The Annual Prytanean Alumnae Brunch is Coming!

Saturday, April 5th, 2014
9am-12pm
Bancroft Hotel
2680 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94704

Alumnae President Bari Cornet and the board look forward to greeting all of you to our Annual Meeting and tasty brunch buffet at the Bancroft Hotel.

We will honor our members from the class of ’64 and introduce our 2014 Faculty Award winner.

The current Faculty Award winner, Professor Lauren Williams, Department of Mathematics will be our guest speaker. She has a very engaging style of presenting her work we know you will enjoy. The Prytanean and Ritter Awards will also be presented.

Reserve your spot by mail (use the form in this newsletter or available on our website www.Prytanean.org). Don’t miss the camaraderie, catching up, and the chance to be close to our beautiful campus once again. We don’t want to miss you!

— Joan Whitehead Latta ’65
Program, Events and Prizes Chair

Prytanean Honor Society

The Honor Society recruited twelve new members in their latest membership drive last Fall. Last year’s graduation took a large toll on membership with few continuing members. Most of the twenty-five are new this year. Emily Green is President and Parinaz Fozouni is the Vice President who is liaison to the Alumnae Board. Committee Chairs of the Honor Society include Nimerta Sandhu, Lizbeth Duran, Connie Sun, Eden May, Laila Fozouni, and Rohini Bell.

The Honor Society Actives are involved in an after school Girls Club at a local elementary school, as well as beginning to volunteer at Stiles Hall. The Actives will also be volunteering their time March with the Berkeley Project and the Expanding Your Horizon’s Conference at UC Berkeley.

— Parinaz Fozouni ’13
Prytanean Honor Society Vice-President

December 16th Faculty Award Reception at University House

The Prytanean Alumnae were received warmly by Chancellor Dirks’ wife, Professor Janaki Bakhle, during the reception in honor of Lauren Williams on Monday, December 16th, in their home at University House. Their lovely holiday tree, decorated in CAL bow ties, added a whimsical element to the happy festivities. All enjoyed meeting Lauren, her parents; husband Denis, who is also a professor in the Math Department, and their delightful daughter Elodie.

All enjoyed listening to Lauren present her acceptance speech while holding little Elodie, who insisted on sharing the spotlight. Original awardee, Angelica Stacy, noted Lauren “never skipped a beat” and kept Elodie in her arms throughout her entire speech, to the delight of all.

— Carolyn E. Capps-Broschar ’76

Honor Society gathers for a celebratory tea
Message from the President

Greetings to all of you. We have had an eventful year for Prytanean Alumnae. We have been making great strides in becoming more technologically savvy. Our website is up and running. We have begun sending e-mail blasts notifying members of upcoming events. And we have instituted an on-line method of dues payment. These new forms of communication are in addition to our on-going annual printed newsletter.

Along with the rest of the campus community, we have said a thank you and farewell to Mary Catherine Birgeneau and a welcome to Janaki Bakhle (Professor of History and Chancellor’s Associate). Janaki (as she prefers to be called) was a very gracious hostess for the Prytanean Faculty Award Reception. We were very honored to be allowed to continue this tradition, and hope to work with her in the future. It was a real treat to introduce our 2013 winner, Lauren Williams.

We continue our support of students, both through involvement with the Honor Society, student projects, and student scholarships. The Honor Society has designed a Prytanean sweatshirt, which many of us have ordered (and which will be available at the Annual Meeting.) As always, I am struck by the intellect, scholarship, and commitment exhibited by these students. They continue to live the Prytanean Pledge of faith, service, and loyalty to the University of California.

Among our goals for this coming year are an expansion of active membership in Prytanean Alumnae and increase in Board involvement. We are recruiting members to help in a variety of activities (see separate article in this newsletter). We are particularly anxious to provide networking opportunities for our younger alums.

Finally, I want to congratulate our members who are celebrating their 50th year in Prytanean. We hope to see many of you at the Annual Meeting and Brunch.

— Bari Cornet’75, President

Awards for CAL Student Groups

Prytanean Alumnae gives financial assistance to student groups that further the principles of faith, service, and loyalty to CAL. This past year, Prytanean Alumnae awarded two campus groups who serve students in local elementary schools.

In the Marian Diamond Anatomy Enrichment Program, Cal students share their knowledge of human anatomy. The students craft lesson plans, contact teachers, and teach in grade schools. Professor Marian Diamond is a world expert on neuroanatomy, and honorary Prytanean member. When she retired from teaching several years ago, she was one of the most beloved professors at UC Berkeley. In her legacy, students who took her Human Anatomy Laboratory Class started the program. They teach about the systems of the body, and how to stay healthy. The Program received $332 to purchase an anatomical eye model and charts.

Conceived and managed by Prytanean actives, the Girl’s Club is an after-school program that encourages girls to be passionate about learning, and emphasizes the benefits of college. It helps third to fifth grade girls by providing strong female role models who host activities ranging from journaling sessions to science experiments. The Club is a place where girls voice opinions, share goals, and ask questions without embarrassment. Many of the girls come from families where neither parent is a high school graduate. The Girl’s Club received $600 to support three years of programming.

— Maria Protti ’79, Campus Projects Chair

— — Marian Diamond Anatomy Enrichment Project
2013 – Prytanean Faculty Award winner – Professor Lauren Williams

Professor Lauren Williams, Department of Mathematics, in the College of Letters & Science, Math & Physical Sciences division, is the 28th recipient of the Prytanean Faculty Award, in July 2013.

Lauren grew up in southern California, the oldest of four sisters. After high school she went to Harvard where she graduated magna cum laude in 2000 with a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics. She studied for a year at Cambridge before attending MIT, where she received her Ph.D. in Mathematics in 2005.

With her Ph.D. in hand, Lauren spent a year at Berkeley as a NSF Postdoctoral Fellow followed by three years teaching at Harvard. She returned to the Berkeley campus as an assistant professor in 2009. After four years as assistant professor, the math department submitted Lauren’s case for early tenure, which was awarded in July 2013.

Lauren’s research focuses on algebraic, enumerative, and topological combinatorics, and their connections with algebraic geometry, representation theory and physics, with total positivity, cluster algebra, and statistical mechanics among her specialties.

During her career Lauren has won various awards including the National Science Foundation CAREER award, the Sloan Research Fellowship, and the Hellman Fellowship; she is also a Fellow of the American Mathematical Society. She enjoys teaching and mentoring students and postdocs.

Lauren resides in Berkeley with her husband Denis Auroux and their one-year-old daughter Elodie. In her (mostly nonexistent) free time, Lauren enjoys playing the violin and running.

Professor Lauren Williams

Shirlee Herald remembered Prytanean with a bequest

We sat on the stairs in the warm sun in front of our Richmond district home. The mailman arrived with a packet of mail and handed it to Shirlee. As she leafed through the mail, she stopped at an ivory-colored envelope addressed to her. She carefully opened it. Her eyes closed and she said, “I can’t believe it. I’m being invited to join the Prytanean Society. Shirlee had been on the staff of the Daily Californian. All her life, she treasured being a Prytanean alumna. On May 1, 1999 we traveled to Berkeley to attend the Prytanean Alumnae, Inc. Annual Meeting where Shirlee and others were honored for 50 years as alumnae members. It was Shirlee’s wish to remember the Prytanean Society and what it meant to her and to benefit, in some small way, the women who followed her and others who have given service to the university.

— Written by Audrey Herald Polster

Shirlee Herald remembered


In Memoriam

Lois Martignoni Brown ’43
Mary Margaret Simon Clark ’37
Constance Robinson Damskey ’43
Barbara Morgan Eisele ’33
Joyce Richardson Gross ’45
Louise Lindley Hatch ’41
Shirlee Herald ’49
Esther Heyns - Hon
Josephine Hunt - Hon
Phyllis Moore Kieling ’40
Janet Biedenbach Koll - Hon
Phyllis Lindley ’45
Patricia Alexander Milliken ’38
Doris Benny Moses ’39
Barbara Smith Oliver ’44
Hedwig Wilson Oswald ’41
Ann Van Nostrand Rosser ’47
Janet Kidwell Schmalenberger ’54

Prytanean Alumnae Board 2012–2013

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Bari Bradner Cornet ’67
Programs, Events, & Prizes Chair
Joan Latta ’65
Chief Financial Officer
Helen Marcus ’68
Corporate Secretary
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Carolyn Capps-Broshar ’76
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Gail Duffala ’83
Campus Liaison
Beata Fitzpatrick, Hon.
Honor Society Vice President
Parinaz Fozouni ’13
Past President
Lynn Nakada ’75
Newsletter Editor
Samantha Yates Francois ’91
Prytanean Financial Comments

At year end 2013, Prytanean Alumnae had total assets of $1,234,221. Thanks to an improving stock and bond market, our largest investment portfolio earmarked for the Prytanean Faculty Enrichment Award, grew in 2013 to $734,674 from $609,733 in 2012. This portfolio is managed by Aspiriant, under the guidance of Honorary Member, Linda Fitz. The remaining Prytanean assets are dedicated to various student scholarships and are managed as endowment accounts by either UC Berkeley Foundation or UC Regents. Prytanean’s investment assets are sufficient to continue our mission of awarding an annual $25,000 Faculty Enrichment Award and other student scholarships for the foreseeable future.

Although donations improved slightly in 2013, membership dues renewals decreased slightly in 2013, causing total income to decline to $16,575 in 2013, from $17,150 the year before. Significant work in creating a new website with functionality to pay dues on-line will hopefully appeal to more recent grads who are accustomed to using the internet. It remains a priority to attract more dues paying members through increased involvement in volunteering and organizing Prytanean class reunions at the annual brunch.

Approximately $40,000 is currently available for use by the Alumnae organization itself. Membership dues and donations cover the cost of producing the newsletter, mailing expenses, hosting the Faculty Award Reception at University House, funding the Prytanean Honor Society operating budget and campus projects, maintaining the data base, CPA tax preparation and other operating expenses. A savings of $700 in 2014 is anticipated in switching our Directors & Officers insurance from a private provider to a CAL Alumni Association policy.

—Helen M. Marcus ’68, Chief Financial Officer

Prytaneans & Friends: Thank you for your support of Alumnae Projects

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ORAL HISTORY
Gilmore, Adrienne
Hass, Eden
Rende, Palmina
Seton, Suzanne
Weller, Jane
Werther, Elizabeth

FACULTY AWARD
Bebbington,
Denise Humphreys
Berg, Mary Lou
Bernstein, Betty
Biersch, Joan McRae
Bream, Barbara
Brownson, Mary
Casazza, Rosa
Engh, Luzanne

Patty Friesen, Student Awards Chair
Mint Bhetraratana, Ritter Prize
Cumulative annual gifts to UC Berkeley Foundation totaling $1000 or more are eligible for benefits in The Charter Hill Society (http://charterhill.berkeley.edu). For questions about gifts via electronic funds transfer, matching gifts, securities, gifts-in-kind, real estate, or planned gifts, contact Lynn Nakada at (510) 643-7001 or Lynn_Nakada@berkeley.edu

Through Prytanean Alumnae, Inc. directly:
Tax ID# 94-1514147
• Checks payable to Prytanean Alumnae, Inc. and mailed to P.O. Box 5006
  Berkeley, CA 94705
• Dues $35 for 2014 calendar year
  $15 for Classes of 2009–2013 only
• Contributions earmarked for General Fund, Faculty Award, and/or Oral History

Ways to Support Prytanean

Through UC Berkeley Foundation:
Tax ID# 94-6090626
• Checks payable to UC Berkeley Foundation and mailed to University Relations
  2080 Addison Street, #4200, Berkeley, CA 94720-4200
• Credit and debit card gifts online at http://givetocal.berkeley.edu
• Contributions earmarked for Prytanean Faculty Enrichment Program (for Faculty Award), Prytanean Fund (for Honor Society programs), Rowena Hamilton Memorial Scholarship (for athletic scholarship for female student-athletes), or Mary Wiley Stecker and Prytanean Awards (for women in the College of Letters and Science, Engineering, or Math and Science)
New Opportunities to Volunteer

The Prytanean Alumnae Board is staffed by a wonderful group of committed volunteers. To fulfill both the traditional board roles and the emerging ones, we need to increase participation from our alumnae. Please consider the following and recognize that you don’t need to live locally to help thanks to electronic communication.

Review/Interview student scholarship applicants. This includes the Stecker awards, as well as other California Alumni Association Leadership awards. Assistance in reviewing applicants for the Prytanean Award and the Ritter Award is also needed. If you are interested, please contact Patty Friesen, Students Awards Chair, friesen1@comcast.net or Bari Cornet, Prytanean Alumnae President, Bari_c@sbcglobal.net.

Assist with Honor Society projects. Not only does the Alumnae Board review/approve proposals from students to support activities, but also could provide guidance and mentoring as needed. If you are interested, please contact Maria Protti, Campus Projects Chair, Dendron@earthlink.net or Cici Ambrosio, Honor Society Liaison, ambrosia@berkeley.edu.

Review Faculty Award Applicants. This is a great opportunity to get some insight into the fantastic young faculty on the Berkeley campus. If you are interested, please contact Carolyn Capps, Faculty Award Chair, caps@berkeley.edu or Bari Cornet, Bari_c@sbcglobal.net.

Web related activities. Help to manage the website, including updating content. Those interested should contact Leigh Genser, Webmistress leighmammen@comcast.net. Leigh is a great person to help those of us who are less than fully computer literate to understand.

Assistance with helping to present students at Initiation. Always fun! Contact Joan Latta, Programs, Events & Prizes Chair, Joan.latta@yahoo.com or Bari Cornet, Bari_c@sbcglobal.net.

Class Representatives. We would like to identify a representative (or 2) for each decade to outreach and provide communication for their era of students. This is a new focus for the Board and we can use your help. If interested, contact Bari Cornet, Bari_c@sbcglobal.net.

There are opportunities that are ongoing and those that are of very short duration. We’d like to hear any ideas you have. Contact Bari Cornet at Bari_c@sbcglobal.net.