediately whenever an opportunity arises that can improve student life.

I am deeply grateful for alumni and friends like you who have given so generously to the campus. Our common goal is to ensure that Berkeley's excellence is accessible to all qualified students, and The Cal Fund is one way to promote that goal. Thank you for helping us to strengthen our position as the nation's preeminent public university.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

Robert J. Birgeneau

Dear [REDACTED]:

Although our campus is full of beautiful buildings and memorable landscapes, everyone remembers Sather Gate. Countless Berkeley students have made their way through its portals, rushing to important engagements on campus or off. Unfortunately, we learned last year that this constant activity has undermined its structural integrity. Just as it was about to turn 100 years old, Sather Gate was threatening to fall apart.

That was the challenge that you, together with the Class of 1950, took on so admirably. Let me thank you wholeheartedly for your recent gift to the Sather Gate Restoration Fund. The restoration project is now well under way. With your help, Sather Gate will remain an iconic feature of the Berkeley campus for generations to come. [REDACTED], this is a wonderful way to commemorate your 60th reunion!

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

Robert J. Birgeneau

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]:

Thank you for being such a loyal supporter of the University. Your long history of helping to advance our teaching and research at Cal makes you one of our strongest allies. Such generosity is particularly appreciated now, when a climate of economic uncertainty makes so many students look to us for assistance, and when innovative programs, including those at the Haas School of Business and the Goldman School of Public Policy, rely on discretionary funds like those that you have supported.

Thank you, too, for your gifts to the School of Public Health, the Lawrence Hall of Science, the Berkeley Art Museum, and the Chancellor's Circle. Let me assure you that these resources are highly valued and will be used wisely as we enter the new year.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

Robert J. Birgeneau

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

Thank you wholeheartedly for your ongoing support of your alma mater. You have not only made a substantial pledge to Boalt Hall's annual fund, but you are also co-chair of your Class of '04 reunion campaign. I have no doubt that your energy and example will inspire your classmates and others to give generously to the law school. I understand that your gift will fund summer projects or internships promoting women's legal rights. That, too, supports Cal's mission to advance the interests of society.

I am always gratified when alumni choose to give back to the University. It demonstrates the value that they place on their education, along with their awareness of the many alumni and friends who have provided resources over the years. Giving both time and funds, as you are doing, inspires all of us to work even more diligently to keep this University the great public institution that it is. Your generosity will help sustain our mission of providing excellence and access to students who depend on us for both.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

Robert J. Birgeneau

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

Another academic year is underway, our fundraising campaign is staying on target despite national and global economic challenges, and the University is continuing to keep its promise to the citizens of California. This is all good news. Another piece of good news? — your 2009 gift to the College of Engineering Dean's Discretionary Fund through the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund. I appreciate your continuing generosity to your alma mater, as well as your deep commitment to COE.

Thank you, too, for agreeing to serve on the Engineering Advisory Board and for your very constructive engagement with the Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology. The ways that you are volunteering your time and effort make a wonderful complement to your philanthropy.

Please share my appreciation with your Cal-alumna wife, [REDACTED], and I wish your son, [REDACTED], success in his academic pursuits this year. Best wishes from the campus. *Fiat Lux!*

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

Robert J. Birgeneau

Dear Dr. [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your recent gift to the Parallel Laboratory in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. As you know, this important research project, under the direction of Professor David Patterson, is working to solve some of the most vexing problems facing computer scientists today. We were delighted last year to announce that Microsoft and Intel had chosen a Berkeley team to study universal parallel processing, and I know that they made the right choice! Gathering Berkeley scientists from different disciplines to work on a defined set of problems has proven abundantly fruitful over the years, and certainly this will again be the case.

With your particular perspective as an engineer and a businessman, you are well aware of the financial requirements that such specialized research demands. Thank you for backing this remarkable group of scientists and for supporting Berkeley.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

Robert J. Birgeneau

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your pledge to the Campaign for the University Library, which will support research collections and the renovation of Moffitt Library. As you know, our renowned libraries are crucial to maintaining excellence in teaching and research, and have ranked first among public university libraries in this country. The recent renovation of The Bancroft Library has made it more accessible than ever, and its new climate control system will help preserve valuable collections for the people of California for years to come. Moffitt, too, needs renovation in order to incorporate current technology standards into the undergraduate library experience. Your gift will help us achieve that goal.

[REDACTED], let me take this opportunity to thank you as well for your service on the Library's Campaign Leadership Committee. Given your many interests on campus, your dedication to the Library's welfare is particularly appreciated. We are fortunate to have your expertise and time as we work to sustain Berkeley's excellence.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

Robert J. Birgeneau

Dear Dr. [REDACTED] and Ms. [REDACTED]:

Thank you so much for your most generous year-end gift to the College of Letters and Science Humanities Division through the Schwab Fund for Charitable Giving. As you have requested, we will honor your desire for anonymity for honor roll and publicity purposes.

In the humanities at Berkeley, world-renowned faculty inspire students to explore the human experience across an astonishing range of subjects. Through the study of the world's languages and cultures, students prepare themselves for an increasingly multicultural world, and through rigorous exploration of complex philosophical arguments, students move beyond their own assumptions toward a deeper understanding of human life and its perplexities. What students learn at Berkeley does more than enrich their studies — it readies them for lifelong achievement, wherever their paths may lead. Your December contribution supports these important preparations and explorations. I join Dean Broughton in extending gratitude for your passionate, heartfelt support.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

Robert J. Birgeneau

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you so much for your February planned gift, benefiting the Pacific Film Archive. These generous resources, which you intend for the director's discretionary use, will ensure that important contributions to filmmaking will not be lost. I am particularly grateful to good friends like you who help sustain the preeminence of an archive that plays a vitally important role in educating the University's students and the greater community through the art of film. [REDACTED], thank you, too, for your invaluable work as a BAM/PFA trustee.

I am proud of the significant progress that has been made toward the museum and archive's new building. We are nearing completion of the schematic-design phase of the project by the internationally acclaimed Toyo Ito & Associates. The final design is on track to be completed at the end of 2009, keeping us on target for an opening in 2013. I hope that both of you will be on hand in the future to help us celebrate the opening of this exceptional new facility!

Again, I very much appreciate all that you have done, and continue to do, for the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive. Best wishes from the campus.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

Robert J. Birgeneau

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED] and Dr. [REDACTED]:

I am delighted to acknowledge, with thanks, your ongoing support of Cal Performances, and in particular, the funding that you have provided for the May 2008 West Coast premiere of *The Little Prince*, presented by the San Francisco Opera. I am familiar with this charming work by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry and am certain that this contemporary opera will be a tremendous hit with Bay Area audiences. How could anyone resist a beautifully staged production that features a Rose, a Pilot, Water, and a Fox, in addition to a little boy from another planet?

I believe that we can all use a “gentle reminder” now and then about holding onto what is truly important in life. Thank you so much for employing your philanthropy to help bring this message to Cal Performances so that it can be shared with Northern California audiences.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

Robert J. Birgeneau

Dear Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]:

I am pleased to acknowledge, with thanks, your June gift to the campus through the San Diego Foundation. Your contribution to men's basketball makes a wonderful complement to your support of women's basketball from earlier this year. I am sure that we all will be treated to some exciting games next season when the Golden Bears step onto the court under the direction of our new head coach, Mike Montgomery.

Let me also take a moment to express my appreciation for your overall generosity to Cal Athletics. Through your gifts to the Athletic General Fund, Bear Backers, and Cal Football, in addition to your contributions to our men's and women's basketball programs, you have demonstrated your loyalty to our student athletes and to your alma mater. Thank you once again for all that you do for the Blue and Gold. Best wishes from Berkeley.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

Robert J. Birgeneau