

FOR GOOD

September 10, 2020

Dear <<INFORMAL_JOINT>>,

The fall is usually marked with a sense of new beginnings on the Oxy campus. Students moving into residence halls, professors beginning new courses, and athletes taking the field for their first games of the season. But this year is different. Everything is different. And there is tremendous loss and grief. **This is because of the incredibly difficult decision the College had to make to move to remote teaching and learning in order to prioritize the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff.**

When I received the announcement about this decision from our new president, Dr. Harry Elam Jr., I was heartbroken. To learn more about the financial challenges the College is facing as a result, I met with President Elam over Zoom. It quickly became clear to me that this is one of the hardest decisions he has ever had to make, and I immediately wanted to do my part to help our new president, our students, and our College through this time. **This is why I write to you today. Oxy needs our help.**

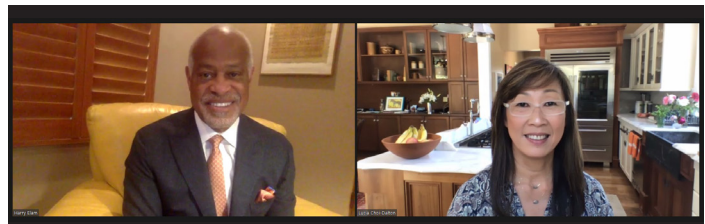
Like many of you, Oxy was my first home away from home. In 1985, I came on an F-1 student visa from Hong Kong to this exciting place – the quintessential California college campus. It did not take long for me to develop my new life through my classes in music and the core curriculum, through my friends, and Glee Club. My brother Henry joined me the next year to study mathematics and play violin with the Occidental-Caltech Orchestra.

Oxy will forever be a place I call home, and today our home is facing one of the greatest challenges in its 133-year history. With residence halls empty and scores of first-years deferring admission, the tuition and room and board revenue that Oxy relies on to support our students is down significantly. At the same time, **Oxy is still committed to meeting the full demonstrated financial need of each student and providing a high-touch liberal arts experience.** This brings me great pride, but also a sense of urgency.

Let's join together as an alumni community to help Oxy weather this storm. **Your gift to the Oxy Fund has never been more critical,** helping the College meet its greatest needs including financial aid, academic programs, and career mentorship. **We cannot stand by and watch.** Together, we can safeguard the foundation of Oxy, ensuring our College remains one of the best in the country and one day welcomes students back to the vibrant campus for all the college experiences they deserve.

With wishes of health and gratitude,

Lucia Choi-Dalton '89
The Oxy Campaign For Good
Steering Committee Member



I welcomed President Elam to Oxy via Zoom and we discussed ways to keep the College steady and ready for when students can return to campus safely.