

## A WORD TO OUR READERS

IN 1898 PROFESSOR BERNARD MOSES established *The University of California Chronicle*. He saw that “there were and would be public addresses at the University and documents relating to the affairs of the institution that ought to be preserved and made readily available.”\* That *Chronicle*, appearing quarterly between 1898 and 1933, provided its readers with intelligent and entertaining accounts of contemporary events in the University’s social, academic, and administrative life. Moreover, the *Chronicle* no doubt assisted in creating and fostering an identity, crucial not only for the campus community but also in mediating the University’s dealings with the public.

Today our institutional identity might appear to be firmly established, but institutional memory is ebbing. Every year thousands of new students (along with faculty members and administrators) enter the University’s campuses with little knowledge of the institution beyond its admissions requirements and perhaps its reputation for radicalism in the 1960s. And every year almost as many students leave knowing little more about their alma mater than when they entered. While institutional identity will and must evolve, it should maintain a self-consciousness of its direction by acknowledging its past. Without memory there is no identity; without identity the University is left as a mere collection of disparate buildings and people.

It is with this in mind that we, the Editorial Board, are now reviving *The University of California Chronicle*, in spirit if not in content. Like the original, the new *Chronicle* occasionally will record noteworthy current events and people. Our focus, however, will be on teasing from the records—literary, archival, oral, and pictorial—interesting and illuminating episodes from the University’s past and presenting them for the *Chronicle*’s readers. The editors and contributors intend, in this way, to increase the store of institutional memory and thereby to revitalize institutional identity and enhance community.

*The Editorial Board*

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\* This quotation is from Moses’ unpublished autobiography (The Bancroft Library). Bernard Moses was the University’s first Professor of History, serving from 1875 to 1930, and with his colleagues of that era, instrumental in effecting Cal’s transition to a modern research institution—promoting such “innovations” as Ph.D. programs, scholarly research and publications (many of which appeared in the original *Chronicle*), and undergraduate specialization in particular branches of knowledge.