



# THE SCHOLARSHIP SCOOP

Spring | 2022

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE



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# Scholarship Appreciation Reception

On March 5th, University Advancement hosted its first-ever Scholarship Appreciation reception. The event brought together the University of California, Irvine's stellar student scholars, generous donors, accomplished faculty, and esteemed UCI staff including Chancellor Howard Gillman, Vice Chancellor Brian Hervey, and Vice Provost Michael Dennin.



*UCI Trustee and Alumni, Gary Singer '69 (right) and UCI Student-Athlete (Women's Golf), Olivia Canales (left)*

The event provided an opportunity to recognize donors who have established an undergraduate scholarship endowment with a minimum giving amount of \$50,000 with the scholarship gift having been paid in full and awarded to a student.

The scholarship recipients were invited to meet their donors, express their gratitude, and to share the impact of their scholarship. We invited Deans from each school and unit, too. There were 3 student speakers who gave their personal stories: Brandon Martinez, VanAnh Nguyen, and Mir Babaei Dina.



*Student Scholarship recipient of the Stacy Nicholas Endowed Scholarship and speaker, VanAnh Nguyen (Engineering major)*

University Advancement and the Scholarships unit are grateful to all the amazing donors who have generously given and impacted these students. We are proud to have you as a partner and will work closely with you as we continue to highlight the importance of scholarships at UCI.

Thank you to everyone who attended. Thank you to our students for being inspiring and hardworking individuals. We look forward to hosting this annual event for years to come!



*Attendees look on as scholars share their stories*



College is a time for new and exciting experiences filled with new friends. But it can also be a time when students are more susceptible to sexual assault, relationship abuse, and/or stalking. Time away from families can also help students realize a history of family violence. Luckily, UCI Campus Assault Resources & Education (CARE) is a dependable and dedicated resource that provides free, confidential support.

The resource center opens up a doorway for people to process experiences that occur both on-campus and off-campus. It also is responsible for providing mandatory prevention education for first-year, transfer, and graduate students. While its staff does conduct sexual violence training, it does not have oversight over what is taught. CARE also hosts quarterly programs to increase awareness and access to support. It recognizes the importance of holistic healing with a program dedicated to dealing with trauma and different coping mechanisms, such as yoga and art. Ultimately, the center focuses on how to best support people through providing the right support.

In the Spring quarter, students may see t-shirts hanging on clotheslines across campus. It coincides with April, sexual assault awareness month. CARE sets up the artistic and powerful display every year as part of their Take Back The Night event which is organized by its office, interns, and volunteers. From April 11th to the 13th, the t-shirts are on display and are created by sexual assault survivors. The event allows them to be seen and show how resilient they are despite having such traumatic experiences. On Wednesday, April 13th, the event ends with campus performances and dances by student groups. A couple of keynote speakers voice their support for survivors. There is also a resource fair with on and off-campus

resources. Event attendees are invited to participate in a candle march through campus where survivors share their experiences in an open-mike format. Take Back The Night is an incredibly powerful event that gives a voice to survivors who are often forgotten about. CARE brings attention to their stories and allows them to heal.

The center is open Monday to Friday from 8 AM - 5 PM for appointments or walk-ins. An appointment can easily be set up via phone call (949-824-7273) or email ([care@uci.edu](mailto:care@uci.edu)). Speaking to a staff member at CARE does not trigger any sort of criminal or administrative process if victims do not want to. The purpose of a meeting can range from just venting to learning about options to pressing criminal charges and notifying the school. It is a completely confidential space where people can feel confident and safe. Staff members are trained to listen and offer all options; they will not coerce someone to take one option because they think it is better. They are there to be a support system and will get involved as much or as little as a survivor wants.

CARE likes to see itself as a buffer if someone is not ready to get the ball rolling. They are not required to report any sexual assault like other UCI faculty or staff. Just as importantly, the center supports friends and family of survivors also known as secondary survivors. Staff members are always available to debrief and educate them on how to be there for their loved ones.

CARE is proof that healing is possible. Survivors can become overwhelmed or struggle to see the possibility of a future where they are at peace. But there is so much beautiful resilience among survivors. If you need support and guidance, please contact CARE.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



### **Stephanie Luu**

Environmental Science and Policy, B.A.

Urban Studies, B.A.

Class of 2022

Stephanie Luu will complete her Bachelor's degree in Spring 2022 as a third year, graduating an entire year early. Her tenacity and determination can be attributed to her appreciation for education as a first-generation college student. With a passion for diversity and equity, Stephanie has made her mark on the UCI campus both academically and through extra-curriculars.

She entered as a freshman in 2018 where she explored her interest in environmental science. In that first year, she connected with Professor Elizabeth Crook who teaches in the earth systems science department. This mentorship led to Stephanie working as Professor Crook's assistant for summer school, turning into one of her favorite memories during her academic journey at UCI. She was able to assist students and practice what she preaches in terms of inclusive teaching. It was the greatest opportunity for her to help students like her succeed.

Stephanie did not stop there; she interned for UCI's student government, Associated Students UCI (ASUCI) where she worked to promote a diverse and equitable campus for all with Campus Assault Resources and Education (CARE). The center provides free and confidential support services to members of the UCI community impacted by sexual assault, relationship abuse, family violence, and/or stalking. Stephanie's role spread awareness and supported UCI students that experienced intimate partner violence.

Her work serving underserved students from marginalized communities continued into her second and third year. She became a commissioner within ASUCI, managing 8 interns and planning its diversity conference. The timing of the conference was during the pandemic at a time of heightened global and social issues. Established UCI staff members came to speak and demonstrate their support of students of all backgrounds.

Stephanie also joined the Scholarship Office as a student worker where she assisted the Scholarship Portfolio and Development Marketing Team with student outreach and content creation. She sees her position as a crucial way to help underserved students by spreading educational opportunities. As a first-generation student, she understands how important it is to be accessible as possible to assist students in her same position. Before attending UCI, applying to universities was different compared to other classmates since she faced educational barriers a non-first-generation would not. Stephanie wants students to emphasize everyone who attends UCI is there for a reason. It is essential for all students to have the right academic and emotional support. As an advocate for mental health, she encourages students to use the UCI Counseling Center.

With her long list of achievements and commitments, it is evident that Stephanie has a deep commitment to advocating for diversity and inclusivity. As an extremely accomplished student, she recommends students find a rhythm for their academic schedule. For example, she heavily depends on her Google Calendar to navigate her days. She stresses understanding each class' syllabus and discovering how to effectively take breaks. Breaks are good; she is able to return to her work stronger when she is more emotionally calm. Her love for academia and policy work is evident as she applies for graduate school for the next academic year.

We are so proud of Stephanie and her dedication to the UCI campus. We will miss her bright and bubbly personality at team meetings. We wish her congratulations and good luck in her future endeavors!



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



**Janice Lee**  
Biological Sciences, B.S.  
Class of 2022

Transferring from UCR to UCI in 2020, Janice Lee is now about to graduate as a Biological Sciences major with a minor in Health Informatics. She joined the Scholarship Unit during her first year at UCI where she not only developed her skill set, but also established a connection to the campus, something she was searching for during the time of online learning. She is extremely relieved to now have the UCI experience she expected. Janice has made use of in-person learning by participating in extracurriculars, research, and clinical work.

As a student worker, Janice assisted the unit with the rollout of their new scholarship platform. It conveniently helped her to learn about the application process as a new student. Her main project included vetting external scholarships the office receives from third

parties requesting to have UCI put their info on their website. Janice would go through each request to verify the legitimacy of the entity and scholarship. She ensured that if the unit was going to endorse the scholarship, it was going to be safe for students to apply. With her help, the unit was able to add dozens of new scholarship opportunities to its website, which was then added to the new platform on ScholarshipUniverse. Janice also created fantastic graphics for social media and assisted with the development of the newsletter. On a personal level, she educated her friends and other transfers about ScholarshipUniverse and the scholarships available. With a deep understanding of the application process, she could explain the details well.

Janice has taken advantage of the range of opportunities at UCI. For example, she is active in both Circle K International and Physician Assistants Coming Together (PACT). Janice was in the Circle K International chapter at UCR, so she wanted to continue making a difference at UCI. Her leadership experience within the club has ranged from leading the District Committee and being the Registration Chair and Executive Assistant. She has enjoyed her years of service and volunteering with the club. With the goal of becoming a Physician's Assistant, it made sense for her to join PACT. She initially started as a member then took on the role of Secretary. Janice has been able to meet many other hardworking and determined future Physician Assistants. The club has given her a sneak peek into her future role. PA and PA students come to speak to the club, so students can learn and network.

She can also add neural biology research experience to her resume. Under Dr. Jefferson Chen, Janice and her fellow researchers are working on creating a program to increase the efficiency of CT scans to allow for early diagnosis and see neural improvement. She will be presenting her findings in May at UCI Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP).

Janice Lee is a first-generation student. She remembers applying to college as a confusing time. She had no one to guide her and often questioned if what she was doing was correct. Ultimately, Google became her primary resource for information. Now that her brother is applying to college, she is happy to assist him and make this process easier for someone else. When Google just is not enough, Janice recommends first-gen students ask others about their experiences.

Congratulations to Janice! We know she will have a bright future ahead of her as a Physician's Assistant. Thank you for your time as a student worker and for being a kind team member!

