INVESTING IN TOMORROW’S LEADERS

TRITON SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2013-2014
ALUMNI SUPPORT HAS A MEANINGFUL IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF STUDENTS AND THE FUTURE OF OUR CAMPUS

Postsecondary education is a critical pathway to a successful career. Without it, succeeding in today’s global and competitive economy becomes more difficult.

Access for many qualified students begins and ends with their ability to afford college. To help bridge this gap, the Triton Scholarship Program offers alumni a practical way to support involved, need-based and leadership-oriented students, who are struggling to balance a challenging academic load with mounting debt.

The Triton Scholarship Program provides thoughtful, philanthropic opportunities for our greater alumni community to establish legacies that keep on giving. There is no gift more likely to have an immediate, personal and profound impact on others who want to benefit from a UC San Diego education.

As you read about these remarkable students, remember that a scholarship is much more than financial aid. Scholarships provide hope and the knowledge that our community believes and values their achievements and future accomplishments. You will see that aspects of their UC San Diego experience include shared determination, academic rigor and student leadership. You will also see how each story is unique, with backgrounds and challenges that serve as inspiration that speaks to the human spirit.

Scholarships are an investment in people. Scholarships change lives, transform our communities and ensure continued access to our world-class university where students dream, take risks and achieve the extraordinary.
JUSTIN TELLES
Bruten Family Scholar • Political Science/International Relations, Roosevelt

Education was not a high priority for Justin, so he enlisted in the Marine Corps shortly after high school. During deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, he improved his language skills in Arabic and Persian. As the team liaison officer for the Afghan National Army Special Forces, he saw how the transfer of wisdom could serve as the fulcrum for global development. With a new appreciation for higher education and the knowledge he has acquired, he plans to pursue a career teaching in a developing country.

SEUNG JIN LEE
Bruten Family Scholar • Physiology and Neuroscience, Muir

Seung founded Learn to Be at UC San Diego because of his passion for teaching and tutoring. As its president, he built an organization that sends up to 25 student volunteer tutors to nearby elementary schools on a weekly basis. He also founded and directed the University’s first Korean Culture Night, showcasing variety of performances by talented undergraduates. With an interest in physiology and neuroscience, his goal is to complete an M.D./Ph.D. program and be part of a clinical research team that develops cures for diseases.

MICHELLE NEUMANN
Gregory T. Bryan Scholar • Sociology, Muir

Michelle sees a future creating and reuniting families, and plans to continue her education in pursuit of a master’s degree in social work. It was a child welfare worker who placed her and her twin sister in a stable adoptive home. At UC San Diego, Michelle founded the Ethnic Resource Center Green Team, where she served as president. Last spring, she designed the costumes used for the Rainbow Theater’s spring production of Ghost Dance.

HUE NGAN TRAN
Cambon Family Scholar • Management Science, Warren

Hue enrolled at UC San Diego, determined to absorb the full college experience. He has served Warren College in a variety of leadership roles including orientation leader and Associated Students senator. Many difficult family obstacles, including the loss of his mother to cancer, have led to Hue’s personal goal of helping others. He is planning for a career in marketing, and hopes to someday have the financial capacity to provide assistance to students and families in financial distress.

HARRIETT HU
Bay Area Alumni Scholar • Bioengineering, Muir

Harriett is a first-generation college student who credits a network of professionals and the Eureka! Scholars research project for her academic success at UC San Diego. This active undergraduate organized the first design and fabrication robotics mentorship program between engineering students and local high schools. She is also an active member of TESC, the engineering society’s professional development committee that recruits companies for career fairs and provides engineering students access to research and industry pathways.

CLAIRE MANITI
Bay Area Alumni Scholar • Political Science, Roosevelt

Claire’s high school teacher was the first person to suggest that her involvement in student government, the debate team, and current affairs might lead to a career in law, and recommended she study political science as a way to foster her passion for social justice and activism. At UC San Diego, she got involved in student government early and was voted diversity advocate of her college. She has also served as an orientation leader at Eleanor Roosevelt College and as a member of the advisory board of Making of the Modern World.

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AMARIS TANG
Chaffin Scholar • Political Science, Sixth

Amaris has a parent with polio, which motivated her to bring awareness of this global disease to her fellow high school classmates. As president of the Preuss School’s Interact Club, she led a successful fundraising campaign dedicated to eradicating polio all around the world. The experience transformed her into a champion of service and leadership. Finding ongoing inspiration from her grandfather, a former Chinese human rights activist, Amaris plans to earn a degree in public health where she could ultimately transform policy.

AIKA MARY ERLANDSON
Dottie Conway Memorial Scholar • Human Development, Roosevelt

Aika knows that she would not be attending UC San Diego if it were not for financial aid. With both parents unemployed, she has been supporting herself for the past five years as a waitress. Her experience volunteering in low-income schools has inspired her to pursue an elementary teaching credential at UC San Diego.

AYA KASAI
Hajim Family Scholar • Visual Arts, Sixth

In addition to juggling multiple jobs to pay for college, Aya is an active student leader who serves as webmaster for the Japanese Student Association, and as a member of the Sixth College Arts Committee. Her Japanese identity plays a central role in her life and has inspired her to volunteer for cultural events including serving as translator for the Anime Expo.

ERIN VUONG
Kevin T. Hart Memorial Scholar • International Studies/Political Science, Roosevelt

Erin’s father was among the boat people who fled Vietnam following the fall of Saigon. He supported his family of three working in a low-paying manufacturing job. Erin has used these lessons of struggle to help shape her future. She is an active member of the International Peace Research Institute and National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She plans on pursuing a graduate degree in foreign affairs with hopes of working for the United Nations or the U.S. State Department.

KRISTOFFER WILKERSON
Kevin T. Hart Memorial Scholar • Electrical Engineering, Roosevelt

Kristoffer’s interests in electrical engineering stem from being able to understand complex systems, read signals, and analyze these signals. The Jacobs Gordon Scholar plans to continue his education in pursuit of a M.D./Ph.D. in bioengineering. To offset his college expenses, Kristoffer works as a tutor and class assistant. He is an active member of the Flying Samaritans of UC San Diego, a free clinic that provides medicine and dental services in Ensenada, Mexico.

NICOLE HORTON
Kevin T. Hart Memorial Scholar • Sociology, Roosevelt

Nicole learned compassion for others at a young age, when her mother was diagnosed with cancer. For the next five years, Nicole cared for her mother until she passed away. At community college, she served as the community service coordinator for Alpha Gamma Sigma, coordinated charitable service events, and volunteered for RHEINS, an equine therapy program for children. Nicole is a single mother, pursuing an education in culture and communication with a goal of working on global rights issues.

ANTHONY MONACO
Kathryn Mort Lane Scholar • Urban Studies and Planning, Revelle

Anthony is a non-traditional student—a 32-year-old undergraduate entering his junior year. Returning to school for a four-year degree is the loftiest goal he has taken to date. What he found at UC San Diego was a community of students with similar circumstances who relied on each other for educational survival. The group evolved to become the Non-Traditional Student Resource Network, a support network for the older student base at UC San Diego, designed to guarantee a successful transition back to college. Anthony would like to pursue a career in public policy, advocating on behalf of those less fortunate.

DAFNE MELGAR
Kathryn Mort Lane Scholar • Spanish Literature, Revelle

Dafne is a low-income, first-generation, 35-year-old mother, employee and student pursuing her first bachelor’s degree. Through her years of volunteering with the Linda Vista Community Center, the House of Mexico and the Mixtec Program, she learned that giving back and teaching others has helped enhance her academic experience and has influenced her decision to pursue a career in academia.
ONJIRA SAMPONACHOT
Violet and Matthew Lehrer, ’91 Scholar • International Studies, Marshall
Before entering college, Onjira was advised to dabble in areas that interested her. Heeding this advice, she enrolled in German language classes, joined four organizations within Marshall College, and interned for the Associated Students Financial Office and UCSD ArtPower! a non-profit performing arts organization. In order to make the most of her college experience, Onjira has taken courses she loves, joined organizations she believes in, and has given back to the community as a student.

ANDREA KING
Joseph H. Lima, ’87 Scholar • Pharmacological Chemistry, Marshall
Andrea is a first-generation college student who plans to join the Peace Corps to fulfill her passion for service and gain unique experiences. In addition to her campus job in the dining hall, she finds time to be actively involved in the Asian Pacific-Islander Student Alliance where she plans events ranging from conferences, to mentoring high school students, by providing information and advice about attending UC San Diego. The pharmacological chemistry major hopes to pursue a career in the healthcare field.

CHRISTIE CHEUNG
Liu Family Scholar • Management Science, Roosevelt
It was a club fundraising experience in high school that opened Christie’s eyes to how applicable economic principles were to everyday life. Since then, her love of the subject has encouraged her to pursue a career in business. As a daughter of immigrant parents who have never known financial security, her goal is to have a successful career to better her parents’ lives. The former student body council club coordinator is resuming her extracurricular activities at UC San Diego as a member of the A.S. concert and events team.

SALEM HAWATMEH
Marchick-Rallo Scholar • Human Biology, Sixth
Salem grew as both a leader and follower during his two years of student leadership as an orientation leader at UC San Diego. He learned that working with a team of students and administrators as the Student Fee Advisory Committee representative meant understanding all perspectives in pursuit of a common consensus. Preparing for a career in medicine, he joined the emergency team at Thornton Hospital to better understand the life of a physician. Salem’s mother is the sole supporter of the family; he must rely on student loans and his campus job to stay in school.

JULIANA WONG
Karen Hunter Moraghan, ’81 Scholar • Communication, Muir
Juliana’s way of giving back to the community is by volunteering for programs that focus on giving students in under-represented community’s access to higher education. Her personal goal is to make a difference in the lives of others. As a resource advisor and high school conference group facilitator, she has discovered the rewards that come from mentoring students and establishing meaningful relationships that build on their self-esteem and goal setting in reaching their aspirations, while overcoming their own struggles.

CHARLENE CHOO
Nelson Family Scholar • Pharmacological Chemistry, Warren
Through her involvement in Camp Kesem, a non-profit organization that helps children affected by cancer, Charlene has gained a set of experiences that have made her professional goals more meaningful. She extended her interest and understanding of the disease by volunteering in a cancer research lab at the Moores Cancer Center. Her mother’s cancer diagnosis inspired her to pursue a medical career to assist cancer patients. She plans to remain a part of Camp Kesem Nationals, as well as other organizations, such as Livestrong.

LORENA GONZALEZ
Nelson Family Scholar • Cognitive Science, Roosevelt
One of Lorena’s greatest personal accomplishments was founding a chapter of Multi-Taskers LAYC in her community three years ago. It is a student-run, non-profit organization that develops volunteer opportunities for young people in underserved communities. Through her leadership, the organization has grown to 29 members. She is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars at UC San Diego, serves on the advisory board of the Wellness Cluster Student Advisory Board, and is an active member of the ERC Global Health Coalition. As a first-generation Mexican-Filipino-American attending college, she plans to become a pediatrician.

RICKY MARTORANA
Nelson Family Scholar • Psychology, Sixth
While most kids aspire to be astronauts or firefighters, Ricky simply wanted to be a college graduate. Raised in difficult circumstances, he set out to change the course of his life, starting with college. He is confident that as a professional counselor of children and young adults, he will be able to empower them to make positive life choices. Ricky is a believer in the power of community, and is actively involved at UC San Diego in several campus groups that provide network building events.
DESLISLAVA KALCHEVA  
Stephen M. O’Leary, ‘84 Memorial Scholar • Political Science, Revelle

During her sophomore year at UC San Diego, Desislava took on her greatest leadership role as the director of administration of Revelle College Council. In this capacity she served as the voice of her college on matters concerning the entire UC San Diego community. This classically trained pianist, who will graduate with double majors in political science and humanities, hopes to pursue a J.D. with an emphasis in public interest law. She intends to practice as an attorney with an ultimate vision of establishing a music resource center for K-12 students in low socioeconomic neighborhoods.

PAULINE TAI  
Philip R. and Pamela Fadem Palisoul, ‘72 Scholar • International Studies – History, Revelle

While studying abroad in Egypt, Pauline experienced international poverty and the effects of poor governmental infrastructure. Observing the Egyptian Revolution first hand prompted her to not take her education for granted and to remain actively engaged in her community. She manages a website for a non-profit called Beshayer, where she photographs handcrafted items for online sales. Proceeds help poor women earn money while they learn employable skills.

RANDI WORTMAN  
Patricia Ordonez Valva, ‘92 Scholar • Urban Studies and Planning, Marshall

Randi is a first generation college student who has reentered college. He is a veteran and a single parent. When he was eight-years-old he lost his 39-year-old mother to breast cancer, and his father to non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma while he served in the Marine Corp. Randi’s interest is the betterment of his community, specifically working with the underprivileged. For the past 10 years, he has served as a court appointed special advocate for abused children in the foster care system. He plans to attend law school and to continue to use his education and voice to serve those who don’t have one.

CHRISTINE LEPARULO-VARGAS  
John D. & Diana S. Stobo, Jr., ‘87 Scholar • Human Development, Marshall

Christine lost her father, her only parent, during spring finals last year. After he became sick, she took on the care of her younger brothers and sister. To help with living expenses, Christine, a first-generation college student, worked full-time while attending community college. Despite these challenges and financial hardships, she continued to work in the health-care field while attending school. This experience inspired her to pursue a degree in nursing where she plans to specialize in women’s health. At UC San Diego, she is an active member of Circle K International, the McNair Program, Hermanas Unidas and the Color of Healing.

LIDYA JIRJIS  
Vickerman/Munoz Family Scholar • Bioengineering, Muir

Lidya came to the U.S. from Iraq as a sponsored student through the Youth Exchange and Study Program. While living in Baghdad, her best friend was severely wounded in a car bombing near her home, a city where there are no resources or facilities available for victims of these types of injuries. The incident inspired Lidya to do research in the design of prosthetic limbs. After completing a microbiology course, she volunteered in a lab that furthered her interest in stem cell and prosthetic limbs research. She hopes that this career path will enable her to enhance the health, lifestyle and well-being of people including her friend, Zainab.

JAMIE LUONG  
Volt Scholar • Bioengineering, Revelle

Jamie’s future plans involve pharmaceutical or tissue engineering to discover cures for diseases affecting the ill, or being able to engineer organs to provide transplants for those in need. Just as a community of interacting individuals affects change, Jamie sees how cells, tissues and organs must work together to function. This student leader embraces the importance of connection as an active member of the undergraduate engineering community. Here she serves as a team member of the Aquaponics Project, as a mentee for the Jacobs Undergraduate Mentoring Program (JUMP) and as a member of the biomedical engineering society.

ISABELLA NEUSTADT  
Volt Scholar • Theatre, Muir

Theatre has been a large part of Isabella’s life since the age of seven when she first performed in her elementary school’s talent show. Since then, she has performed in school, local plays and musicals, has taken classes on Shakespeare, and has acted in three short films. Her passion for theatre is matched only by her love of animals. Isabella is a former horse and mule trainer and guide at Yosemite National Park. She hopes to pursue a career as a veterinarian, while continuing to be an active part of theatre.

MIKE LOPEZ  
Sarah Roman Vyse Physics Scholar • Physics, Revelle

Mike is proud of his ability to lead by example. With his interest in the science of atoms, light and stars, he chose to study physics and aspired to be the first in his family to receive a Ph.D. Without financial support available from his parents, the former high school varsity football captain, is dependent on student loans and a part-time campus job in the dining halls to cover his education costs. Mike is aware of the opportunities a good education has provided him, and plans for a career in education.
OMAR VIRAMONTES  
Tom Tucker Leadership Scholar • Human Biology, Marshall

Omar’s life experiences have molded him into the person he is today. When his parents emigrated to the U.S. from Mexico, the American dream was shattered when “the land of opportunity” came in the form of migrant work under the hot sun of the Central Valley. Exposed to their father’s insistence that his children learn first-hand the struggles of the farmworker, he had his sons join him on the coldest of mornings pruning vines, and picking grapes during the hot summer months. Rather than resenting the hardships he has faced as the son of field workers, Omar has instead embraced the life lessons of hard work and hardship that have made him the responsible, diligent and grateful person he is today.

Omar, who graduated in three years from Delano High School, aspires to be a research physician, M.D./Ph.D., in the area of neuroscience/neurosurgery. He would like to go back to the valley to serve his community where he can aid those populations in their struggle in beating diabetes, cancer and other illnesses.

The Tom Tucker Leadership Scholarship supports student leaders with financial need.

PAOLA ARROYO  
Walsh/Chacon Scholar • Human Development, Roosevelt

It was difficult for Paola to adjust to the college culture. Neither of her parents graduated from high school, and as the eldest child, she relied only on herself to figure out how the system worked. Although the transition to college was difficult, she got involved in student life, serving as a resident advisor at her college and as the academic chair for Hermanas Unidas de UCSD, an organization that helps empower Latina women to pursue higher education. She plans on a career in education as a school counselor.

SAVANNAH RAMIREZ  
C. Robert Wartell Memorial Scholar • Sociology, Roosevelt

Savannah is determined to earn a bachelor’s degree, in order to break the cycle of poverty that plagues her family and community. Having been raised in a violent neighborhood in east Los Angeles, she dreams of going into law enforcement and returning to her community. Eventually she would like to be a sheriff as well as take part in building a Boys & Girls Club to provide a positive safe haven for children in the area.

DAVID YU  
Waxman Family Scholar • Human Biology, Muir

David’s participation in UCSD Volunteer Connection has inspired him to create awareness of the rewards that come with service. Realizing the impact of positively influencing another’s life, he has been a dedicated advocate tutoring in local elementary schools and teaching students academic and life skills. His career goal is to own his own pharmacy so that he can provide specialized attention to patients and supply low-cost medicine to those who cannot afford it.

ANGELA LEUNG  
Woo Family Scholar • Human Biology, Muir

Angela’s greatest decision in high school was joining the speech and debate team to overcome shyness. She gained confidence, serving as the event leader, and ultimately as the captain of the fifth-ranked team in America and the top team in Southern California. Angela is a student leader at Muir College where she has been actively involved in organizing Welcome Week, Triton Day, and the annual concert, Muirstock. She would like to pursue a career in cardiology.
ZAID AZIZ  
UCSD Alumni Scholar • Pharmacological Chemistry, Muir

Zaid’s career plan includes obtaining a Ph.D. in pharmacology and working in the field of scientific research. As an Iraqi refugee, he hopes that through hard work, he can reach his goals and start paying back the people, community and country that have helped him through a difficult journey. The self-taught programmer would like to eventually work in drug design where he can apply his software knowledge with his studies in physics, biology and chemistry. He currently serves as a mentor to students interested in a career in pharmacy as a volunteer with OASIS.

JIAYING BI  
UCSD Alumni Scholar • Management Science, Roosevelt

The experience of working with the Senior Smile Program has inspired Jiaying to consider a profession in senior care. Her ambitious long-term goal is to one day establish a full-service, cutting-edge recreational center, a place that is inviting, comfortable and full of enrichment. She is confident that her business major and strong business instincts, which garnered an eBay Purple Star Achievement Award, will prepare her to meet the professional challenges that come her way.

ASHLEY DRAKE  
UCSD Alumni Scholar • Sociology, Warren

Ashley’s only financial options for attending college are student loans and campus employment. As the first in her family to attend college, she hopes that her success will inspire her younger family members to follow in her footsteps. Since she was 16 years old, she has been inspired to help others through her ongoing volunteer work at a local Boys & Girls Club. At UC San Diego, Ashley is an active member of the Black Student Union, volunteering at events and serving as the group’s retention intern. She plans to get a master’s degree in social work and return to her home community to work with at-risk youth.

EBADI FARKOOSH MAHYAR  
UCSD Alumni Scholar • Computer Science, Warren

Ebadi has not only achieved a perfect GPA at UC San Diego, but has enjoyed active participation in student life. During his internship at Intel, he found his professional direction. His area of interest is computer brain interfaces, and he would like to be part of a lab that finds a means of restoring movement to paralyzed people. In addition to working as a programmer to finance his way through school, he volunteers as the vice director of internal affairs at the UC San Diego Village, a transfer housing community of over 1,000 students.
CAESER FENG  
UCSD Alumni Scholar • Management Science, Revelle

Caeser feels that it is important to give back to the University and community through active service. Whether organizing student voter access, representing his college as a Revelle senator, coordinating blood drives or fundraising for undergraduate scholarships, he is committed to giving his time to worthy causes. He plans to pursue a career as a financial consultant, offering innovative solutions to benefit his clients.

DANIELA LEAL  
UCSD Alumni Scholar • International Studies, Marshall

Daniela is the daughter of Mexican immigrants and will be the first in her entire family to pursue a college degree. To afford college, she works part-time, and tries to provide some financial support to her single, unemployed mother. It was through volunteer work in Tijuana, and experiences working on migrant related health issues with her research team in Yucatán, that has emboldened her determination to work on other service projects locally and abroad. She plans to pursue a graduate degree in public policy/international affairs with the hope of promoting policies that can have a positive impact on education, infrastructure, and public health.

SANG NGUYEN  
UCSD Alumni Scholar • General Biology, Muir

Sang is motivated to succeed because her parents never had a chance to receive an education. Watching her family struggle to feed their six children each day has driven her to work hard so that she can provide for her retiring parents and her own family. With a passion for biology and community service, and seven years of teaching at her youth group, she has experienced the power and passion that comes from teaching, and by observing first hand the transition of her students from children, to young adults. She plans to pursue a pharmacy degree that will allow her to teach.

PAMELA NWAKANMA  
UCSD Alumni Scholar • Human Biology, Sixth

Pamela is planning a career in global health or international medicine. Raised in both the U.S. and Nigeria, she has learned to adapt to the challenges of new environments and can converse fluently in Igbo, French and English, skills that will ultimately help her serve people in various parts of the world. She is the daughter of immigrants and feels fortunate to attend a university where financial aid is available to students with need. The Provost’s Honors student works as a laboratory trainee at the Antonie DeMaio lab, and is an active member of the Black Student Union at UC San Diego.

KYLE PHILLIPS  
UCSD Alumni Scholar • Urban Studies and Planning, Muir

Kyle is proud of his transition from manual laborer, to scholarly academic. At the age of 16, he worked summers with his father, a custodian at a local elementary school. He was accepted into honors programs at two universities but had to decline due to financial restraints. Supporting himself, he took on a full-time job as a janitor, attending the local community college where he graduated with honors. Upon completion of his degree in urban studies and planning at UC San Diego, Kyle would like to work in a developing country where he can make an impact.

SARAH VELLA  
UCSD Alumni Scholar • International Studies, Roosevelt

Sarah has decided to dedicate her life to combat modern-day slavery and would like to pursue a career with the U.S. State Department’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. The passion to work internationally to combat trafficking drove her decision to return to college. Raised in a non-traditional household with a single father, she attended school in Malta and began working at the age of 12. Her life experiences have inspired her to help others gain their freedom.
The extraordinary educational opportunities that UC San Diego provides are increasingly out of financial reach for many of this generation of students. For the past nine years, UCSD Alumni has supported deserving students through the Triton Scholarship Program.

This scholarship initiative offers a practical way for alumni to help undergraduate students meet the costs of a UC San Diego education. Together, we provide financial support that enables today’s students, tomorrow’s alumni, to pursue their dreams at UC San Diego, one of the nation’s top public universities.

Donors can make a one-time gift or a gift pledge over five years, which establishes a named endowment that will provide scholarship awards in perpetuity. These scholarships support outstanding students in their junior and senior years, shaping their future to make the world a better place.

The Triton Scholarship Program leverages matching funds to make meaningful contributions for our deserving students, establishing a legacy of alumni giving.

To learn more or discuss gift opportunities, please visit alumni.ucsd.edu/scholarships, or contact Jennifer Leighton ’99 at jleighton@ucsd.edu, (858) 822-1537.