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EDITING • Madeleine Loh, Development Director  
DESIGN • Maïa Debs, Kingman Hall Resident;  
Sylvia Santillanez-Robson, Oscar Wilde House Resident

# Cooperatively Yours



## 2019 BSC Graduation,

a 12-year tradition that marks  
the transition from membership  
to alumni status.

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## Prioritizing the Recruitment and Retention of Low-Income and Marginalized Students



### EMERY MARTINEZ

BSC President

The BSC has and does play a critical role in the accessibility of affordable housing, making it possible for low-income and other marginalized communities to pursue higher education in the Bay Area, which continues to face a housing crisis. I myself as a low-income, queer, trans person of color have benefited from the BSC.

I was raised by my mother, who recently gained US citizenship, in El Monte, located in the middle of San Gabriel Valley. I was not a serious student — in fact, I bombed my classes — until my ninth grade English teacher told me I had potential; later, our school board directors encouraged me to apply to UC Berkeley and other schools. I started off as a psychology major but switched to social welfare because I am interested in how social structures and environments affect mental health.



Emery prepares their dinner at Oscar Wilde House.

I moved into Oscar Wilde, our queer-themed house, during my sophomore year and I have found a place to grow as a person and as a leader. I have served on the Board of Directors since Spring 2018. Last year, I was the Vice President of Experience and Training. My committee worked on policies affecting all aspects of a member's experience in the BSC, such as manager training, conduct policies, theme house management, and mental health resources.

The BSC has offered me and others many opportunities financially, socially, and educationally. Nearly half of us are first-generation college students! I share the concerns many of you have. We — the BSC membership and staff — believe that the rate of our low-income students (51%) is not where we want it to be.

As recently as 2009, when we first started measuring our demographics, we were only 27% low-income students. We are currently (for Fall 2019) 51% Educational Opportunity Program students, who are the lowest-income students on campus, although that number has actually been higher in the recent past. It is important to note that our 51% EOP does not include middle-income and working class students attending UC Berkeley; nor does it include the 6% of our students who attend other local schools like Berkeley City College and San Francisco State University, who are mostly, if not all, low-income.

The BSC Board has set a goal of reaching 75% low-income by 2021. As a student-run cooperative, our transformation will involve continuous dialogue and community engagement. Some friction between old and new is inevitable, and our duty is to make the cultural shift as community-based and inclusive as possible.



We can already see some significant changes, for example, both in the composition and the dialogue at the Board level. Since our first census in 2012, the Board and the Demographic Inclusion Task Force (2015-17) have undertaken further research and initiatives to remove barriers that might be preventing low-income and underrepresented students from applying to and remaining in the houses:

- **Targeted marketing to low-income and traditionally marginalized students.** We are proactively reaching out to student groups through partnerships with the UC Berkeley offices that service disabled, undocumented, low-income, first-generation, transfer students, and other marginalized groups. We are also encouraging our student-run houses to invite and host campus student groups and improving our theme house recruitment efforts.
- **More investment in scholarships as recruitment and retention tools.** The BSC budgets \$134,230 in its annual budget — funded directly from member rates — to go toward scholarships. With the additional help of donations, the BSC awards over \$200,000 in scholarships in the academic year. BSC scholarships are based on financial need and are available to both new applicants and continuing members.

At UC Berkeley, the percentage of Pell grant students (the low-income equivalent) has been gradually declining. It is now at 26%.

- **Theme House Creation & Support.** The BSC created a Person of Color Theme House to create a safe space and improve access for POC students, provide additional leadership opportunities, and demonstrate the BSC's commitment to inclusion and diversity. Since converting Castro to the POC Theme House in 2016, the EOP (low-income) percentage has increased from 28% to 72%.

The creation of Cloyne as the Substance Free Academic Theme House was motivated in part by our desire to create a safer, more academically focused, and welcoming space for low-income students. Since converting Cloyne in 2014, the EOP percentage has increased from 16% to 50%.

We are also improving the support we provide to all BSC theme houses through training, Community Manager support, theme programming, and professional resources.

- **Changes to boarder priority.** Students with more financial means were “buying points” with our boarding program to gain priority over other applicants, so we stopped awarding seniority points to boarders in 2015.
- **Continuing work on cleanliness.** The perceived lack of cleanliness of the co-op houses has been a turn-off to low-income and traditionally marginalized students. The BSC first overhauled its habitability policies in 2015, creating detailed habitability standards, increasing training and inspections, allocating more from our budgeting, and creating penalties/rewards. Habitability improvement will always be an ongoing effort for our student-run cooperative.
- **Means testing?** At this point we do not exclude students who are not low-income. Doing so would cause vacancies, increasing costs for everyone else, including low-income students. The better solution is to recruit and retain low-income students.

We are grateful to our alumni for embracing our social justice cause — our purpose as a cooperative and as a nonprofit. *Everybody should care about the systemic inequities which make college more and more difficult to achieve for some people.* It is worth pointing out that at UC Berkeley, the percentage of Pell grant students (the low-income equivalent) has been gradually declining. It is now at 26%. I am proud to be working at a place that is doing its part to make room for historically disadvantaged students. Even more poignant to me is that we are elevating the students we serve to leadership positions, preparing them to make changes in the world after they graduate.

## GRADUATION

# All BSC Members Become BSC Alumni

Speeches from BSC Graduation, a 12-year tradition that marks the transition from membership to alumni status.



### MICHAEL BUSTILLO-SAKHAI

*Michael, our member speaker at BSC Graduation, earned an undergraduate degree in Geology and a master's degree in Civil Engineering from UC Berkeley. Michael is seeking opportunities as a civil or environmental engineer. This is a condensed version of his speech.*

Before I begin, I want to acknowledge we are on stolen Huichin Ohlone land. These are the original and rightful inhabitants of the land upon which we gather today. I hope we all recognize colonialism and indigenous erasure are ongoing projects which we should work to dismantle in any way we can.

Hey y'all! Thanks for coming out tonight. It makes me happy to see so many of my friends smiling and showered!

School was hard, all 5 years of it for me. There were so many times when I just wanted to pick up and go. We endured stress from exams, deadlines, and the federal elections. It is difficult to forget about a hostile administration and the violence dealt to us by the system (that is capitalism, patriarchy, and white supremacy) on the daily. But all of you here had the persistence to rise above. Your struggle was extremely hard fought and your triumphs are well deserved. I'm proud of each and every one of you for sitting where you are today.

For most of us, the Co-op is more than just a house. It is an experiment at organizing food, parties, friendships, and politics all under one roof. I moved into POC House [Andres Castro Arms] in hopes of securing the penthouse view and a cooked meal every night. I existed in its periphery as an undergrad, y'know getting funky at

Disco night, but didn't picture myself living in a house where I didn't know everybody on a personal level. Once I was situated, though, I realized I was surrounded by such an exceptional, committed, and loving group of people. The place was filled with strong students of color most, if not all, first-generation college students studying at a top public institution who were working to uplift their community and create a place rich in support for their peers. I met lots of people who touched my heart and allowed me to touch theirs. The times when the BSC properly enacts its mission to provide an educational opportunity for those who might not otherwise be able to afford a university education, real beauty evolves and elevates the marginalized amongst us.

**Your presence is powerful. For so many of us, our existence is a radical act; therefore our time wields political power.**

As a part of the cooperative I hope to be a part of a genealogy of people who never cease to push back on the system. Who never stop demanding what is rightfully theirs. Who never cease to think about where they are and why they are there. Remember, your presence is powerful. For so many of us, our existence is a radical act; therefore our time wields political power. When you devote time to your community, love will follow, as will the sprouting of the seeds of change you plant along the way.

In solidarity and with respect for each other's struggle we can accomplish so much more than we can alone. ¡El pueblo unido jamás será vencido! Thank you.



Michael played guitarrón for Cal Mariachi Luz de Oro.

**NATHALIE AMERICA MUÑOZ CASTRO**

*Nathalie Muñoz was the featured alumni speaker at our BSC Graduation. Nathalie is also a BSC staff member. Her speech exemplifies our staff's dedication to the BSC's social justice cause and our students.*

Hi, my name is Nathalie America Muñoz Castro. I'm so happy and excited to be here to celebrate you all this evening. I'm a 25 year-old Mexican-American queer woman and I transferred to Cal in 2016 to study Environmental Sciences after 5 years of community college. I moved into the Person of Color Theme House [Andres Castro] the summer of 2017, then Hoyt Hall, until I moved out of the BSC and became an alumna in August 2018. POC gave me a beautiful garden to manage, outrageously fun parties, and the most gorgeous view of the bay (fight me, CZ). Hoyt Hall fed me like I'd never been fed before and surrounded me with hilarious and brilliant young women working to change the world for good. The BSC gave me a family that got me through some rough times.

I just graduated last May and for the past few months, I've been your Contracting and Purchasing Agent in Central Food and Supplies [the BSC's central warehouse, which used to be known as "Central Kitchen"]. Before that, I was your receptionist for a year in the Central Office and got to meet many current, former, and future members. Both of these jobs have reinforced the very painful reality that brought us together in the first place—the desperate need for affordable housing.



Nathalie, as a member living in Hoyt.

Out of this very life-threatening need, we created new families.

Many of us couldn't be here pursuing some of our wildest academic dreams had it not been for this organization. As we struggled to pay for housing and school, there were people along the way, like there were for me, that helped. They could have been your immediate family, your friends, mentors, and sure enough, the BSC community you helped create. While you figure out what comes next, remember to spend your time and energy where it matters most, bringing a little more of the cooperative spirit, kindness, and compassion that we all need.

As you let this chapter close, begin to envision what's next for you. I remember thinking this moment felt so rewarding, exciting, and terrifying all at the same time. Life after graduation isn't easier, but it certainly gets better. You have all these experiences to guide you and all these people on your side and no matter how you've changed and grown in your time at the BSC - believe me - you're going to continue to evolve in so many more ways. Each of you are filled with complexities and wonders that haven't even begun to surface. Life's unpredictability will draw these out and what defines you at this moment will be mere shades of a more vibrant you over the next five, 10, 50 years.

**Each of you are filled with complexities and wonders that haven't even begun to surface.**

I could thank you for your time in the BSC, for your workshift hours spent cleaning, cooking, and managing the houses, but it's not me that owes you the gratitude — it's the people who now know you as family. The friends that you talked through that earth-shattering break up, the neighbors you helped through a rough night, the homie you made a GOOD late plate for, that person who got your warm jacket from the free pile, and the people who get to admire your mural for years to come. They are the ones all around you thanking you for being a part of one of the most unique and unbelievably beautiful experiences that we all now have the privilege of calling our own.



## GIVING BACK

# Home Improvement Day Offers Volunteer Opportunities for Alumni

**ORLANDO GONZALEZ GUDINO-GUIZAR • ROCHDALE**

*Our new student-run Development & Alumni Relations Committee (DARCom) is increasing volunteer opportunities for alumni. Orlando, one of the inaugural committee members, is originally from Ahualulco de Mercado, Mexico, and served as Chairman of the Budget Committee for the Associated Students of Santa Monica College before transferring to UC Berkeley. He just finished an internship at an investment firm in Los Angeles, and will be studying abroad in the Czech Republic in Fall 2019.*

Home Improvement Day has the potential to be incredibly useful for the houses, since it provides a platform that intersects with many facets of the BSC — house managers, member engagement, home improvement, staff support, and alumni engagement.

At our first “HI Day,” Casa Zimbabwe and Ridge House joined forces to clean up “No Man’s Land,” the strip of land between CZ and Ridge’s backyard and the UC Berkeley parking lot (which used to be tennis courts). The area was overgrown and filled with trash which attracted rodents. CZ and Ridge House residents had already cleared it out over the winter. On HI Day, alumni helped with the final stage of the transformation into a garden. Volunteers assembled the planting boxes, transported soil and mulch, planted trees and seedlings, and cleared the entry points. The garden looks beautiful!

My role was to facilitate and encourage coordination and to coordinate alumni volunteers, but really, the managers at Ridge House and Casa Zimbabwe led the project and the event. Special props go to Cailyn Schmidt (CAZ Garden Manager), who was the overall project manager, as well as Rachael Cornejo (CZ House President), Yevgeniy Melguy (Ridge House Garden Manager), Noa (CAZ), and my DARCOM colleague Ireland Wagner (future Ridge House President).

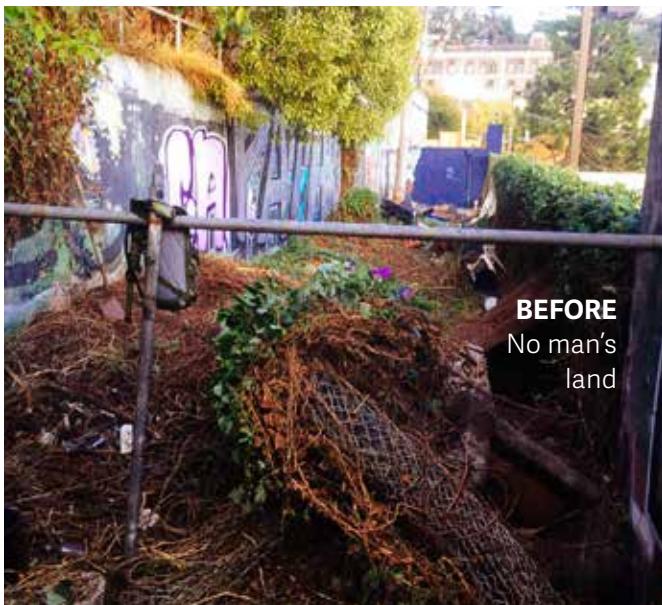
DARCom plans on organizing HI Day every year, so stay tuned! And if you want to be part of the DARCom annual alumni volunteer team, please apply! We need alumni from all over the country! Email [darcom@bsc.coop](mailto:darcom@bsc.coop).







< Cailyn Schmidt, CZ  
 Garden Manager,  
 with Jeb Boodry, CZ  
 representative to  
 the BSC Board of  
 Directors.



**BEFORE**  
 No man's  
 land



**AFTER**  
 A beautiful  
 garden



**BY THE NUMBERS**

# BSC Rent Stays Below 50% of UC Berkeley Dormitories



**NICK JOHNSON**

*Nick, who lived in Wolf House, served on the BSC Board of Directors for two years and was the 2018-19 Vice President of Capital and Finance. He graduated in May 2019 with a degree in*

*business administration and is currently working at a management consulting firm.*

In March 2019, the BSC’s student-run Board of Directors approved the BSC’s 2019-2020 annual operating budget, which determines the BSC’s rental rates. Living in one of our room and board homes will cost \$7,446 for the academic year, while our most affordable apartment option will be \$4,602 for the academic year. By comparison, living in a UC Berkeley dormitory will cost \$17,110.

Budget approval is a culmination of a year-long educational process that begins with Board training in September, when our new board directors learn how BSC finances work and how to empower our fellow members to fully engage with the budgeting process. Improving financial literacy across the BSC is a big priority for the Capital and Finance Committee. Our shared finances as well as the democratic processes which effect budgeting priorities are the crux of our cooperative model.

Our total expenses for the coming year are predicted to be about \$11.5 million. That’s a lot! In the Spring 2019 semester, the Capital and Finance Committee, comprised of Maria Gabriela Guerra (HIP), Xander Lenc (Convent), Sol Bee Park (Ridge House), Prosper Amie (Fenwick), Helen Veazey (Lothlorien), and myself worked with staff, members, and other stakeholders to develop a

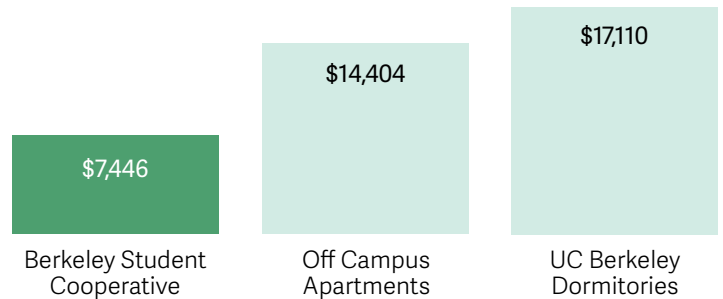


**^ HOYT GETS RETROFITTED**

The seismic retrofit of Hoyt Hall was our major capital project for Summer 2019. All-new shear wall and hardware interventions provide the building with structural integrity. Many students will also benefit from new walls, flooring, and updated electrical wiring throughout.

**^ KEEPING COLLEGE AFFORDABLE**

Cost of housing and food for the 2019-20 academic year:





budget that reflects and prioritizes our organization's values. I thank my colleagues on Board as well as staff for their hard work on this project!

We divide total expenses by the number of bed spaces for the coming year to get the rental rate for each BSC member. Our bed spaces are estimated based on occupancy. For example, this summer we seismically retrofitted Hoyt Hall, reducing summer occupancy by 60.

Historically, the BSC has seen approximately 5% rate increases each year. Our new budget presents a rate increase of 3.15% for houses and 4.63% for apartments. The apartment rate increase is higher for two reasons. One, we added two new maintenance positions that service the apartments only, and thus, their expense is levied on apartment rates only. And two, the apartment rates are lower than the houses (dollar on dollar), and therefore, similar dollar amount increases to the houses and apartments change apartment rates in a more drastic way.

Our modest rate increases reflects normal inflationary pressures on things like food, supplies, utilities, insurance rates, and wage adjustments (like increasing workshift rates to \$16/hour). Some additional factors:

- **We continue to allocate a significant portion of our budget, over \$3 million/year, to Capital Improvements.** Our buildings are key to our services, and we have a duty to preserve and improve their quality for future students. \$1.6 million will go towards a long list of deferred maintenance and capital projects. An additional \$1.4 million go towards repaying bonds used to finance past seismic retrofits.
- **The Board chose to increase our contribution to the BSC Scholarship Fund by 20%, to \$134,230.** The majority of our scholarships are actually funded by BSC member rents. This increase reflects how important we think it is that the BSC remains accessible to students who need affordable housing the most. We are keenly aware that many of our members would be homeless without our housing.
- **We increased our contribution to the Growth Fund by \$10,000, to \$235,000/year.** We have an opportunity to increase the number of bed spaces by at least 120 when we re-open Barrington Hall in 2025, but building renovations will likely cost at least \$10 million. We do not want to burden future generations of students with debt (and higher rent). Therefore, the BSC is putting a little aside every year.

Our budget reflects our values and priorities. As an outgoing BSC member, I thank all our alumni and friends for their contributions to the BSC. Every dollar that gets donated means the BSC can provide additional scholarships, work further down our list of necessary capital projects, and decrease our reliance on debt when we are ready to expand.

## Where do your donations go?

All donations ultimately help us keep rents low for students. How do we use your donations specifically?

### 1. Capital Improvements.

100% of your donations to capital improvements help us preserve and improve our most important asset — our buildings and infrastructure. When you donate to capital improvements, you help relieve the biggest upward pressure on rents as we tackle years of deferred maintenance, software upgrades, and capital projects, such as seismic retrofits.

### 2. Scholarships.

Donations to scholarships go directly to our lowest-income students who get a rent reduction of  $\frac{1}{3}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$  of rent.

### 3. Where It Is Needed Most.

Donations to “Where It Is Needed Most” are unrestricted donations. You are making an investment in the BSC and our mission because you wish to make an impact on the affordability of higher education and the cooperative movement. The Board determines the use of such funds. In the past, unrestricted donations have funded seismic retrofits and helped us grow our operating reserves.

## SOCIAL



## LA Hollywood Sign Hike & Mixer

**IRELAND WAGNER** • RIDGE HOUSE

*Ireland served as the BSC's first Chair of the new Development & Alumni Relations Committee. Ireland is from a small town in Illinois, and started college at Sciences Po in France before transferring to UC Berkeley. She plans on continuing her work with DARCom this year! Along with recent alum Kevin Ramirez, Ireland organized a scenic hike to view the Hollywood sign, followed by a mixer.*

The Hollywood Sign Hike and Mixer event felt like a perfect way to end my spring break in L.A. After being away from the Co-ops for about a week, it felt comforting to be surrounded by people who understood what I meant when I said “workshift” or “C.O.” or “special dinner” — to be surrounded by people who, no mat-

ter if they graduated 3 years ago or 30 years ago, were able to instantly share in a unique cooperative culture that quickly fostered friendships and community from a group that may have otherwise just been a crowd of strangers.

The hike presented a wonderful opportunity to be active and see beautiful sights while sharing conversation with both BSC alumni and current members (we even managed to capture some cute pics along the way!). During the mixer that followed, surrounded by laughter and appetizers, I was confronted with a similar feeling of comfort that I felt at the beginning of the hike. But it was not entirely the same, it was a sort of reassurance in being surrounded by young adult alumni who seemed





to have pursued and found success in their career paths after graduation. As a current junior, the notion of graduating and diving head first into a career is met with great stress, uncertainty, and trepidation — feelings with which I think many college students can relate. However, chatting with BSC alumni who have managed and triumphed through those very same feelings and fears gave me reassurance that I would eventually have it figured out. Of course, no one has it all figured out but it's nice to know that I'm on the right track.



The chair of our Development and Alumni Relations Committee (DARCom), Ireland Wagner, discusses alumni engagement with the BSC Board of Directors.

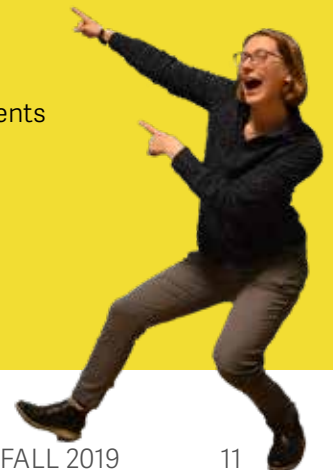
## Join our Alumni Volunteer Team!

Our student-run DARCom is recruiting at least ten alumni to support its 2019-20 endeavors!

We need volunteers to help with alumni outreach, event support, and organizing out-of-town events.

**Interested? Email [darcom@bsc.coop](mailto:darcom@bsc.coop)!**

- Get advance news about alumni events
- No committee meetings
- Help only when you can!



# BSC BUS TOUR

and lunch for 1950s-60s alumni



Alumni who lived in the BSC in the 1950s and 60s are invited to a fun and comfortable celebration of the BSC's mission and recent achievements! You will be treated to a chartered bus tour of our 20 properties — as well as some of our former properties like Oxford Hall and Barrington Hall.

Your tour guides will be Executive Director Kim Benson and representatives from our student leaders, who will provide commentary on our history, recent developments, and an inside scoop on plans for the future. Our tour concludes with lunch at Rochdale Village.

**coffee and light breakfast • bus tour • lunch**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2019 9:30 AM - 1 PM**

**\$50/person (or \$40/person for groups of 5+)**

**GET TICKETS! > [bscbustour.eventbrite.com](https://bscbustour.eventbrite.com)**

Contact: Madeleine Loh, [mloh@bsc.coop](mailto:mloh@bsc.coop), (510) 649-8984

wheelchair accessible





## SPECIAL GIVE

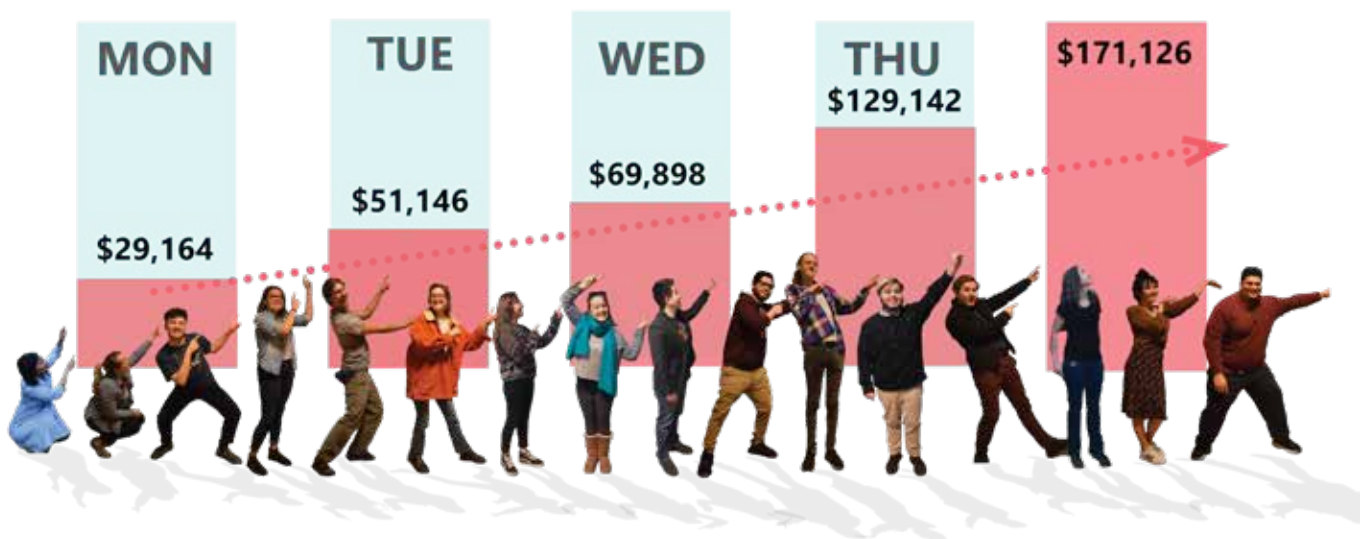
Special Give 2019 was an unprecedented success, with our largest volunteer team to date! Thank you for making BSC history with the most we've ever raised!



BERKELEY STUDENT COOPERATIVE

**SPECIAL GIVE**

A P R I L 2 2 - 2 6 , 2 0 1 9



## Words of Support

"Thank you for providing quality close-to-campus housing for low-income students. I love and appreciate the BSC." (Rochdale)

"I lived in Hoyt for 3 wonderful years. Hoytian 4 life :)"

"I lived at Oscar Wilde and loved my time there, so happy to give a small contribution!"

"The best part of my Cal experience was USCA/BSC. Thank you for your dedication to a noble mission."  
(Castro, Oxford)

**2019 SPECIAL GIVE CHALLENGE DONORS** worked with us during the silent phase to build a strong foundation for the campaign. Thank you!

Ray Adams, Ted Akulian, Victor Bloomfield, William Blythe, Michael Burke, Allen Davenport, Jim Gray, Steve Greenberg, Sara Ishikawa, Barbara J Hughes, Fred Klaessig, Niels C. Laughlin, Richard Laursen, Anonymous, in Honor of Rose & Charles Zerlang, Peter Linquiti, Richard Lira, Robert Lucke, Anonymous, Kaye McKee, Mark Norberg, in memory of Carol, Kent A. Rasmussen, Bob Reyes, Omar Shakill, Mark Shapiro, Ruth Spear, Tom Sutak, Bruce Tichinin, Vlad Tsyrklevich, Deniz Tuncer, Arthur & Sue Walenta, Stephen R. Wood, Gordon Wozniak.

# SPECIAL GIVE

## Focus on Volunteers

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR ENTIRE SPECIAL GIVE 2019 VOLUNTEER TEAM**, for pouring your hearts into expressing what the BSC means to you and for encouraging and supporting one another:

Kevin Ramirez, Allen Davenport, Richard Lira, Robert Hughes, Al Bierce, Mohana Kute, Jon Lampman, Kathleen McCully, Arthur Ungar, Julie Tapp, Tori Partridge, Karen Tkach Tuzman, Kelly Archer, Michelle Nacouzi, Leidy Villarreal Salazar, Emilia Wakamatsu, Eddie Stinson, Wick Smith, Zury Cendejas, and Savannah Miller.



Special Give volunteers were invited to the top floor of Salesforce Tower in San Francisco. Left to right: Jon Lampman, Richard Lira, Mohana Kute, Kevin Ramirez, Madeleine Loh, and Salesforce engineer Mary Ann Jawili.



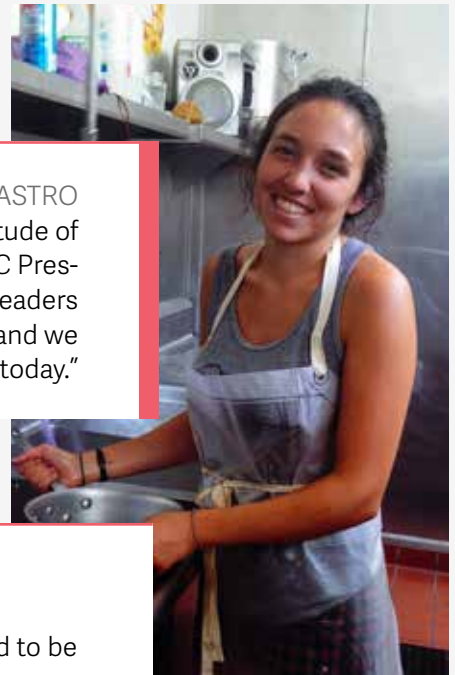
### ◀ ZURY CENDEJAS • ROCHDALE

"As a first-generation immigrant I found a family and a safe space in the BSC, which afforded me a quality home, an excellent world education, and opportunities to develop as a leader. In gratitude, I want to pass the torch and support the BSC's future members."



### ▶ MICHELLE NACOUZI • CASTRO

"I find it easier to appreciate the magnitude of the BSC experience after my time as BSC President than during my time. We were all leaders of the organization as Board Directors, and we should continue to be leaders today."



### ◀ KATHLEEN MCCULLY •

CLOYNE, DAVIS, LOTHLORIEN

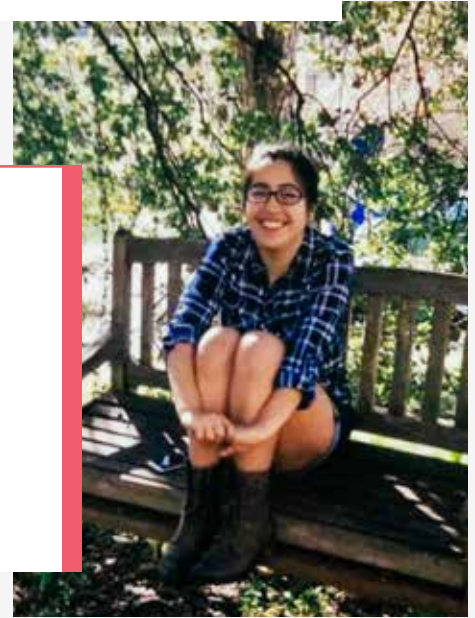
"I really enjoyed participating again this year! It's good to be part of something big and to look back on my experience and the BSC with a new perspective."





◀ **RICHARD LIRA** • RIDGE HOUSE

"I volunteer every year for Special Give to participate in something larger than myself, something I support, and something I believe in. In doing so, I get a high which in the past I have described as "helium head". This is one of those unexpected rewards that is so gratifying when participating in something larger than myself."

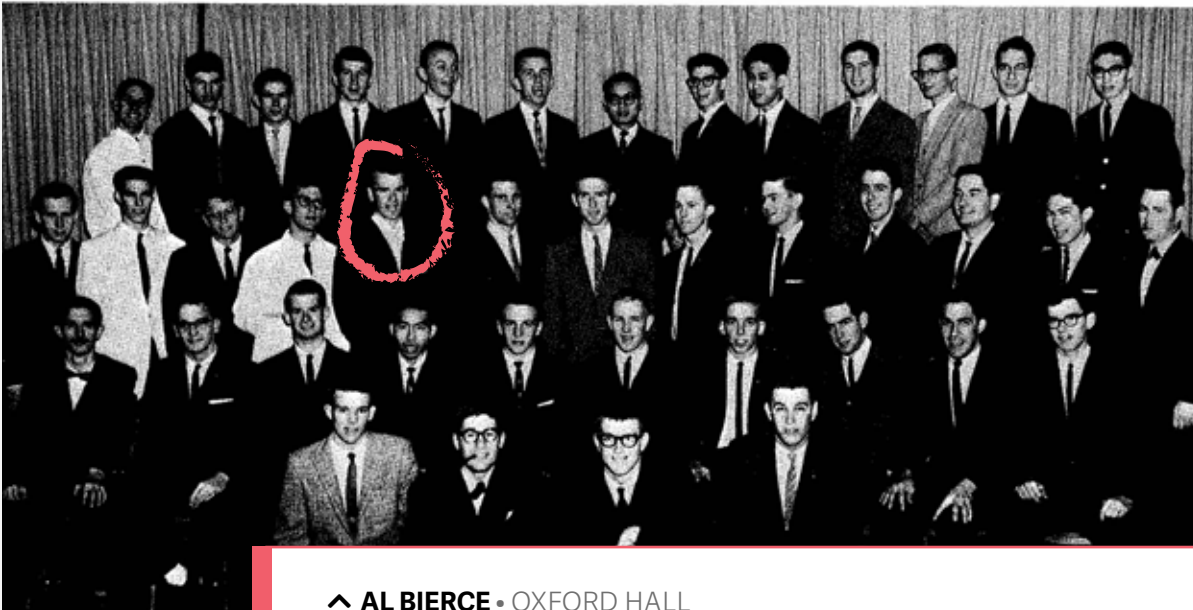


▶ **LEIDY VILLAREAL** • SHERMAN, POC

"When my friend asked for my help to spread awareness about the BSC Special Give, it was easy to say yes. I was happy to give my time because I know where exactly my efforts and donations go. I believe in the BSC's mission because their mission gave me the opportunity to continue my higher education. Also, I learned to love the woman inside of me thanks to the awesome women I met at Sherman Hall in Spring 2014. I want other people, no matter their gender or background, to have that opportunity to learn of and from others in hopes they will learn some more about themselves."

**OXFORD HALL** — First Row: Jim McGrew, Harry Delmer, Ted Duffield, Don Frank. Second Row: JW Koon, Ian Lanouette, Bill Rogers, John Kuo, Rich Strangio, Wyatt Eustis, Dave Reynolds, John Fox, Bill Busacca, Aaron Gallup. Third Row: Brent Hubbard, Geoff Fernald, Mayer Lechowitzky, Steve Fab-

ricant, Al Bierce, Tom Woolley, Doug Wade, Bill Popendorf, Don Westergren, Mike Wilson, Gary Taplin, Doug Bowen, Roger Lee. Fourth Row: Mike Klein, Walt Prouty, Bill Stetson, Roy Whalen, Frank Zvanek, Norm Hallquist, Sze-Ming Suen, Brad Southworth, George Ishiguro, Rhys Williams, Bill Deck, Al Howard, Paul Quintana.



^ **AL BIERCE** • OXFORD HALL

"What I liked best about volunteering for Special Give: the interaction with old friends, and the repartee with people I have never met. It was a blast! I'll be back next year."

# Alumni Notes

## BOB HUGHES

BARRINGTON HALL • 1957-61

[Ed. Note: *We thank Bob for his years of service on the BSC Board of Directors. Bob supported us through many changes, including our proud purchase and opening of Oscar Wilde House.*]

The overarching lesson to me was learning the strength of diversity, and how to live with it. Barrington Hall of my day certainly had a much paler complexion than today's Co-op, and was male only. Still, the Co-op of my time was still very diverse when contrasted to the Cal campus of the 1950's and early 60's — and particularly compared to the frats and sororities. And then, like now, most Co-op residents couldn't have afforded Cal without the lower cost of room and board, and the opportunity to provide some "sweat equity". Today's Co-op is rightly proud of its full diversity.

And the more "mainstream" U.S. society wasn't as homogenized as it is today: two of my first roommates were Jewish and grew up in major urban centers, the first time I had been exposed to either demographic.

Our biggest diversity at that time probably was generational; House Manager Ralph Howells was a Korean Vet at Cal on the GI Bill. For every football game we followed Ralph en masse up Bancroft Way. As we reached the steps at the top, he would break into a sprint, screaming at the top of his lungs. Ralph was a generation older than us and during the week we would tease him unmercifully about being "our daddy". But many of us could not keep up with him on his wild charge.

## MAYA KULKARNI

CASA ZIMBABWE, CLOYNE • 2013-16

Never did I imagine I would meet my husband at the age of 19 in the kitchen of CZ! I met fellow co-oper **WINSTON HUANG** (DAVIS, CZ, ROCHDALE, NORTHSIDE APARTMENTS) in July 2013— we ended up in the same Computer Science class for the summer and decided to work on assignments together out of convenience. Our relationship grew from there — from CS lab partners to life partners! Later, I lived in "New Cloyne" where I worked as Food Manager.



^  
Former co-ops Maya Kulkarni and Winston Huang, at their wedding in 2018.

I graduated in May 2016 and worked as a data analyst for a year. I got bored of corporate work and decided to become a freelance graphics designer. In July 2018, Winston and I got married in a multicultural ceremony with Hindu, Chinese, and Japanese elements with family and many co-op friends present. We recently celebrated our first anniversary and look back at our time in the BSC fondly. I give back to the BSC because I truly believe in the mission of the BSC and hope it continues to serve generations to come!

## BURNIS TUCK

BARRINGTON HALL, OXFORD HALL • 1957-63

I'm not one of those Cal students who got rich, at least monetarily, but I sure hit the real intellectual pay-dirt by attending Cal and living at the Co-op. It truly was an eye-opening experience for this son of an Oklahoma sharecropper and migrant farm worker in the San Joaquin Valley during the 1950s. (I swore I'd never return to the Valley after college but wound up marrying a gal who was from there, so guess what?)





Tommy York and **MICHELLE NACOUZI** (SHERMAN, WOLF, CASTRO • 2012-14) organized a happy hour in New York City's mid-town Manhattan in May 2019. There were both recent grads and graduates from decades past! After the formal event ended, a smaller group relocated to a quieter bar down the street for board games and more reminiscing.

I stayed and flourished at Barrington for two years. I also boarded at Oxford a couple of semesters while living at Stiles Hall and paying my rent as a janitor, cooking my own meals with a Kenyan roommate. My last contact with the Co-op was the summer I spent in 1963 going to summer school finishing up my secondary teacher credential (which I only used for 2½ years teaching high school in Petaluma and Marin County, before joining the Social Security Administration for 33+ years). I retired in 1999 and have been an almost full-time internet bookseller almost 20 years. I turned 80 in January but still going strong, except for the disaster of my wife of 53+ years, **JOYCE TANIMOTO** (HOYT • 1961), passing away last May. May the BSC endure and flourish!

### **TOMMY YORK**

CASA ZIMBABWE, STEBBINS HALL • 2009-12

My favorite memories of living in the co-op are probably those of time spent with friends: quiet afternoons on the roof of CZ, and late nights on CZ balcony. I enjoyed the time I spent as VP Finance, and distinctly remember enjoying the passion and enthusiasm of members from every part of the BSC. At least now, the biggest lesson I took from my time was more just an imprint of the progressive and cooperative culture of the BSC. My time spent in the BSC really informed my political and cultural perspectives. (I also learned how to make a kitchen spotless, which I do to this day.) The things that give me meaning today are art and community.

I enjoyed organizing an alumni reunion recently. It was was easy to organize, and the payout was huge: seeing old friends, meeting recent graduates and sharing stories and experiences about our houses, and hearing a lot of great lore.

## **FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT**

I wanted to introduce myself as the incoming BSC Alumni Association President. I was a resident of Barrington Hall from '74-'75 and Ridge Project (now CZ) from '75-'77. In addition to learning how to cook brunch for 120 people, I learned how to work cooperatively with a team of folks from all sorts of different experiences. I continue to work with BSCAA and to help the BSC because it is a great way to share our many different stories and talk with folks from multiple generations and to help bring badly needed housing to students. Please contact me at [bscaa1996@gmail.com](mailto:bscaa1996@gmail.com) if you have questions or want to become further involved. We have something for everyone who has a love for the Coop experience.

We have really been making great strides in enhancing our online presence for alumni in the last few months, see [www.bscaa.coop](http://www.bscaa.coop) and our Facebook page, "Berkeley Student Cooperative Alumni Association." We've established a blog where we can share our experiences in the co-ops and what "being a co-oper" has meant to us. Last month's theme was "Food in the Co-ops," what eating and cooking as a group meant to us. We have future themes lined up, and will be asking all our alumni to share!

Another feature we hope to start soon is #AskACooper, through which new alums and current BSC members can ask questions of alumni. It could be anything from what kind of job opportunities are there for those who want to work in a environment, to what the best recipe is to feed 20, 50, or more folks! Let's learn from each other and have fun sharing.

We are also excited to announce that we will be putting out a regular newsletter for alumni. We will be sharing news about our events, memories of our "Coop Days" and news from the BSC! Please contact us at [bscaa1996@gmail.com](mailto:bscaa1996@gmail.com) if you have something you would like to share.

— **WICK SMITH** (BARRINGTON HALL • 1974-75, RIDGE PROJECT • 1975-77)

## IN MEMORIAM

# Ed McGrath

1917-2019

Dr. Edward G. McGrath, a founding member, generous supporter and longtime champion of the Berkeley Student Cooperative, passed away on March 7, 2019, at the age of 101 years. Ed, a lifelong historian and keen genealogist, was a tenth generation descendant of the Spanish Valencia family which settled in Mexico and California. After high school in Oroville, he graduated in 1940 from UC Berkeley with a BA and master's degrees in history. He went on to a long and notable career in higher education at Syracuse University, Oregon State, and Sacramento State.

Many of our alumni will be proud of Ed's role in organizing public school teachers. In 1952, as a teacher at Sacramento High School, Ed sued the Sacramento school superintendent for requiring out-of-classroom duties. Ed lost the case, but the litigation inspired California Senator Albert S. Rodda to draft a measure ensuring collective-bargaining rights for public school teachers. Ed became president of the American Federation of Teachers, chapter 31, the oldest chapter west of the Mississippi.

Ed was robust and philanthropic in his advanced years. In retirement, Ed cultivated his passion for the arts, particularly in watercoloring and classical music. Ed helped organize many outdoor art shows at the Sierra 2 Center, and was a past president of the Sacramento Fine Arts Center. While serving on the Board of Directors for the



Sacramento Chamber Music Society, Ed sponsored a long running young artists piano competition through the CSU-Sacramento music department.

Ed was very generous to the Berkeley Student Cooperative throughout his life and particularly supported our efforts to seismically retrofit our buildings. In 2016, Ed also donated his baby grand piano, a family heirloom from the 1930s, to Cloyne Court where it still resides as a source of beautiful music and a reminder of Ed's immense generosity.

Ed McGrath is survived by his nephew, Patrick McGrath and his wife Evelyn of Browns Valley, California. The Berkeley Student Cooperative is grateful for his decades of friendship to the Co-op and our students, and for the legacy gift he has left us.



< Students at Cloyne with Ed's piano



# Donate to the BSC!

The Berkeley Student Cooperative is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All donations are tax-deductible. Our tax ID is 94-0948140.

## 1 Choose your gift:

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## 2 Choose your area of support:

- Capital improvements
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## Give Smarter

For those 70½ and older, make a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA. Pay no income tax on that amount and satisfy your required minimum distribution.

Many employers will match your donation — ask your HR department! The BSC has received matching employer donations from Google, Apple, Applied Materials, Lawrence Livermore National Labs, Macquarie Group, Robert Wood Johnson and others.

Donate appreciated securities and avoid capital gains tax.

## The BSC wants to reach all alumni!

(whether you pay dues or not!)

### [bsc.coop/alumni/update](https://bsc.coop/alumni/update)

Moved? Changed your name? Different email address? Let us know so we can keep you informed about local events and BSC news that matter to you.

Use the online form, or contact Madeleine Loh at (510) 649-8984 or [mloh@bsc.coop](mailto:mloh@bsc.coop)

Deadline for submissions for  
Spring 2020 issue:

**February 1, 2020**

## Join the BSC Alumni Association

The BSCAA is a separate 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization. Your dues are tax-deductible contributions to the BSCAA.

### Lifetime Membership, BSCAA

- \$500                       \$250,  
recent grad

### Annual Membership, BSCAA

- \$50 annual                 \$20 annual,  
recent grad



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## Berkeley Student Cooperative, est. 1933

The mission of the Berkeley Student Cooperative is to provide a quality, low-cost, cooperative housing community to university students, thereby providing an educational opportunity for students who might not otherwise be able to afford a university education.

### BSC BUS TOUR and lunch for 1950s-60s alumni



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2019

For more information,  
see page 12 or visit:

[bscbustour.eventbrite.com](http://bscbustour.eventbrite.com)