

THE SCOOP

UCI SCHOLARSHIPS



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MEET THE SCHOLARS

Grace Chen & Albert M. Garcia

CAMPUS RESOURCE

UCI Basic Needs Center

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

UCI Retiree Legacy Scholarship

UCI SCHOLARSHIPUNIVERSE

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UCI Basic Needs Center

The UCI Basic Needs Center (formerly known as the FRESH Hub) first opened its doors in 2015. The Basic Needs Center serves all currently enrolled UCI students who face financial challenges and needs support with basic needs resources. Any student can face basic needs insecurities, but their research shows that the student in the following communities face the greatest challenges: low-income students, 1st generation students, transfer students, minoritized students, former foster youth, parenting students, LGBTQ+ students, and formerly incarcerated students. Basic needs insecurities also have demonstrated impact on mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing which could further impact a student's ability to function socially, professionally, and academically. When the center first opened in 2015, the Basic Needs Center operated their pantry out of the SOAR center with a one-time grant from the UC Office of the President to either start or to improve existing food security efforts on campus. The center was committed to making UCI a basic needs-secure campus by fulfilling and working towards alleviating basic needs insecurities that have accelerated for all students.

Passionate student leaders were motivated to run a student fee referendum in 2016 to generate funding that would go towards establishing a resource center addressing food insecurity and basic needs security. They were able to pass a student referendum with an 85% approval rate of those who



voted. The approval rate showed how many students were affected by food insecurity. In 2016, the UCI Basic Needs Center relocated to Lot 5 in Mesa Court and became its own center under Student Success Initiatives (SSI). In Fall of 2017, the center opened their doors and had about 500 students show up for their grand opening. FRESH is an acronym that stands for Food Resources Empowering Students with Hope.

While many students may know the center for their food pantry, the UCI Basic Needs Center also offers a variety of resources to meet students' needs. Students can sign up for FRESH Life Skills workshops to learn about sustainable solutions and resources for basic needs insecurity alleviation. They also offer CalFresh application assistance to help students sign up for CalFresh/EBT allowing students to get up to \$280 in monthly benefits to purchase food at any participating grocery store. The center also has two campus social workers on the team that students facing complex financial challenges can meet and receive

support from. Some of the other resources that the Basic Needs Center provides are: Fresh Food Assistance (FAP) Program for domestic students that do not qualify for federal benefits, their Diaper Bank Service for parenting students, Emergency Meal Swipes, short-term transportation support for students that have an emergency transportation barrier, and the UCI Food Pantry that provides emergency food and toiletries to UCI students experiencing basic needs insecurities.

The UCI Basic Needs Center will also host events that students can look forward to in the upcoming quarters. During Winter Quarter, the center invites the UCI community to visit their Grand Opening Celebration at their new location (800 W Peltason Dr.). In Spring Quarter, they will also host a Nutrition and Wellness Summit.

For more information, please visit their website at basicneeds.uci.edu

"We try to envision a world there is enough for everyone, and that no one has to go without."

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

UCI RETIREE ASSOCIATION LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

UCI Retirees Association also known as UCIRA, is a membership (voluntary dues) organization affiliated with the university under the Center for Emeriti & Retirees (CER), that serves all 6,000 UCI and UCI Medical Center retirees and emeriti. These dues help to support the mission and objectives of the volunteer Board of Directors who act for the benefit of all Emeriti & Retirees. The association also supports scholarships and volunteer projects on campus as well as in the community. All UCIRA events are open to retirees, even if you are not a member. Some UCIRA benefits include social activities such as lectures, cooking classes, hikes, bike rides, bus tours, and on- and off-campus events. Other benefits include retirement income planning and health care support. The UCIRA also coordinates with CER to create programming, and some services. They also advocate for continuing UC retiree benefits at the UC Office of the President level, while also supporting The Retiree Association Legacy Scholarship effort and the UCI Staff Assembly Scholarship.

Most members in UCIRA have worked at UCI for 35 to 40 years. Most of their lives have been associated with UC Irvine and they have everlasting memories, experiences, and connections that they have made throughout their journey here. The Retirees Association are aware of the financial burdens that a lot of students have. To support our incoming and transfer undergraduate students, the board of directors wanted to create a UCI Legacy Scholarship Program to give back to students with financial need. Working with the Scholarships department and University Advancement to get things started, UCIRA decided that the best way to interest retirees into donating was to create a legacy scholarship for students who had a familial connection to UCI (retiree, alumni, or a current staff person).

UCIRA started awarding students the Retiree Association Legacy Scholarship in 2019 with a budget of \$6,000. Now, they are starting their 4th year of



UCI RETIREE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

awarding. The hardest part for the selection is to pick one of the applicants. This year, they had several applicants. The applicants were all talented and their stories are compelling. Many applicants have had difficult home lives or they overcame a lot of hardships to prepare for their transition into college. The committee feels that anyone that they pick would be deserving. They wanted to award each one of them if they had the money. Their hope is to increase the amount so that they can award more students in the future. The scholarship has helped students afford books, devote more time to studying, and has helped with the financial burdens that students have faced.

To learn more about the UCIRA Legacy Scholarship, please visit: retirees.uci.edu/ucira/scholarship.php

To Donate: retirees.uci.edu/ucira/donate.php

2022-2023 Recipients

Arsema Getahun

Grace Chen

Larissa Teramura



Scholar of UC Irvine

ALBERT M. GARCIA

Osher Foundation Scholarship
Biomedical Engineering
Junior

Describe your journey to UCI.

I graduated high school in 2018 and immediately went into a private 4-year college. I had not consider what major I wanted and what type of career I wanted to move to. While I was there, it was an eye opener to see how hard it is to really focus on school if you are not doing something that does not interest you. The school was very big in music and business which were things that I was not interested in. I learned quickly that I wanted to be part of STEM and after finishing one year, I left and I was not sure where I was going to go next. I decided that I should finish this, so I transferred to Mt. Jacinto College as a late entry. Fall quarter had already started and it was 3 weeks in already, but I was able to get an accelerated Fall quarter and I am very thankful for that.

It was there that I started to think and apply more thought to where I want to go. It landed me on Biomedical Engineering. I searched which schools in California had that major and it turns

out, only a handful of UCs do. I am sure that UCI is the first one to have that major. It is one of the strongest programs in the UC system. I set my sights to transfer to UCI for that program and I enrolled in Fall 2021.

What have you learned so far in your year here?

I learned a lot about what it means to be a student. When you get into programs like these, with faculty and classes, you really have to apply yourself and understand what it takes for you to succeed. You have to make a plan. You cannot wing it if you want to be successful. You have to be organized and focused and grow as a person. This is my second time living away from family and on my own, but coming out of the pandemic where I was at home the whole time, it is different. You have to be responsible for your own happiness and well-being.

How has the scholarship helped you?

It has been a big relief and a big help for focus. Working and trying to be a student

is one of the most challenging things that I have experienced so far. I was lucky to find a job that allowed me to work 3-4 days a week and that takes care of about anything that I need. Sometimes it gets hard. A lot of the money that I worked for and saved for Summer is dwindling down for the upcoming quarters, Winter, and Spring. Tuition fees are a factor. It gets stressful trying to manage classes and finances at the same time, especially if you want to want to be active and social.

What are your career or educational goals?

Ever since I was a kid, I was always interested in robotics. I would certainly love to go into a prosthetic or orthotics industry with research design or even with clinical tests. We will see if we can get there with just my bachelors. I want to design and create that aspect of prosthetics, but I also wanted a human element as part of that career. My goal is to work with people and design neat robotic legs and arms.

Scholar of UC Irvine

GRACE CHEN

Retiree Association Legacy Scholarship
Biomedical Engineering
Junior



What are your education and career goals?

Ever since I was little, maybe five or six years old, I have always loved helping people, being with people, talking to people, and caring for people. Anything that involves people makes me happy. I also really love science and studying biology. Going into college, I knew I wanted to major in biological sciences, and I knew that I wanted to go into the medical field.

I talked with two UCI alumnae that went on to become occupational therapists. They have both provided me with advice, guidance, and insight into what their job is like. I am very thankful for that. These alumnae did not know me at all but knowing that I was a UCI student, they were willing to take time out of their schedule to talk to me and allow me the opportunity to shadow them.

If I do not do occupational therapy, I want to teach something where I can combine my love for helping people and my love for science and put it together like anatomy, physiology, or just general biology. I would like to teach at a

Community College where I can spend a lot of time with people, and I can walk them through their educational journey. I will be a learning assistant for BIO SCI 100 during winter quarter. I am looking forward to learning and growing through this experience.

What advice do you have for students who are like you?

Take the first step. There is always a first time for everything that you do. Once you take one step towards your goal, then you are one step closer. If you take a second step, now you are two steps closer. The first time I started college, I was shy and super scared. Asking a question in class was hard for me. I learned that it is just one step at a time and slowly you can learn to step out of your comfort zone. When I got to UCI, it was intimidating again because there are 300 students in my class instead of 20 students, but I made a promise to myself to try and to take that first step again by introducing yourself.

Transferring from Community College, I would also say to believe in yourself. Do not look down on yourself because sometimes you will feel that because you came from a

different college background or financial background, that you are not as good as everyone else. You are just as good as everyone else and if you work hard, you can do well. You will know that you can succeed if you work hard and put in the effort, that you will be able to do well.

What does this scholarship mean to you?

With the scholarships and grants, it has helped me a lot for me to be able to continue my education here. I am really thankful for the donors and UCIRA. This is a rigorous school and it can be stressful having exams, studying for our class, but having this scholarship has helped to take care of those financial burdens. I have better mental health and can focus on my studies. It also helps me to have more opportunities for extracurricular activities and out of the classroom experiences that will help me. Most of all, receiving this scholarship is really inspiring knowing that these scholarship donors believe in the next generation of students and value our education. They are also an example to me too and inspires me in the future to hopefully one day be a scholarship donor myself.

UCI CAMPUSWIDE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Continuing students

Visit [UCI.SCHOLARSHIPUNIVERSE.COM](https://uci.scholarshipuniverse.com)

Apply to Scholarships

January 23rd - February 12th



Scan to begin!



Scholarship Application Checklist

- Log into our [UCI ScholarshipUniverse](#) platform during the open period.

Current Students: January 23 – February 12
Prospective Students: May 1 – May 31

- Answer general and scholarship-specific questions to see which scholarships you qualify for
-

- File FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application by March 2nd, if eligible, for upcoming academic year (must submit to be considered for need-based scholarships)
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- Submit application

[APPLY HERE!](#)

SUMMER SUCCESS SCHOLARSHIP



Application open from

JAN 23 - FEB 12, 2023

Award Amount

\$2,500

Eligibility

CURRENT UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS
MINIMUM ENROLLED 8 UNITS ACROSS ALL 3
SUMMER SESSIONS
DEMONSTRATES FINANCIAL NEED

[Apply here!](#)

