Dear Friends of the UC Berkeley Library:

On behalf of the members of the Library Advisory Board, I am delighted to welcome Professor Tom Leonard as our new University Librarian. In the short time that he served as Interim University Librarian, it was clear to most of us that he had the academic scope and administrative experience to succeed in this critical leadership position both for the Library and for the Berkeley campus. His appointment has already created an important bridge with the faculty for the Library, including, for example, increased faculty collaborations for more targeted instruction in undergraduate classrooms on using Library resources. I am looking forward to the Library providing even greater support for our faculty and students.

This special issue of our Bene Legere represents the Library's Annual Report for the 2000-2001 year, highlighting gifts to the Library as well as describing programs and services of special distinction. As a public institution, the University has a charter that includes a three-part mission for the people of California of teaching, research, and public service. The Library is well-represented in all three aspects of that mission. This year's report is focused on the public service aspect, since, indeed, the University Library is one of the finest public libraries in the country.

As the president of the Library Advisory Board, I would like to express my appreciation for the extraordinary support of the large number of donors to Library programs and collections, who make it possible to maintain our incredible service to the public, students, and scholars. I'd like to single out two particular groups of donors. For many years, reunion classes, as well as the current year's graduating classes, have selected the Library as the recipient of their class gifts, creating endowments or collections that will benefit the University Library for many generations. Thank you reunion classes. Thank you senior classes. We appreciate your remembering the value of the Library with your class gifts. After all, Library resources benefit everyone--and every department, school, college, and program.

The Library has been the beneficiary of extraordinary generosity this year. With well over 5,000 donors, Cal's Library has one of the broadest donor bases of any university research library in the country. Alumni from all disciplines and friends from across the country recognize that the strength of the Library reflects the vitality of the University, and have supported the Library with their gifts.

With many thanks to all our Library friends,

Sheryl Wong ‘67

President, Library Advisory Board