

THE SCOOP

UCI SCHOLARSHIPS

Spring 2024
Vol. 16

MEET OUR SCHOLARS

Hassan Shaikh
Jasmine Delgado

CAMPUS RESOURCE

Center for Student
Wellness & Health
Promotion

UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

Kara Correa



@ucischolarships



scholarships@uci.edu

SCHOLAR OF UC IRVINE



Hassan Shaikh

Year
Senior

Major
Biological
Sciences

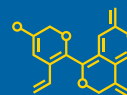
Minor
Earth &
Atmospheric
Sciences

Scholarship
UCI Rose Hills &
Atwood Family
Scholarship Fund

Hassan Shaikh moved to the U.S., aiming to pursue higher education and chose UC Irvine for its strong support system and reputation. Despite starting his collegiate journey amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Hassan took part in the Summer Bridge program that significantly eased his transition to college life during such unprecedented times.

Hassan highlighted his engagement with ICNA Relief, a nonprofit organization, which provided him a platform to contribute significantly to society through food distributions and a free healthcare clinic. Hassan's experiences profoundly shaped his perspective, fueling his passion for medicine and highlighting the pervasive healthcare disparities within society. His role as a volunteer chair for the KiPOW program further exemplifies his commitment, engaging fifth-grade students in health education and activities aimed at promoting healthier lifestyle choices.

FUN FACT



Hassan loves organic chemistry!



Passionate about playing badminton, cooking, writing Urdu poetry, and spending time in nature.



Fascinated by the multifaceted nature of medicine; teaching, research, and social justice aspects.



Hassan discussed his research experience in Dr. Wood's laboratory over the past two years. His engagement centered around the Weekend Warrior Effect, focusing on intermittent exercise and its cognitive benefits—research that garnered him the Friends of the Center for the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory (CNLM) award, recognizing his contributions to neuroscience research. This commitment allowed Hassan to contribute to advancing knowledge in his field, presenting his findings at regional and national conferences.



Upon receiving the Atwood Family Scholarship Fund and the Friends of the CNLM award, Hassan experienced immense pride and gratitude, recognizing these awards not only as personal achievements but also as validations of his hard work and dedication. These scholarships alleviated some of his financial burdens, allowing him to further immerse himself in unique experiences at UCI. Hassan was keenly aware of the role these scholarships played in enabling him to tackle social justice challenges and deepen his involvement within the UCI community and beyond. He expressed a heartfelt thanks to the donors, acknowledging their contribution to his journey and the positive impact of their support on his educational and research endeavors at UCI.



Hassan emphasizes the importance of seizing opportunities, engaging with faculty, and overcoming the initial intimidation that comes with stepping into a new academic environment. Hassan advises not to shy away from applying for opportunities, citing his own experiences of attending office hours and interacting online with his professors as key steps that led him to invaluable research experiences. Through his narrative, Hassan emerges as a beacon of resilience, ambition, and community spirit, embodying the essence of a model student at UC Irvine and setting a compelling example for peers and future students alike.

“Not be afraid of applying to opportunities and reaching out to professors.”

HASSAN SHAIKH



SCHOLAR OF UC IRVINE



Jasmine Delgado

Growing up in Irvine with immigrant parents, Jasmine Delgado often felt caught between worlds, not fully fitting in with the mainly Asian and white community around her. Moving to Santa Ana for high school, she hoped to connect more with her Hispanic roots, but instead, she felt even more out of place. Despite these challenges, Jasmine found solace and self-expression through writing poetry and short fiction, an endeavor that helped her navigate her complex feelings and identity. Deciding to major in English at UCI was a big deal for her; it was her way of taking everything she'd been through and using it to inspire others. Through her writing and her journey, Jasmine shows us how important it is to embrace who we are and share our stories, using education as a powerful tool to find our voice and make a difference.

Receiving a scholarship aimed at empowering Latinx students took Jasmine by surprise and filled her with happiness. It validated her identity journey and lifted a financial burden, allowing her to study abroad in Italy. This experience not only enriched her education but also let her share her culture across the globe, fostering confidence in her heritage. The scholarship also enabled her to focus more on her studies and involvement in clubs, significantly enhancing her college experience. Grateful to the scholarship donors, Jasmine acknowledges the profound impact their support has had on her personal and educational growth.

FUN FACT



Jasmine has a poem published in a book called *Resilience* about finding her queer identity



Multilingual in three different languages: English, Spanish, and Italian (beginner)



She has the remarkable ability to play seven different musical instruments

Year
Sophomore

Major
English

Minor
Biological Sciences

Scholarship
UCI-OC Alliance (Experian)





“The biggest achievement at UCI is able to go abroad and study. It was very insightful to learn about other cultures.”

JASMINE DELGADO



Jasmine's academic journey uniquely blends her love for English with a newfound passion for genetics, fueled by a lifelong desire to work with children. Initially drawn to English for its exploration of reading and writing, her career focus shifted upon discovering genetic counseling in a course called "From Conception to Birth." This field intriguingly combines her skills in English and Biological Sciences, aligning perfectly with her goal to help children and families navigate genetic conditions. Jasmine plans to pursue this integration of interests by attending graduate school for genetic counseling. Her path exemplifies the power of interdisciplinary learning and highlights her commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of families dealing with challenging genetic realities.



At UCI, Jasmine eagerly delves into the campus community, focusing on cultural and artistic participation. She actively contributes to the Art Club Collective, supporting women and the LGBTQ+ community, and explores her Latinx roots through Hermanas Unidas, enriching her sense of belonging. Professionally, Jasmine seeks a summer internship in publishing, aligning with her passion for literature. Her study abroad experience marks a significant achievement, offering her profound insights into global cultures and inspirations. Jasmine's diverse involvements at UCI reflect her dedication to growth, cultural connection, and the pursuit of her aspirations in literature and beyond.



Jasmine encourages new college students to embrace campus life by stepping out of their comfort zones, even if it's just attending one club meeting. By sharing her experience of joining the Art Club Collective as a freshman and finding a sense of community, she underscores the importance of taking risks and exploring new opportunities. Her advice highlights the potential for self-discovery, personal growth, and finding one's place within the university setting, emphasizing that the college experience can be significantly enriched by actively engaging and being open to new experiences.





UCI Center for Student Wellness & Health Promotion



Doug Everhart
Director

Initially poised for a career in music, Doug Everhart's academic trajectory veered towards engineering out of a deep appreciation for math and design. However, his true calling emerged from his collegiate experiences, notably his role as a Resident Assistant (RA), steering him towards student affairs. He became passionate about alcohol education, after seeing that the "Just Say No" campaign was too simple for college life's realities. After a transformative conference in Atlanta in 1990, he dedicated himself to substance abuse education, advocating for informed decision-making among students. His efforts, particularly in peer education and focus on influential student groups like athletes and fraternity/sorority members, led to a successful career. Joining UCI in 2010 as the Alcohol Programs Manager before swiftly becoming the director, his 35-year journey underscores the impact of adaptability, passion, and commitment to enhancing student health and wellbeing.



The UCI Center for Student Wellness and Promotion primarily focuses on four key areas: alcohol and other drugs, sexual and relationship health, mental health and emotional well-being, and nutrition and body image. Guiding every initiative and program are the core values that the center proudly presents: advocacy, awareness, and empowerment. It strongly advocates for both individual and community well-being by securing necessary resources. With a commitment to equity and inclusion, the center adopts a data-driven approach to understand and address the unique needs of its diverse student body. The center focuses on empowering students with vital health management skills for their life post-graduation, encouraging them to positively influence their families, workplaces, and communities.

Below are some of the services the center provides:

- **Wednesday Wellness Walks:** Promotes mental wellness by arranging bi-weekly nature walks in locations like Aldridge Park and the San Joaquin Wildlife Preserve for the university community. These outings, enriched with educational talks and mindfulness activities, aim to highlight the positive impact of nature on mental health and emotional wellness.
- **Destress Fest:** During finals week, the university focuses on student mental health by encouraging self-care practices like proper sleep, nutrition, and hydration. Additionally, a special event featuring therapy dogs and booths with healthy snacks is set up along Ring Road. This initiative offers students a chance to destress, reminding them to take a moment for themselves amidst the finals frenzy.

Students at UCI are encouraged to discover the wide range of resources, programs, and services meticulously designed to support their health and academic endeavors. Through collaboration, the center aspires to cultivate a healthier, more inclusive university environment.



Step Up!

A program to encourage students, faculty and staff to be proactive bystanders when they see something they are concerned about or see someone in need.

EMOTIONS
 EMPOWERMENT SAD
 WELL-BEING POSITIVITY
 RESILIENCE DEPRESSION STRESSED
 AWARENESS SELF-CARE AWARENESS
 ANXIETY COPING LONELY HAPPY ANGER
 BALANCE DISTRESS HOPE STRESS SUPPORT
 HURT COMPASSION PAIN STRIVING CRISIS
 EMPATHY FEAR HEALING DISORDER COMFORT
 LOVE SUFFERING CLARITY BLAME FEELS
 BREATHE LACK COURAGE ADVOCACY NEGATIV-
 ITY FAITH SELF-LOATHING SELF-EFFICACY
 ABUNDANCE GROWTH DISTRACTED ACCER-
 TANCE MOODY PEACE TIRED FORGIVE
 FRUSTRATED GRACE PERSPECTIVE
 IMPULSIVE FREEDOM SLEEPLESS
 JOY OBSESSED ENOUGH
 WELLNESS

Behind Happy Faces

Interactive and engaging program that is designed to encourage and empower students to share, talk, and support each other as they navigate mental health.



Wednesday Wellness Walks



Students enjoying therapy puppies during Destress Fest. Held every quarter during finals week.



Students attending Behind Happy Faces workshop about personal and community members mental health.



3rd floor of Student Center

studentwellness.uci.edu



University Advancement



Kara Correa
Executive Director of
Development, Scholarship
Programs

With nearly 17 years of service at UCI, Kara has served in her current role since 2020 focusing on major and transformational philanthropy in support of undergraduate scholarships across all schools and units on the UCI campus. Additionally, in this central, collaborative role, Kara works closely with UCI's Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, the Office of Admissions, and the Office of Enrollment Management. Prior to her time overseeing Scholarship Programs at UCI, Kara was the Assistant Athletic Director for Development within UCI's Intercollegiate Athletics Department for 10 years.

The information provided and the subsequent Q&A were conducted with Kara Correa, Executive Director of Development for Scholarship Programs at UC Irvine.

What are the main objectives of the University Advancement's efforts in fundraising for scholarships?

University Advancement at UC Irvine is pivotal in connecting philanthropic efforts with the university's funding needs, especially through the *Brilliant Future* campaign. This campaign is structured around four goals: Advance the American Dream, Transform Healthcare and Wellness, Accelerate World-Changing Research, and Explore the Human Experience. Central to these objectives is providing undergraduate scholarships, which play a crucial role in both supporting students and fulfilling the wider mission of the university.

Scholarships offer a direct channel for donors to impact individual students, contributing to their education and future achievements. This not only helps students financially, but also brings a diverse range of perspectives to UC Irvine. Donors benefit from this arrangement by seeing the tangible effects of their generosity through updates on the progress of the scholarship recipients, enhancing their sense of fulfillment. The collaboration between University Advancement, alumni, and the community is key in identifying giving opportunities that align with both the donors' interests and the campaign's ambitious goals. This strategic approach ensures that contributions support broader societal advancement, reinforcing the link between philanthropy and positive change within the UC Irvine community.



“When a student receives a scholarship, it acknowledges their past successes and provides hope for their future endeavors.”

KARA CORREA



Peter the Anteater and Dr. Willie Banks the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs At UC Irvine announcing the Brilliant Future campaign

How does supporting scholarships at UCI contribute to the university’s long-term goals and vision for growth and excellence?

UC Irvine's strategic vision is guided by four pillars: 1) Expanding capacity to improve lives, 2) Elevating the student experience, 3) Fostering regional and global connections, and 4) Pioneering new paths for the future. Supporting undergraduate scholarships plays a critical role in advancing these goals. Scholarships help remove financial barriers, allowing a diverse range of students to pursue their academic and professional dreams. This support not only enhances the educational journey by allowing students to engage in research, study abroad, and leadership activities, but also connects them with internships and professional mentorships. By investing in scholarships, community leaders, alumni, and donors directly contribute to UCI's mission of societal progress and economic growth, thereby impacting the success of future generations.

What trends or changes have you noticed following the implementation of the scholarship centralization project?

The introduction of a centralized scholarship application and ScholarshipUniverse at UC Irvine has significantly improved the scholarship and financial aid process, benefitting both students and donors. Previously, students navigated multiple applications with varying deadlines, causing confusion. For donors, the fragmented system made it difficult to understand the impact of their contributions. Now, with a streamlined process, UC Irvine has seen increased applications, providing a clearer picture of financial support needs to donors. The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships collaborates with University Advancement and campus units to ensure a coordinated approach, from marketing to recipient selection, strengthening the case for support within the [Brilliant Future Campaign](#).

Are there any emerging trends in the way donors are choosing to establish/fund scholarships?

Presently, there's a heightened emphasis on scholarships that support underrepresented groups in STEM, sustainability initiatives, diversity enhancement, and the promotion of global citizenship. This targeted support seeks to dismantle barriers to higher education, making it more accessible and affordable for all students. To maximize their impact, UC Irvine focuses on raising scholarship funds that offer considerable flexibility in their application and selection criteria. This approach allows the university to promptly respond to the changing needs of its student body and the shifting landscapes of academia and industry. This strategic focus on adaptable scholarship funds is pivotal for empowering students today and for generations to come, enhancing UC Irvine's impact on individual lives and broader societal progress.

