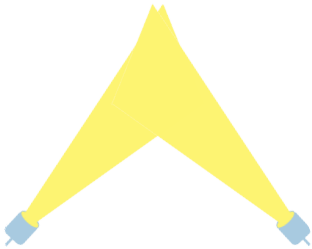




THE SCHOLARSHIP SCOOP

Spring 2021 | Volume 4

UCI Scholarships



Donor Spotlight: Jewell Johnson

Learn about the Jewell Johnson Scholarship, created by her daughter, Jennifer, to honor her work as a wonderful and caring nurse.



Campus Resources: Cross-Cultural Center

The Cross-Cultural Center is here to assist UCI students in appreciating their cultural identities and better relating to one another.



Editor's Note: Earth Day

Do your part to celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd! All of us have a duty to educate, act, and change for our planet.

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT: Jewell Johnson Scholarship



Jewell Johnson lives a life of service and compassion. She served as a nurse for 25 years. Her selflessness and love later influenced her daughter, Jennifer, as she became both a nurse and an accomplished medical malpractice lawyer. Jewell serves from the heart, impacting people everywhere she goes.

The 87-year-old is no average retiree. She takes online Bible and art classes. She also quilts, plays the piano, and writes books. Jewell is currently working on her fifth book, which is about a nurse she admires, Florence Nightingale.

As a former nurse, Jewell emulated those same values as Nightingale. Jewell was a nurse of intense compassion and empathy. She reflects on her career as a nurse with cherished happiness. She emphasizes the need for nurses to treat every patient with the same empathy and warmth. Jewell did everything with her entire heart, and many

patients were touched by her quality of care. She truly believes she was destined to be a nurse.

The current COVID-19 pandemic brought to light the sacrifices that medical professionals make for their patients. Jewell encourages us to honor nurses more. She has heard stories about them working strenuous double shifts and not being able to see their families. She knows the toll that those sacrifices take on a person and how necessary nurses are in a time like this to not only provide medical care but love and support for patients who are alone and scared.

As Jennifer grew up, she learned she wanted to help others in a similar way her mother did. After earning a degree in psychology, she decided to return to school to become a nurse. She continued her career of serving others when she went to law school

to be an attorney that represented clients who dealt with the consequences of medical malpractice. After years of representing doctors and hospitals, Jennifer now represents injured clients. Jennifer was grateful for her time as a nurse and how it influenced her career as a lawyer. Coming from a medical background, she was able to understand the cases at an elevated level. Her time as a nurse also instilled a sense of trust between her and her clients not typically given to lawyers. Most of all, she used the empathy she developed as a nurse to care for her clients. Jennifer identifies the similarities between a patient in the ICU to a legal client. Both are experiencing severe injuries or are fighting for their life. As a nurse and as a lawyer, Jennifer sees as a unique opportunity to make a difference in their lives.



There is no doubt that Jennifer is a talented lawyer. In 2020, the Orange County Trial Lawyers Association

awarded her with their annual [“Top Gun” award](#) for her remarkable work on a case. As the only woman that was awarded that year, Jennifer solidified her legacy as a lawyer dedicated to helping others.

Jennifer also spends her time as a recent addition to Dean Adeline Nyamathi of UCI’s Nursing School’s Cabinet. She was “giddy” when offered the position and sprung into action. She was deeply committed to the goal of increased diversity. Along with The Reverend Chineta Goodjoin, Jennifer is co-chairing a forum to discuss inclusion and diversity at the School of Nursing. She is a model member of the Cabinet. She financially committed to promoting diversity and accessibility to an education, creating the Jewell Johnson Scholarship to honor her mother. Jennifer’s generosity and commitment had a ripple effect in that it inspired another donor to give to the scholarship so even more UCI students will benefit.

Jewell and Jennifer Johnson have had such a profound effect on the people they have interacted with. Jennifer wanted to honor Jewell’s commitment to community service and Jewell’s lifework as a nurse through this honorary scholarship. It will provide three \$2500 awards to undergraduate and MEPN students who are financially burdened amid the COVID-19 pandemic through family unemployment and remote learning expenses. Jewell and Jennifer Johnson make the world a better place because they dedicate their lives to meaningful service.

Thank you, Jewell and Jennifer!

Resource: Cross-Cultural Center

The Cross-Cultural Center was founded in October 1974 to address the needs of UCI's minoritized students. With its campus being predominantly white at the time, students of color did not feel there was a space for them. They were missing that integral factor that created a feeling of community. With the support of faculty and staff, student leaders and student organizations advocated for the creation of the Cross-Cultural Center



The center has evolved from a small, portable unit to a fully functioning resource with a larger physical space dedicated to uplifting students with diverse, intersectional identities to reach their full potential here at UC Irvine. It provides equal access to mentorship, information, and educational opportunities. To address the evolving needs of its students, the Cross-Cultural Center has expanded its services to offer academic success initiatives. For example, its Lunch & Learn weekly series discusses educational topics and student success strategies. Another program is its Faculty in Residence where students can meet directly with professors from different disciplines and ask questions such as research, internships, and graduate school. Students can see themselves embodied in the world of academia when meeting with professors, providing a source of inspiration. In response to the pandemic, the Cross-Cultural Center also created its Community Empower Hour series, which invites students to build community virtually in conversation on various topics related to student life.

The center also hosts a range of events throughout the academic year. It wrapped up its winter quarter signature program, the Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium, where speakers invited the community to engage in critical conversations on topics such as the national social climate, anti-Black racism in America, racial justice and more. In the fall, it hosts its signature program called Community Root Festival. The festival is essentially a cultural fair with live performances and student cultural organizations sharing their cultures, promoting the campus' diversity. The center's spring quarter signature program, Deconstruction Zone, will take place May 10-14, 2021 (Week 7) and will feature a range of programs on deconstructing different concepts. The Cross-Cultural Center's more regular events include the #BlackLivesMatter series that discusses anti-Blackness and REAL Talk, one of its longest running series, that discusses identity, social justice, and the campus climate.



In 2019, the center created a scholarship honoring Dr. Joseph L. White. Not only was Dr. White a UCI professor, he was also nicknamed the "godfather of Black psychology", a scholar, and a mentor for many minoritized students since his work researched ways to support students of color and low-income, first-generation students. In celebration of Dr. White's life, work, and legacy, the Cross-Cultural Center set up a scholarship in his name. Past recipients appreciate that there is an opportunity like this geared to their needs. It shows that UCI is creating the environment for them to be supported.

Today's social and racial climate is highly volatile. Students of many diverse, intersectional identities can find it difficult to understand and find their place on campus and may want a place to find community. The Cross-Cultural Center is here to assist students in navigating that tricky area. It is here to bring UCI students together so they may better understand and relate to one another.

MEET OUR SCHOLARS

David Einstein

- Jayne Unzelman Endowed Scholar
- Dr. William F. Holcomb Endowed Scholar
- Biological Sciences Major
- Senior



David, how has your experiences in academic research got you closer to your education/career goals? What did you learn through your time as a researcher?

I am part of multiple manuscripts currently pending publication in prestigious journals like IOVS and JCI Insight. These manuscripts will help me realize my dream of entering medical school. I have developed a deeper love for vision science working under Dr. Philip Kiser. Like all things in life worth pursuing, many challenges reside in academic research. Through my efforts, I have garnered deep character traits and tenets such as prioritization of time, maintaining persistence through failures, and a zealous commitment to fulfilling academic and research duties.

How has being a first-generation student and dependent of a single parent affected your education?

I suffered economic hardship that have affected my pursuit of education—in particular—my life goal fulfillment of becoming a surgeon. The insufficiency of three meals a day and the absence of a vehicle for use while growing up, impaired my performance in school; but my devotion and diligence was never affected because I understood at a young age that with education, I could overcome the relative poverty which I lived in and make true my dream of one day being a surgeon. As a child I promised myself to always do my best regardless of any situation I face, a statement I hold true now and for the future.

Jersey Ligaya

- Scholarships Unit Work-Study Scholar
- Business Administration Major
- Senior



Jersey, what was your experience like at UCI?

I really enjoyed my time here. The campus and student life are amazing. The school and the different resource centers taught me a lot about diversity and inclusion. I even met some of my closest friends through the LGBTQ+ Center. I feel like I matter as a student. I was not overlooked; the staff and faculty really care for us. Being a part of the Anteater Mentorship Program helped me to get adjusted to UCI. I am going to miss walking through Aldridge Park. But now I feel prepared for my post-graduate plans. I created Handshake and LinkedIn accounts to increase my chances of finding a position in a Human Resources department. Overall, I am happy with my choice to attend UCI.

How is your experience working with the UCI Scholarships unit? What did you learn?

This role has reaffirmed my desire to work within a company or organization that supports self-development both professionally and personally. I learned more about business aspects, project management, HR, and administrative skills. I was able to communicate my needs and expectations to the team, as well as receive feedback in terms of my projects. I appreciated being able to act on my desire to develop my soft skills. I have a mentor that has encouraged me to ask for assistance not with just my resume, but with unexpected events due to the pandemic. I enjoy getting to practice hard skills that involve data entry, presenting, social media outreach, and video production with such a diverse team.

Editor's Note: Happy Earth Day!

Planet Earth is truly breathtaking. She provides us with all we need. We have varying landscapes that support human, animal, and plant life. But every day Earth is fighting the toxins and pollution that we humans are creating. Now we have to find a way to balance our modern needs with the planet's if we want to continue to call Earth our home.

Despite the brief break Mother Earth had when the world experienced a global COVID-19 lockdown, 2020 was tied with 2016 for the hottest year on record, and the last seven years have been the warmest, according to [NASA](#). Last year's hurricane season broke records with 30 named storms (winds of 30 mph or greater) as reported by [NOAA](#). Here, UCI students, staff, and faculty were affected by multiple wildfires that led to evacuation. 2020 brought [nearly 10,000 wildfires](#) that burned 4.2 million acres. In this case, breaking records is not something to celebrate.

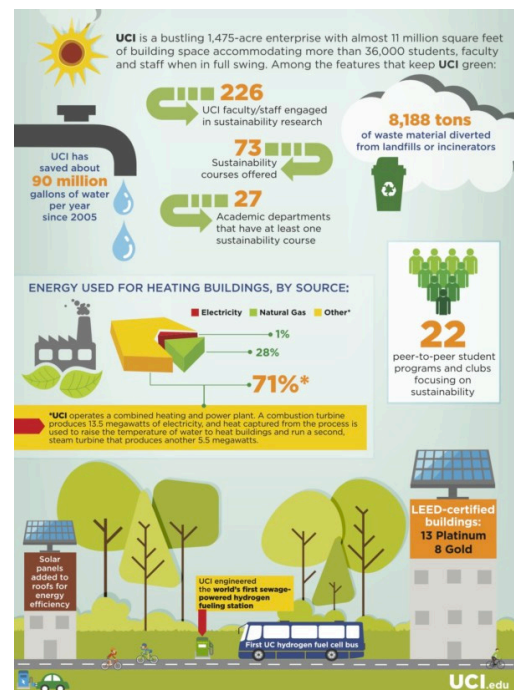
April 22nd is Earth Day. Earth has everything we need to thrive: food, oxygen, water. I highly encourage everyone to look into celebrating this momentous day. Climate change affects everyone, so we should all be involved. It threatens everything we know, including the survival of humanity.



Earth Day can be celebrated any way you want! Volunteer outside by picking up trash at a beach or with a conservation group. Better yet, organize one yourself! Attend a virtual or outside, masked, and socially-distanced registered Earth Day event which can be found on their [website](#). For students on or near campus, the Newport Bay Conservancy is hosting a "walk-thru" event on 4/17. Contact your local lawmakers to advocate for climate change policies. Here's a list of more [earth-loving ideas](#).

There are many creative experts around the world doing some amazing work. It is incredibly inspiring to see how people of all ages are taking action to help their people, their country, and the planet.

Being completely Earth-friendly and "green" can seem impossible. I try to be diligent, but I am no Greta Thunberg. But there are always little steps that can be taken. Every positive impact is still important, no matter how small. I bring my reusable water bottle everywhere. I am always hydrated and never need a plastic bottle. Refuse disposable utensils when bringing takeout back home. If dining at a restaurant, bring your own reusable container from home for leftovers instead of using the styrofoam or plastic containers the restaurant provides. For the dedicated changemakers, try to start your own garden or compost bin. It can be relaxing to get your hands dirty and be outside.



We can no longer think of climate change as another person's problem. It affects all of us. [UCI](#) is getting involved; since 2007, the university has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 20,000 metric tons. It is also working to meet the UC's Carbon Neutrality Initiative to neutralize carbon output for buildings and fleet vehicles by 2025. UCI also offers the [ROADS](#) (Reward Opportunity Advancing Distinguished Students) Scholarship to students involved in sustainable programs and environmental improvement. There are plenty of ways to get involved with fellow Anteaters; visit this [site](#) to find student orgs who are doing their part. [Check out](#) the Office of Sustainability's commitment to its work. It's not just UCI's responsibility to combat climate change. All of us have a duty to educate, act, and change for our planet.