Come to Our
Annual Prytanean Alumnae Brunch
Saturday, April 4th, 2020
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Buffet Brunch and Coffee Service
The Prytanean Great Room At The Bancroft Hotel
2680 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94704
(Across the street from the main campus, near the intersection of Bancroft Way and College Avenue; Parking Availability: Hotel (limited, $3 per hour), Bancroft Avenue Campus Lots, Underhill Campus Parking Structure, Street Parking)
Joining: Old Friends and New by Our Beautiful Campus
Featuring: Dr. Markita Landry, 2019 Faculty Award Winner
Honoring: The Class of ’70, 50 Year Membership Milestone
Announcing: The 2020 Faculty Award, Campus Project Grants, and Student Award Recipients
Conratulating: The Graduating Seniors
Including: Our Business Meeting and Board Member Election
RSVP by March 27, 2020
(No Phone or E-mail reservations accepted)
Mail with the form in this newsletter to: Prytanean Alumnae, Inc., P.O. Box 5006, Berkeley, CA 94705-2712
Enclose a check payable to:
Prytanean Alumnae, Inc. for $35 per person.
($20 per person for Classes 2010–2019)
or alternatively go to:
https://PrytaneanSpringMeeting20.eventbrite.com
to respond and pay for the brunch on-line.

Celebrating 150 Years of Cal Women
The University of California is different from its counterparts. Women were included in the University early on. The first women undergraduates were admitted to UC Berkeley in 1871, two years after the school began.

The opportunity that Cal gave to women in providing higher education resulted in rich civic, cultural, scientific, and social achievements. These achievements should be recognized. Toward this end, Cal is celebrating the achievements of its women graduates throughout history. Celebratory events will occur over the next year as described at the dedicated website: https://150w.berkeley.edu.

Prytanean Alumnae are taking a leadership role in organizing the celebration. Sheila Humphreys, Vice-Chancellor Catherine Koshland, and Provost Angelica Stacy are on the associated History Steering Committee. Cici Ambrosio and Joan Finnie are on the History Advisory Committee. Anh Tran is a leader in the overall planning of the celebration.

To help chronicle the success of women from UC Berkeley, a listing of Remarkable Prytaneans is forming. The listing comprises past Cal Prytanean women who have made an impact on the world. It will grow as further accomplishments of Prytaneans are uncovered. You can find the listing at <prytanean.org>. A sample of entries can be found in this newsletter starting on page 4.

—Maria Protti ’79, President
Message from the President
One of my warmest memories this past year was getting an e-note from Professor Jennifer Miller, a past Faculty Award Enrichment Winner. Jessica said that her award made all the difference in making her then budding academic career a success. The message was a delight to read as it validates the rich benefits of the award, and the wisdom of establishing the award.

Jennifer, a Professor of English, created the field of Early Middle English as revealed in the study of original scripts. She gave the 2019 Prytanean Lecture at Cal Homecoming Weekend. Her lecture was called “Turning Over an Old Leaf: The Strange and Wonderful World of Medieval Manuscripts.” Jennifer made anonymous, twelve-century writers seem like they were alive. Indeed, she detailed how long-ago writers have left their DNA markings on vellum. The students in Professor Miller’s classes are lucky to have such a dynamic teacher.

Another delight of the year was to see the dedication and endearment that our alums show to our collegians. Many alums have worked with little fanfare to instill a sense of community and belonging in our newest members. They include:

Leigh Genser who hosted a home February brunch for the students,
Helen Marcus who hosted a home Fall wine-tasting party for undergraduates over age 21,
Jan McCutcheon who secured Berkeley Symphony tickets for undergraduates to attend the Berkeley Symphony, at a special performance that honored women and the 19th amendment, and
Anh Tran who arranged for collegian attendance at a California Alumni Association sponsored panel. The theme of the event was “Striving to Thrive: The Role of Resilience in Sisterhood and Career.”

Kristen Lee, our past President, focused last year on using technology and maintaining tradition. This year, I hope to continue the momentum that Kristen generated by striving to support all generations of Prytaneans in our collective support of UC Berkeley.

Our work of service and loyalty to Cal continues to be robust as we reflect and build on 150 Years of Women at Berkeley. As Mary Bennett Ritter said, “There’s More Than Gold in California.”

—Maria Protti ’79, President

Financial Remarks
At year end 2019, Prytanean Alumnae had total investment funds of $1,383,534 a 1.9% increase over year end 2018. Of this total, $872,102 is exclusively earmarked for our annual Prytanean Faculty Enrichment Award and is managed by Fisher Investments which replaced Aspiriant in February 2017. The remaining investment funds of $511,432 support various student scholarships and are managed as endowments by either UC Berkeley Foundation or UC Regents. We are pleased to assure you our investment funds are sufficient to continue the annual $25,000 Faculty Enrichment Award and other student scholarships for the foreseeable future.

Regarding our operating funds, at year end 2019 we had $46,305 at Wells Fargo. Membership dues and donations made up our 2019 operating revenue of $10,150. This revenue supports the following operating expenses: our annual newsletter, the Faculty Award Reception, the Annual Brunch, CPA fees, data base maintenance, plus the collegiates’ Prytanean Honor Society operating budget and Campus Projects. Lastly, there is $18,264 in a separate cash Schwab account containing monies for both the Oral History project and the Janice Rivers Kittredge Memorial Tribute.

—Anh Tran ’06, Chief Financial Officer

Prytaneans In Memoriam
We are saddened by the loss of several Prytaneans in 2019. Among them was Susan Hone, Class of ’61. Her obituary included her many campus activities including Prytaneans, Managing Editor of the Daily Cal, and staff at Lair of the Bear. Sue Hone was a Berkeley Vice-Mayor and Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Director. She was President of the California Elected Women for Education and Research, and a founder of the California Women’s Lawyer’s Association. We are grateful to her family for listing UC Berkeley Prytanean as an organization important to her and suggesting donations be made to Prytanean (among others).
Faculty Award Winner Studies Life at the Nano-Scale

On November 5th, 2019, nearly fifty alumnae, students, and faculty gathered at the historic University House to honor Professor Markita Landry as she was honored with the Prytanean Faculty Award. The Faculty Award Reception, co-hosted by Prytanean Alumnae and Chancellor Carol Christ, is an annual event that recognizes an outstanding junior faculty female professor for her record as a distinguished professor, her demonstrated scholarly achievements, and her success as a role model for students. Since the award’s inception in 1986, and following a competitive annual review and selection process, the recipient is awarded a financial grant (now $25,000) to support her efforts to become a tenured faculty professor.

Markita Landry, an assistant professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, is a worthy recipient of this honor. Professor Landry received a B.S. in Chemistry and a B.A. in Physics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a Ph.D. in Chemical Physics and a Certificate in Business Administration from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Chemical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Professor Landry’s current research centers on the development of synthetic nanoparticle-polymer conjugates for imaging neuromodulation in the brain, and for the delivery of genetic materials into plants for plant biotechnology applications. She founded and runs the Landry Lab, where she exploits the highly tunable chemical and physical properties of nanomaterials for the creation of bio-mimetic structures, molecular imaging, and plant genome editing. She is also on the scientific advisory board of Terramera, Inc. She is a recent recipient of early career awards from the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation, the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, The Parkinson’s Disease Foundation, the DARPA Young Investigator program, the Beckman Young Investigator program, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, is a Sloan Research Fellow, a FFAR New Innovator, and a Chan-Zuckerberg Biohub Investigator.

—Andrea Rice ’13, Programs, Events & Prizes Chair

Ezinne Abba—Rowena Hamilton Memorial Award

This year’s Rowena Hamilton Memorial Award goes to Ezinne Abba, a sprinter on Cal’s Track and Field Team.

For twenty-five years, the annual Rowena Hamilton Award has assisted women student athletes who play for Cal. Prytanean Alumnae established the award to recognize a Cal student athlete for her athletic ability, service to the community and academic performance. Ezinne focuses on short speed races. She ran her personal best time of 11.87 in the 100 meter race at the 2019 Hornet Invitational in Sacramento. She finished second in the 100 meter race at both the big meet against Stanford, and the Brutus Hamilton Invitational held at Cal. Ezinne went to high school in her hometown of Rancho Cucamonga, California, and plans to become an orthodontist.

—Cal Athletics
Remarkable Prytaneans

Barbara Nachtrieb Armstrong (1890 – 1976)
Attorney, Professor of Law, Professor of Economics, and Policy Advocate. She helped to draft the Social Security Act of 1935, and is considered to be the architect of the U.S. Social Security System which was based on her theory of economic security. On becoming a full-time legal professor at Boalt Hall, she was the first woman professor at a major law school. One of two women in her law school class, in 1915 she received a JD from Boalt Hall and admission into the California Bar.

Clara Mortenson Beyer (1892 – 1990)
A Director within the U.S. Department of Labor and part of the “Ladies Brain Trust”, a group of four women who advised Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins during the 1930’s and 1940’s, and shaped labor policies of the New Deal Era including the development of the establishment of worker safety, maximum hours, minimum wages and social security.

Mary Chase Freeborn (1889 - 1946)
An advocate for women’s housing, she was a leader in the Associated Charities of Women’s Clubs and YWCA. As President of the Prytanean Alumnae Association, she spearheaded the founding of Ritter Hall, one of the first cooperatives for women undergraduate students. A UC Berkeley dormitory, Freeborn Hall, is named after her.

Eleanor Gates (1875 – 1951)
A novelist, film company founder, and playwright who created seven plays that were staged on Broadway. Her play, The Poor Little Rich Girl, was made into a movie for Mary Pickford in 1917 and Shirley Temple in 1936, and imitated by Andy Warhol in 1965.

Pauline Kael (1919 – 2001)
An influential writer who reinvented the form of film criticism. She wrote for The New Yorker magazine from 1969 to 1992. She began writing reviews about movies that came to The UC Theater on University Avenue.

Catherine “Kay” Kerr (1911 – 2010)
Environmentalist whose efforts helped spark the environmental movement in the United States. Co-founded the San Francisco Bay Association in 1961 which eventually became Save the Bay. She also co-founded the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the first coastal protection agency in America. She fought to protect the San Francisco Bay from development and landfill, and to restore wetlands and the estuary.

Marguerite Higgins (Hall) (1920 – 1966)
Reporter and War Correspondent at the front lines in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. She covered the 1945 Dachau Concentration Camp liberation, the Nuremberg war trials and the Soviet Union blockage crisis of the Cold War. In the Korean War, General Douglas MacArthur personally commanded that she be allowed to be among the assault troops. In 1951 she was the first women to receive the Pulitzer Prize for Foreign Correspondence. The award jury noted her “enterprise and courage.” She interviewed Francisco Franco, Nikita Khrushchev, and Jawaharlal Nehru. She died at the age of 45 from the disease of leishmaniasis, a tropical disease that she contracted in Vietnam. The author of four books, her journalism career began when she wrote for The Daily Californian.
Marion Janet Harron (1903 - 1972)
First woman member of the U.S. Court of Tax Appeals (now the Tax Court of the U.S.), served from 1924 until 1960; had many New Deal appointments under President Roosevelt and was a frequent social visitor to the White House; worked on the legal staff of the National Recovery Administration (NRA).

Dorothy Wright Liebes (1897 – 1972)
Textile Designer and Weaver. In studios in San Francisco and New York, she integrated bold colors and uncommon texture and material. Her fabric decorated airplanes, hotels, ships, and theatres. She designed for architects like Frank Lloyd Wright and was honored by the American Institute of Architects for her craftsmanship of custom handwoven pieces. Liebes’ textiles were used for the upholstery, curtains, and throw pillows in the public rooms of UC Berkeley Stern Hall.

Vivian Osborne Marsh (1897 – 1986)
Among the first African-Americans to receive a Master’s degree from UC Berkeley. Her stellar performance on entrance exams influenced the University to drop its policy of requiring multiple exams to applicants who came from the Southern United States. During the Depression, she supervised California’s National Youth Administration Division on Negro Affairs, an organization that helped find employment for youth. While President of the California State Association of Colored Women in 1941, she started the Fannie Wall Children’s Home and Day Nursery in Oakland. She was Vice-President of the National Council of Negro Women in 1945. She was the national President of Delta Sigma Theta Society, Inc., a Black sorority, and founded many chapters of the sorority. Earlier, in 1932, she represented the sorority in Washington, D.C. decrying lynching.

Edna Mary Wemple McDonald (1880 – 1958)
Paleontologist. The first woman to obtain a Master of Science degree in vertebrate paleontology at UC Berkeley, she participated in at least five UC Berkeley field expeditions (circa 1903 – 1907). On a trip to the West Humboldt Range in Nevada in 1905, she and her colleagues found Triassic deposits including the largest ichthyosaurs skeletons in the world and the three most complete in North America. On that exhibition she found, marked, and wrapped bones and fossils, and loaded them into a wagon. The head of an ichthyosaur skeleton found in the exhibition is shown regularly at Cal Day.

Sylvia McLaughlin (1916 – 2016)
Pioneer environmentalist and co-founder of Save the Bay--the organization that worked for legislation that stopped raw sewage from being put into the San Francisco Bay and established a landfill moratorium. She inspired other urban preservation projects. A tree-sitter when she was 91 years-old, she protested the removal of oak trees to renovate the UC Memorial Stadium.

Theresa Meikle (1893 – 1967)
Judge at the San Francisco Superior Court. In 1955, she became the Presiding Judge of that Court, the first women elected to such a position in any major American city. Earlier in 1931, she presided over the San Francisco Women’s Court as Judge, the first time a San Francisco Court had a female judge. The San Francisco Women’s Court began in 1916 to provide “social justice for women.”

Margaret Elliot Murdock (1894 - 1985)
Played the Campanile bells for sixty years from 1923 until her retirement in 1983. Her bell-ringning entertained President Harding, signaled fire warnings, recognized Lindberg flying over Berkeley, celebrated the World War II armistice, and feted the individual countries founding the United Nations. Resident of the Women’s Faculty Club. The keyboard of the carillon of the Campanile is named after her.

Lilian Jeannette Rice (1889 – 1938)
An eco-conscious, early 20th century American architect working in the California Spanish Colonial Revival style, she was the lead planner in the Rancho Santa Fe development in San Diego County. Eleven of her buildings are listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.

Mary Bennett Ritter (1860 – 1949)
A physician and advocate for women’s rights and public health. When women were largely excluded from medical training and employment, Ritter advocated for women in medical professions, training for nurses, and sanitation standards in hospitals and doctor’s offices. She helped start free clinics for poor women and children.
Nita C. Sheffield (Blain) (1893 - ?)
Promoter of swimming. She taught at Columbia University, wrote books on how to swim, developed a university teacher training course for swimming instructors, created the world’s first women life-saving corps, and insisted that all New York City high school students pass a swimming test. In 1911, before a crowd of 5000, she was one of the first women to swim across the Golden Gate Strait. She and her sister, Lyba, saved some men from drowning in Lake Merritt.

Carol Bates Rhodes Sibley (1902 - 1986)
Advocate for racial desegregation in education, and volunteer leader in charities and associations. From 1961 – 1971, she served on the Berkeley Board of Education, twice as President, and developed and implemented a policy to desegregate the junior high and elementary schools. Her efforts provoked an attempt to recall her from service in 1964. With her husband, Robert Sibley, she entertained thousands of UC Berkeley students at Allenoke Manor, her house and gardens located near the northern edge of the campus.

Lucy Ward Stebbins (1880 – 1955)
While the Dean of Women at UC Berkeley, enrollment of women increased six-fold. She raised money for scholarships and expanded the curriculum, encouraged women to participate in student government and created housing opportunities, and established schools of Nursing and Social Welfare, and the Departments of Home Economics and Decorative Arts. She founded the Women’s Faculty Club. The Berkeley Student Cooperative Stebbins Hall is named for her.

Abby Louisa Waterman (1869 – 1941)
Botanist and short story writer who studied the plants of the Mohave Desert. Daughter of a California Governor, she hiked, rode horseback, and camped while gathering specimens. Her field notes are housed in the University and Jepson Herbaria libraries and archives. Willis Jepson dedicated the second volume of Flora of California to her.

Hazel Hotchkiss Wightman (1886 – 1974)
Dominated American women’s tennis before World War I, won 45 U.S. Titles, and founded the Wightman Cup, an annual team competition for British and American women.

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

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  $15 for Classes of 2015–2019 only
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PRTYANEAN ALUMNAE, INC.  Spring 2020

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First       Birth/Maiden       Last

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□ The information above is new □ Yes, I could help the Board with Prytanean activities

Enclosed is my check, payable to Prytanean Alumnae, Inc., for:

□ Yearly dues @ $35 due June 30, 2020 □ Yearly dues (Classes 2015–2019 only @ $15) $ __________

□ Attend Annual Meeting and Brunch @ $35 or $20 (classes 2010–2019) $ __________

□ Sponsor Honor Society students to attend Annual Meeting @ $20 $ __________

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$ _____ General Fund $ _____ Faculty Award □ I wish to donate anonymously $ __________

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