Golden Key Makes a Difference

By April Joy G. Damian, Member

A sea of pink caps maneuvered its way through the green surroundings of nature. Dogs in pink shirts and washable pink-ribbon tattoos likewise got their paws wet on a misty Saturday morning, all for a worthy cause.

While Golden Key International Honour Society is known for recognizing and encouraging academic excellence among college students worldwide, it also values the ideal of community service. Every year, on the fourth Saturday of October, Golden Key puts into practice its commitment to addressing the greater needs of society by participating in USA WEEKEND Magazine’s “Making a Difference Day.” This year, the members of the Golden Key chapter at the University of California, Berkeley demonstrated their efforts to make a difference by taking part in the “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” five mile walk at Speedway Meadow in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco.

Since 1993, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer has been the American Cancer Society’s premier event to raise awareness and dollars to fight breast cancer. In that time, nearly 2.5 million walkers have raised more than $160 million through Making Strides. In 2004 alone, more than 400,000 walkers across the country collected over $32 million. Visit www.cancer.org for more information.

As a first-time participant in Making Strides, I found the experience to be both educationally and personally satisfying. As we searched for the next red sign indicating how many miles we had completed, other signs along the route displayed startling facts about the rates of breast cancer in the U.S. For example, one sign read, “Every three minutes a woman in the United States learns that she has breast cancer.” On a more personal level, I was moved by the many walkers with stickers bearing the names of loved ones for whom they were walking. By the same token, I too would like to dedicate my 5 miles to the family members, friends, and neighbors in my own life who are affected by breast cancer.

The GK chapter at UC Berkeley would like to thank the generous sponsors that helped make this day possible: Merritt Restaurant and Bakery, Larry Lowe and Vika Vaka Insurance Agency, and the Berkeley-Albany YMCA.

President’s Update

By Catherine Ho, Co-President

After summer’s international convention and a semester packed with Honorary Member events, professional workshops, service events, Sophomore Reception, many general meetings and opportunities to socialize, and tabling on Sproul Plaza, we’ve almost reached finals season (whee).
Recognizing the Future of Golden Key

By Mari Fitzgibbons, Secretary

On Sunday October 23, the Berkeley Chapter of Golden Key International Honour Society held its annual Sophomore Recognition ceremony in 2040 VLSB. Over 50 sophomore Berkeley students in the top five percent of their class joined Golden Key officers and Honorary Member Professor George Cluff from the Haas School of Business to celebrate their academic excellence and leadership.

The ceremony consisted of an introduction and welcome, an overview of the history of the chapter, a keynote speech by Professor Cluff, and recognition of the students. In his speech, Professor Cluff congratulated these students on their outstanding academic achievement and emphasized the academic, networking, and social opportunities available through Golden Key. He spoke about the wonderful relationships that he has forged with GK members in the Haas School of Business and highlighted the success he has seen its members achieve. The program concluded with a reception where snacks and drinks were served.

This year, a record number of students, family members, and friends gathered for Sophomore Recognition. We encourage these students continue their high level of academic excellence and hope they will join us in our quest to build a global community of academic achievers. Thank you to all those who attended.

Update

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you to join us at our remaining events: HM Dinner, Sports Day, Kaplan workshop, and just two more general meetings.

Next semester, expect ongoing opportunities to interact with Cal faculty, help out the community, learn about post-graduate opportunities, and socialize with your fellow members. We’re looking forward to our spring annual Induction Ceremony where new Golden Key members are officially honored for their academic excellence. Active members can also apply for scholarships in the springtime.

We also have a regional conference lined up in April (in Las Vegas!) that is open to all Golden Key members to attend.

If you have any feedback or ideas of what you would like to see, please let us know. We aim to provide you, our members, with all the tools we can to help you succeed in the future and enjoy your time at Cal!

PR Opportunities

By Diane Velasco, Public Relations Chair

Golden Key is like a box of chocolates – you never know what you’re going to get, or rather, who you’re going to meet or what opportunities may arise. Because we are a diverse organization, it is important to create awareness among prospective and current members and inform them of the many opportunities that await them through Golden Key.

To create this awareness, we table once a week on Sproul Plaza. You can always find our table adorned with our sophisticated Golden Key banner and a great deal of paraphernalia including brochures, a scrapbook, sample certificates, graduation stoles and cords, publications, and much more. Behind the table is an officer or a Public Relations (PR) committee member, ready and eager to answer any questions. In addition to tabling, we also post flyers for upcoming open events.

By joining the PR committee and participating in the aforementioned publicity activities, you can easily contribute to the organization and learn all there is to know about Golden Key. In addition, you can earn points for your involvement and achieve higher membership status. Best of all, you get to interact and have fun with fellow members! Contact me to join the PR committee.
By Lily Feng, Short-Term Community Service Chair

Hey everyone! My name is Lily Feng, and I am the Short-Term Community Service Chair. How is your semester going? I have been very impressed with your dedication and involvement in the chapter by participating in Golden Key events, but also excel through community service opportunities, you can always suggest visiting the Golden Key websites (at goldenkey.org) to stay updated and involved in the group. 

Through our semester, there are still many opportunities ahead of us. Though we are already over halfway through our semester, before the crunch of midterms and finals. He also had lots of candy… If you are interested in volunteering or for more information about all of our community service opportunities, you can always contact me at lily@berkeley.edu or Anne Bozack, ocf.berkeley.edu/~goldkey.

Jonathan Hirschberg, Key Member is recognized for their outstanding dedication to Golden Key. Members display leadership, Long-term Community involvement and community service, dedicated chapter participation but also excel through community service, recognizing his recent Silver status during his first semester of Golden Key Gold status this semester. Jonathan plans to apply for Star Wars. He has had lots of fun this semester, helping others through emotional struggles. Following graduation next year, he hopes to get a job in the Bay Area and return to Berkeley to attend graduate school in this field.

Jonathan enjoys a myriad of hobbies including drawing, reading, origami, modifying computer games, transcribing songs into midi files, and watching Star Wars. When he is not hitting the books (or grading notes in a all four of his classes), he also has a deep interest in psychology and the Disabled Students' Program. He is also interested in attaching the group safety while walking along with the YMCA at 3pm on Fridays. We have been volunteering at the YMCA since Spring 2005, providing educational after-school programs. For future projects, we will continue to providing educational after-school programs. Berkeley Golden Key continues to serve the community with a goal of making a difference.

Jonathan would like to encourage other members to become more involved in Golden Key. Members display leadership, Long-term Community involvement and community service, dedicated chapter participation but also excel through community service. Meeting this semester’s Key Member Jonathan Hirschberg!

Meet this semester’s Key Member Jonathan Hirschberg!
Upcoming Events

As the end of the semester nears, it is not too late to get involved in Golden Key. Join us for our remaining events, meet your fellow members, and get to know the officers.

Sports Day
Saturday, November 5
2:00 PM, Memorial Glade
Take a break from studying and enjoy some sun, sports, and socializing with other GK members. Food, frisbees, and footballs will be provided.

Honorary Member Dinner
Wednesday, November 9
7:00 PM, Location to be announced
Have dinner with Honorary Member Bob Jacobson from the Physics Department and chat in a relaxed and intimate setting. Dinner will be provided but space is limited and members must signup in advance at the November 2 meeting.

General Meetings
Wednesday, November 16
Wednesday, November 30
6:00 PM, 2066 VLSB
General meetings are a great way to meet other GK members and the officers, learn about upcoming events, and voice your opinions. With just two more meetings left this semester, this is your opportunity!

Kaplan Academic and Professional Development Workshop
Monday, November 21
Time and location to be announced
As our final event of the semester, this workshop hosted by our local sponsor, Kaplan, will give you an opportunity to prepare for your future. Open to both members and non-members, so bring a friend.

Keeping Points

Remember, Golden Key membership is about more than just paying your dues. Active members must participate in a variety of events and earn at least 20 points each semester, but more points also means more benefits. To achieve Gold Status you must participate in at least one community service, social, and Honorary Member event.

Bronze: 20 points, “eligible” for scholarships, awarded a certificate
Silver: 40 points, “recommended” for scholarships, awarded an honor cord
Gold: 60 points, “highly recommended” for scholarships, awarded an honor stole

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Do you like to write and love Golden Key?
Your article could be featured in the next issue of KeyNotes. Talk to Anne Bozack, KeyNotes Editor, at the next general meeting or e-mail annekb@berkeley.edu.