Welcome to the Big Give Take-over issue of the CIEE Sentinel!

Instead of our usual programming, we’d like to talk about our two big fundraising initiatives, the Cal Energy Corps program and the Art Rosenfeld Award, and ask for your support as we participate in the Big Give on March 14th—just one week away!

Please read on, get excited, and help us raise money on social media and beyond this Pi Day to support our student-facing programs!
CIEE is excited to be participating in UC Berkeley's annual Big Give campaign, a one day fundraising blitz where the community comes together and supports University affiliated programs. Campus departments and student groups alike take to social media, hat in hand, to try and support the incredible work that gets done on campus on a daily basis.

First of all, we want to stress that dollar amount is not a big concern. Every donation, from $5 to $5,000 dollars, not only gets us closer to our fundraising goals, but also moves the campus at large towards its cumulative goal of 10,000 gifts, at which point the UC Berkeley Foundation Board of Trustees will donate an additional $100,000 dollars to UC Berkeley!

And if funds are tight this year, there are other ways that you can support us. You can get the word out on social media using the hashtags #GiveCIEE and #CalBigGive, and participate in some of the social media contests taking place during the Big Give Campaign. Your cat photos or pie photos could help us raise over $1,500 dollars alone!

From the smallest gift to the biggest, your generosity to Berkeley holds truly transformative power for campus and the world at large. This year, CIEE is raising funds for two of our student-facing initiatives: the Cal Energy Corps summer internship program for undergraduate students, and the Art Rosenfeld Award for post-graduate research in energy efficiency, and in the issue ahead, we'd like to tell you a little bit about them, and why you should consider donating.
Funds raised for CIEE through Cal’s Big Give will help support the Institute’s undergraduate internship program: Cal Energy Corps. The program engages top UC Berkeley undergraduate students in the design, development, and delivery of sustainable energy and climate solutions around the world.

All internship placements are challenging, full-time assignments with leading organizations in the private and public sector, where participants work 8+ weeks over the summer and receive a weekly stipend of $600 for the duration of the internship. In the fall, students participate in the Cal Energy Corps Symposium to share their work. The program ultimately enables students to gain professional experience and conduct hands-on research on energy and climate issues such as renewable energy, biofuels, electric vehicles, and sustainable design. Some past placements have included working on methane mitigating solutions at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and designing solar energy technologies for rural communities with a non-profit in Nicaragua.

We are currently supported by a combination of university funding, grants, and private donations. However, none of these sources are guaranteed as permanent sponsors of the program. Your Big Give gift can help finance a student through the whole summer, giving them the resources they need to pursue cutting edge research out where it’s happening.

A Week in Cal Energy Corps

Over the course of a summer, Cal Energy Corps brings UC Berkeley students face-to-face with various challenges as they dig deep into sustainable energy and climate research
frontiers. From building efficient batteries to synthesizing environmental data, students have their hands full with work. Yet, with the mentorship and research independence the CEC program provides, participants are able to overcome challenges and grow tremendously in the process. It costs $600 to fund a Cal Energy Corps student through one week of their summer internship, and each and every one of those weeks brings new learning experiences for CEC students. To highlight some of these, we have reached out to some of our alumni, who were kind enough to share their experiences with the program.

As part of last year's CEC cohort, Bianca Champenois travelled to Tec de Monterrey in Mexico, where she worked on the development of power electronic devices for renewable energy integration. After her internship abroad, Bianca reflected on how the weeks of work accumulated into overarching accomplishments:

“The best week of my internship was the one during which I put together my whole project. After spending the entire summer designing my circuit on the computer, it was so much fun being able to print the board, assemble to inductors, and solder the components.”

Building off of her experiences at Tec de Monterrey, Bianca now mentors other students:

“During the fall semester, I volunteered at Richmond High School where I mentored students through the process of building an electric bike. I taught them some of the electrical engineering skills I gained over the summer, and I was able to use the Spanish I learned in Mexico to communicate with the students in the International ELD Program at Richmond High School.”
Cal Energy Corps serves not only as a chance to learn and share knowledge, but also as a stepping stone for other opportunities in the environmental realm. Much like Bianca did, other Cal Energy Corps participants find their footing through the program, and go on to pursue great work afterwards. One CEC alumnus, Megan Conner, shared her experiences about life after her summer internship:

“Two years ago, I interned through CEC at Carbon180, where I completed techno-economic research on carbon sequestration initiatives. The experience opened my mind to cutting-edge innovations in the climate industry, and ultimately helped me find my current job at CIEE— the organization who put it all together! Now, as a student content writer for the institute, I’m exposed to new energy and environmental research on a daily basis.”

Our Cal Energy Corps students annually get to take part in incredible research opportunities that prepare them to take what they’ve learned over the summer and carry it forward throughout the rest of their studies at Berkeley and beyond. This year we’re trying to raise $7,200 for the Cal Energy Corps program during the Big Give; the cost of funding one student through the twelve week internship program. Every single dollar raised goes straight towards expanding the program, and ensuring more undergraduates have the kinds of experiences Megan and Bianca have had over the many weeks of the Cal Energy Corps program.

Donate to Cal Energy Corps
Cal Energy Corps Applications Open

Regardless of the amount of money we raise during this year's Big Give, the Cal Energy Corps program isn't going anywhere. In fact, applications for this year's cohort are now open, with placements here in the Bay Area, in Washington DC, and abroad with Tec de Monterrey in Mexico. We highly encourage any undergraduate researchers looking for a summer internship in cutting edge climate research to apply.

Apply to Cal Energy Corps

The Art Rosenfeld Award for Energy Efficiency aims to promote innovative research in technologies and policies that will enable a more resource efficient society. The awards provides year-long energy project funding of $7,500 to a graduate student pursuing a Masters, PhD, JD, or other professional degree. We at CIEE help provide the award annually to facilitate pioneering research in the field that Art blazed a trail for throughout his lifetime.

The award’s namesake, Art Rosenfeld, pioneered energy-efficiency standards that have put California in the global spotlight. A professor of physics at UC Berkeley and scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Rosenfeld was a champion of energy conservation and technologies to support it. His leadership led the University of California to establish CIEE in 1989 to wed that vision and the extraordinary UC researchers who are making it a reality, and we owe a great debt of gratitude as we continue the legacy that he began.
Last year's Art Rosenfeld award recipient was Susanna Berkouwer, who used her award to spend almost 3 months in Kenya this summer to study energy efficiency adoption by low-income households in Nairobi. Using the Rosenfeld funding, she worked with local research partners to develop and test behavioral lab games to measure behavioral biases relevant to energy efficiency adoption. On the impact of the award on her work, she had this to say:

"The Art Rosenfeld Award came at exactly the right time for me. I used the award to travel to Kenya to meet with research partners and develop my research on the behavioral barriers to energy efficiency uptake in Kenya. Because the award was unrestricted, I was able to use it precisely where I had gaps in other funding sources. The Art Rosenfeld Award was a catalyst for me: I was later awarded $31,000 from the Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics and $24,000 from the International Growth Centre to support this research. The project is currently being implemented in Kenya, and we look forward to publishing the results later in 2019."

Annually, the Art Rosenfeld Award serves to enable the kind of work that Art dedicated his long career to advance. Our fundraising goal for the Art Rosenfeld Award this year is $7,500; the value of one year of the research award. With your support, we can keep funding graduate research to continue carrying the torch forwards in energy efficiency.

Donate to Art Rosenfeld Award