Honor and show your support for Dr. Tony Adams with a gift to the Student Diversity Support Fund

## Dear [Salutation],

Few optometrists and vision scientists have impacted our profession quite like Dr. Tony Adams. His illustrious career needs no introduction for most Berkeley Optometry alumni. He leaves a long string of impressive and enduring accomplishments in the wake of his leadership of the School of Optometry and the profession.

Last fall, the UC Berkeley School of Optometry created the Tony Adams Lifetime Achievement Award and bestowed its inaugural recognition to Dr. Adams.

Join me in celebrating Dr. Tony Adams' extraordinary achievement by making a gift to the Tony and Elna Adams Optometry Student Diversity Support Fund.

This fund was established by Tony and his wife Elna in 2006, and there is no better way to honor him than by supporting the next generation of optometric visionaries. Your support will help Berkeley Optometry award fellowships to students who show promise as future community leaders, have a strong commitment to the optometric profession and a demonstrated interest in working with historically underserved communities.

If you missed the article I wrote in the Berkeley Optometry fall magazine, here are a few highlights taken from Tony Adams' distinguished career:

- After completing his optometric and research training at the University of Melbourne and Indiana University, he was recruited to join the Berkeley faculty at the age of 27 in 1968.
   He became the Graduate Director in 1974 and then Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs under Dean Jay Enoch in 1985.
- He was appointed Dean in 1992, and among his first duties were fundraising and battling with architects, builders, campus officials, and faculty members, as two new floors were added to Minor Hall to accommodate new biological research labs. He would later secure additional funds to build the Clinical Research Center to advance patient-based research, and to enable major renovations of the library, the main lecture room and other facilities in Minor Hall.
- He organized the School's TPA training program, arguably the nation's best, and established a Refractive Surgery Center within our clinic.
- Dean Adams appointed six new faculty members. Suzi Fleiszig, Chris Wildsoet and John Flannery were appointed as assistant professors and, following long negotiations, Tony persuaded the campus to establish the Professor of Clinical Optometry series and the first appointees were Bob DiMartino, Deb Orel Bixler, and Wayne Verdon.
- In 1981, he was appointed to the National Academy of Science's National Research Council Committee of Vision, and later became its chair. He drove the Committee on Vision through its most highly productive period. One of its reports, Myopia, Progression and Prevalence, provoked interest from the National Eye Institute. Adams' persistent lobbying led to the NEI funding its first project on refractive error, the Orinda

- Longitudinal Study of Myopia, with Adams as PI and his graduate students were Karla Zadnik and Don Mutti.
- Adams was elected to the Executive Board of the American Academy of Optometry
  and his leadership brought many changes to the AAO. He led a series of reforms related
  to admissions, committee service, student involvement and international membership.
  He was a driving force on the AAO Committee on Research when it initiated a program
  of travel fellowships to enable selected graduate students to attend AAO meetings.
- The committee organized summer research workshops, run jointly by the AAO and the AOA to provide training to young optometric faculty members from American schools of optometry. The first workshop, held on the Berkeley campus, quickly led to an optometric multi-center study of keratoconus (CLEK) funded by the NEI, and many more were to follow.

I am lucky to have had Tony Adams as a close friend and colleague since 1959 when we began our optometry education as classmates in Melbourne, and I am delighted that Berkeley Optometry is honoring my old mate in this way. His passionate leadership of our profession has advanced optometry and vision science in many significant and enduring ways.

I hope you'll help us continue his legacy by making a gift today to the **Tony and Elna Adams Optometry Student Diversity Support Fund**, a scholarship fund that is close to his heart.

Thank you for your support and helping Berkeley Optometry prepare the next generation of optometric professionals, scientists and leaders.

Sincerely,

Ian Bailey, OD, MS, DSc, FCOptom, FAAO

P.S. We are so proud to honor Dr. Tony Adams with Berkeley Optometry's first Tony Adams Lifetime Achievement Award. **Join me in celebrating his extraordinary achievements by making a gift today** to the Tony and Elna Adams Optometry Student Diversity Support Fund.