



A celebration of
**OUTSTANDING ADULT STUDENTS
SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS**

April 23, 2019 | Memorial Union



WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

ADULT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS RECEPTION

WELCOME

MARTIN ROUSE, associate dean and director, Adult Career and Special Student Services

OPENING REMARKS

ANDRÉ PHILLIPS, director, Office of Admissions and Recruitment

PRESENTATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS

MARTIN ROUSE, associate dean and director, Adult Career and Special Student Services

ANNE NIENDORF, associate student services specialist, Adult Career and Special Student Services

The following scholarships are funded by the listed organization and private donors to the Adult Student Scholarship Fund.

Alma Baron Second Chance for Women Scholarship

Lucretia Fairchild Nicole Metko

American Association of University Women-Monona/Madison Branch Scholarship

Tj Meltesen

Joe Corry and Barbara Weston Corry Scholarship

Kasey Kohlhardt Nina Neff

Crankstart Reentry Scholarship

Mia Greene	Hanna Hubiankova	Craig Kunkel	Emma Kurabelis
Devin McDonald	Miranda Newman	Carmen Nightfall	Jennifer Proud
Steven Rathburn	Torrey Tiedeman		

Stuart Daily Seeds of Learning Scholarship

Katherine Mallon Kristen Maples

Nancy W. Denney Memorial Scholarship

Cecilia Fricke

Kindness Matters Scholarship

Amy Smith Lizeth Garcia-Jennings

Bernice D. Kuney Scholarship

Eric Hazeltine Tsering Lhamo

Lisa Munro Two Generation Scholarship

Umaima Mohammed Saed

PLATO (Participatory Learning and Teaching Organization) Scholarship

Adrian Molitor Rachel Salsedo Jessica Shattuck Bo Vue

Returning Adult Scholarship

Alyssa Bennett	Courtney Dineen	Areli Estrada	Andrea Gray
Amy Harriman	JB Hernandez	Austin Lange	Mark Moua
Susan Nolte	Rebekka Olsen	Ashlee Pugh	Amanda Sims
Andrea Truitt			

Single Parent Undergraduate Scholarship

Cecilia Fricke Rebecca Parmentier

University League Scholarship

LeahRae Rusu

Cynthia McCreary Holbrook Youmans University League Scholarship

Monique Karlen

Bernard Osher Reentry Scholarship

Tierney Cushman	Mia Greene	Robert Hall	Hanna Hubiankova
Craig Kunkel	Emma Kurabelis	Miranda Newman	Rebecca Parmentier
Jennifer Proud	Damon Terrell	Matthew Tyler	

OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE RETURNING ADULT STUDENT AWARDS

These awards were established in 1981 by the Dean of Students Office to honor returning adults who have arrived at senior status while juggling all the commitments of adult life. As the call for nominees states, these are students “whose unusual determination and perseverance have enabled them to pursue academic goals and to contribute to the community by demonstrated leadership and/or service.”

PRESENTATION OF ADULT STUDENT AWARDS

MARI MAGLER, director, McBurney Disability Resource Center

SYBIL PRESSPRICH, director of career services and awards committee chair, Adult Career and Special Student Services

NOMINEES

Donald Hayes
John Koller
Heather Koski
Dominick LaPorte

FINALISTS

Julie Cutrell
Emily Leach
Rachel Mehlhaff
Tyler Rasmussen

RECIPIENTS

Aysha Dominguez
Olivia Wine

SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD RECIPIENTS

(In alphabetical order)

ALYSSA BERNETT is a returning adult student pursuing a bachelor's degree in education. She developed a passion for education and advocacy working to support families navigating the immigration justice system. With a certificate in English as a Second Language and a dedication to multiculturalism, she hopes to play a part in developing young minds for an inclusive, equitable society.

TIERNEY CUSHMAN is a single mother to a beautiful 6-year-old boy. After graduating from high school, she moved among three states for work. In 2013, she delivered her son one month earlier than his due date. After a traumatic delivery, he suffered from two spots of brain damage. Tierney and her son worked together to fully recover from the complications of his delivery. When he was ready for school, she moved home to Wisconsin to pursue her lifelong dream of attending UW-Madison. She is now a competitive bodybuilder and strives to continue her education in kinesiology and nutritional sciences, and potentially work as an occupational therapist in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

After having children and running her own childcare business for 19 years, **JULIE CUTRELL** returned to earn a college degree. Encouraged by her husband, she attended UW-Baraboo and then transferred to UW-Madison. As a student, Julie has dealt with the death of her mother and uncle, and this semester is caring for her father who recently had a stroke. She has learned to make the most of her commute time by listening to recordings of her textbook readings. Julie plans to pursue a master of science in marriage and family therapy at Edgewood College next fall.

COURTNEY DINEEN is pursuing a doctorate in veterinary medicine. In 2012, Courtney began a career in the pharmaceutical industry. During this career Courtney became more interested in the medical side of the industry than the medications themselves. With her passion for the well-being of animals, veterinary medicine is a perfect fit as a long-term career. Courtney has spent the last three years gaining experience in the field by working as a veterinary assistant, volunteering, and completing additional coursework. Throughout this time Courtney has moved between three different states with her husband, Alex. Upon graduation Courtney hopes to treat pets in underserved communities in the D.C. area.



As a single parent, **AYSHA DOMINGUEZ** had a rocky start to college and dropped out several times. After working various jobs, getting married, and having two more children, she returned to Madison College to study photography. Her focus shifted when she took an American government class. She transferred to UW-Madison where she is majoring in political science and international studies while raising three active children. Aysha's family has faced emotional and financial challenges after her husband was injured in an accident at work. Aysha was recently accepted to pursue a master of science in curriculum and instruction. She plans to work with English as a Second Language students in the public schools.

A first-generation college graduate, **ARELI ESTRADA** was born in Mexico and lived in an underdeveloped community through the age of seven. In 1993, her family relocated to Los Angeles where she grew up. In 2012, she graduated from UW-Green Bay with a bachelor of applied studies in human development. Her experience includes working with nonprofit organizations delivering programs for low-income families, the workforce training initiative, community outreach, adult basic educational programs, and career pathways in higher education. Areli currently works at Madison College. She is interested in aspects of implementation and the delivery of sustainable models based on community needs and is pursuing a master of science in community development. She supports undocumented and nontraditional students attaining an education.

LUCRETIA FAIRCHILD returned to seek an advanced degree after over a decade working on wildlife projects in remote areas, mostly in Alaska. After coming out of hiding, she found that just after a global financial crisis is not the greatest time to start a new career. She returned to academia by working in an inspiring neuroscience lab where findings were applied to improve Oregon State's Headstart curriculum. Currently she is a student in human development and family studies, where she hopes to use her science background to help design a society that helps all people to flourish. This means helping parents have strong relationships with their children, and raising children who thrive and care enough to help others.

CECILIA FRICKE began college at UW-Madison directly after high school. During the summer before her junior year she experienced an unexpected loss and learned that she would soon become a single parent. After taking a semester off to have her daughter, she returned to UW-Madison to continue her undergraduate career in microbiology. When she completes her undergraduate studies, she hopes to continue on to pursue her PhD in epidemiology. She's thrilled to be able to continue her education while raising her wonderful daughter and hopes to one day return the generosity she has received during this difficult time.

LIZETH GARCIA-JENNINGS has always known she wanted to help people. She began her undergraduate career studying biology and Spanish at the University of Iowa but was abruptly interrupted by a diagnosis of leukemia. With hard work and perseverance, Lizeth recovered and finished an undergraduate degree in four years. After working for five years, Lizeth realized that she wanted to become a pharmacist and made her way to UW-Madison. She hopes to make a difference in the lives of other patients going through life-changing diseases by sharing her story and helping them in any way she can.

ANDREA GRAY is a pharmacy student and mom of eight children ages 2 through 19. She was always interested in science. When she discovered pharmacy, she realized it was the perfect way to combine her academic interests and her desire to serve others. After learning ALL the chemistry, she is now in the third year of the doctor of pharmacy program and looking forward to helping people manage their health conditions. In her spare time,

she enjoys cross-country skiing and watching Disney movies with her kids. She lives in Evansville with her supportive husband Ryan, their seven youngest children, two dogs, and one cat. She studies at 3am, the ONLY time it is quiet in her house.

MIA GREENE is proud to be a lifelong resident of Madison. Her passions include her family as well as nurturing, coaching, and mentoring youth while helping to strengthen effective communication skills in families. Her current educational pursuits are concentrated in the areas of legal studies, social welfare, American Indian studies, and criminal justice. Mia has overcome various challenges throughout her educational path and is most proud of having made a place of belonging for herself here on the UW–Madison campus. She looks forward to being able to apply her academic experiences and education received from UW–Madison in service and support of youth and their families in Madison and beyond.

Scientist-in-training **ROBERT HALL** is an undergraduate researcher. Ten years after high school he began his education in earnest at UW–Waukesha with the ultimate goal of transferring to UW–Madison. Using his unique history and life experiences, along with the help of key people in the community, he now is achieving his dreams. In the Atwood Lab, Robert is participating in research to understand and try to prevent metastasis. His interests primarily focus on evolution and ecology, and senescence and stem cells. At UW–Waukesha he earned an associate degree with an emphasis in biology while making friends that encouraged him on his way to Madison. Now at UW–Madison, he plans to graduate in the spring of 2020 then attend graduate school.

AMY HARRIMAN is a second-year law student at UW–Madison. She is a proud double Badger, having graduated from UW–Madison in 2007 with majors in political science and art. During the seven-year gap between completing her undergraduate degree and starting law school, she worked in both houses of the Wisconsin legislature. While in law school, Amy has developed a passion for business and corporate law. She is serving the law school community as the vice president of professional development for the Women’s Law Student Association and was recently elected senior note and comment editor for the Wisconsin International Law Journal. As a third generation Madisonian, she hopes to live and work in Madison post-graduation.

DONALD HAYES played football for the Badgers 20 years ago but left without graduating to play for the National Football League. With the support of his wife and daughter, he returned to complete a degree in sociology as a step toward a career as a football coach. In addition to managing a learning disability and many changes to campus, he volunteers with the football team and for the Madison East Community Center.

Wisconsin native **ERIC HAZELTINE** lives in Madison with his 13-year-old daughter. He has an associate degree, as well as a bachelor of fine arts, and is currently a first-year graduate student pursuing a master of fine arts at UW–Madison. He is passionate about spreading his love for art and hopes to teach drawing and painting as a college professor. Although he has worked in the engineering and mechanic industries the past 10 years, he is now able to pursue his love for the arts full time and follow his dream of helping others in realizing their own passion through teaching.

For **JB HERNANDEZ**, furthering his education has been a lifelong journey and dream. Growing up in the Philippines, he always looked up to healers and their impact on the families they helped. Back then, becoming a doctor seemed like a distant dream. Even after moving to the U.S., family health complications, financial limitations, and cultural and language barriers have continually blurred his aspirations. But with continual support and investment from generous scholarships such as the Division of Continuing Studies Returning Adult Scholarship, he has regained hope. He is reenergized to persevere through any hardships that he may encounter.

HANNA HUBIANKOVA is a third-year student at UW–Madison. She is pursuing a major in art focusing on graphic design. She is an experienced teacher in music and art and would love to spend her life working with children. She started her education in Belarus, but she had to interrupt it due to the dictatorial regime in her country. Now in the U.S. she is pursuing her dream degree, giving her an opportunity to have her dream job. Being extremely artsy, she spends a lot of free time educating others on Eastern European folklore heritage. She is a volunteer singer with the UW Russian Folk Orchestra.

MONIQUE KARLEN is a first-year student in the Part-Time Master of Social Work Program. She currently works full time as a high school visual arts teacher in the Madison Metropolitan School District. In 2011, while volunteering in Haiti, she met a stray dog who changed her life. She brought him back to the U.S. and trained him to become a therapy dog. After having been hospitalized at UW Hospital and encountering therapy dogs, she wanted to give back. Monique and her dog Za are now a registered therapy team and volunteer at Agrace Hospice each Sunday. This led Monique to find her way back to UW–Madison for a graduate degree in social work with a focus in geriatrics and palliative care. She plans to graduate with her cohort in May 2022.

KASEY KOHLHARDT is obtaining a master of social work in the Part-Time Master of Social Work Program. She works full time at Central Wisconsin Center as a client rights facilitator. One of her greatest passions is being a voice for those who cannot speak up for themselves. Kasey plans to use her education to become a clinical social worker in mental health. She intends to educate the public to eliminate the stigmatization that often occurs with mental illness. Kasey has one daughter who is currently an undergraduate at UW–Eau Claire. Having an empty nest is what inspired Kasey to go back to school and continue being a role model for her daughter, emphasizing the importance of education.

After 12 years of active duty with the U.S. Marine Corps, **JOHN KOLLER** is now pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering. While a student at UW–Madison, John has worked in the Veteran Services and Military Assistance Center and has been involved in the Student Veteran Organization. After graduation this May, he is looking forward to spending time with his young nephew and working for Milwaukee Tool where he has accepted an engineering position.

“Resilient” is how **HEATHER KOSKI**’s nominator and sorority sister describes her. After withdrawing from college due to mental health issues, Heather worked a variety of jobs but always wanted to finish the degree she had started. She returned in 2016 and created a support network on and off campus to help her achieve her goals. Heather is completing a degree in community and environmental sociology with dual certificates in global health and environmental studies. She plans to pursue a career in which she can serve and help others heal.

After too long of a hiatus, **CRAIG KUNKEL** has returned to college to complete a degree. Determined to benefit as much as possible from his time at UW–Madison, he takes every opportunity to participate in research, study abroad, and engage in every class as if he were the only student in the room. His determination has earned him opportunities and honors he never previously imagined for himself, and he is grateful to all who have supported him on his journey. Upon completing a bachelor of science in environmental science and a certificate in environmental studies, Craig hopes to attend graduate school to study various factors of ecosystem integrity, including bioaccumulation, eutrophication, contaminant residence time, and how they are affected by climate change.

EMMA KURABELIS first attended UW–Madison in 2007 after graduating high school in Wauwatosa. She loved UW–Madison and was active in student organization leadership

and planning for the annual Day of Silence march before withdrawing after junior year to attend to personal matters. After leaving school, she worked for the Social Security Administration for several years before becoming a stay-at-home mother. Family is the most important facet of her life. It is both for the future of her family, and because of their support and encouragement, that she is now returning to complete her undergraduate degree. She plans to pursue a master of arts in library and information studies at UW–Madison, and to work as a librarian.

Since honorably discharging from the U.S. Marine Corps and returning home to Wisconsin, **AUSTIN LANGE** has been pursuing a degree in pharmacy. With five years of school down, and three to go, he looks forward to beginning his legacy as a great Badger pharmacist. He is passionate about serving his fellow veterans and looks forward to graduating and being able to do just that by working at the Veterans Administration Hospital.

DOMINICK LAPORTE withdrew from UW–Madison after struggling with family issues and poor grades. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps where he developed his leadership and teaching skills. After leaving the Marines, he joined the local fire department and pursued emergency medical technician and paramedic training. He returned to UW–Madison while working full time and commuting from Pewaukee. While a student, two of Dominick’s friends died by suicide. He has found a support network with the Student Veteran’s Association and a circle of friends. Dominick plans to attend law school after completing a degree in sociology.

During her first year of college, **EMILY LEACH** became severely ill and had to withdraw. She eventually moved to Madison with her partner and started taking classes as a nondegree student and then applied for admission. She found her academic home when she took a beginning glassworking class. She works now as a teaching assistant for this class and is active in the glassblowing student group where she has helped with community and fundraising events. She is completing a bachelor of fine arts and hopes to pursue graduate school.

TSERING LHAMO is originally from Tibet, and at the age of 11 made the long trek on foot from Tibet into India for education. The 28-day journey through the Himalayan mountains was hard, cold, and treacherous. Children lost their toes due to frostbite and occasionally survived on the frozen meat of dead yaks lying on the ice. This journey taught her survival skills, determination to succeed, and above all to respect and cherish life. Tsering came to Madison in 2006 as a refugee where she started her small family. She works at the Veterans Hospital as registered nurse and is a third-year doctor of nursing practice student. She volunteers with MEDiC clinics in the Madison area and coordinates and supervises flu clinics with undergraduate nursing students.

KATHERINE MALLON is a first-generation college graduate and the proud mother of two wonderful young ladies. She is currently in her first year of the Master of Social Work Program focusing on aging and healthcare. During her undergraduate studies at UW–Madison, Katherine found a passion for working with older adults through volunteering and a service-learning course on social issues in aging. Katherine has been developing her skills as a future social worker and advocate for older adults by interning as a case manager on Madison’s south side and volunteering at The River Food Pantry and Agrace Hospice in her free time.

KRISTEN MAPLES spent many years of her young life battling with substance abuse and struggling to get through college. At age 28, Kristen finally entered sobriety and enrolled at Edgewood College in Madison. While studying at Edgewood, Kristen suffered from a head injury that caused a serious physical disability. Never one to give up, Kristen worked hard to develop a plan to finish her education, ultimately graduating with a dual degree in biology and religious studies. Kristen plans to dedicate her adult life to public

service. She intends to use her master’s degree to become a librarian and bridge gaps in the digital divide to help everyone, regardless of circumstance, have equal and reliable access to quality information.

The path from high school to UW–Madison was by no means conventional for **DEVIN MCDONALD**. Before attending UW–Madison, he facilitated programming for the organization Global Visionaries in Ciudad Vieja, Guatemala, taught poetry in California’s Bay Area, and waited tables in New York. He eventually found his way back to school after discovering how difficult it is to get promoted without a degree. With a history major and Political Economy, Philosophy, and Politics Certificate, he looks forward to going into education in order to equip students with the historical context that led to our contemporary world. He believes this is crucial in preparing young people to step into the world.

RACHEL MEHLHAFF decided to return to school when she learned she had a chronic eating disorder. She used this diagnosis to push herself to create a recovery plan that included earning an undergraduate degree. Although her treatment team was in Minnesota, Rachel decided to return to UW–Madison where she found the support she needed to succeed. In addition to managing her studies and working, Rachel has also dealt with her brother’s illness. She hopes to establish a career in ecosystem management.

While serving as an equipment operator in the U.S. Navy, **TJ MELTESEN** taught herself that through fear and motivation her reality can embody her aspirations. Her deployments helped her realize that her empathetic qualities make it extremely easy to connect with individuals from all backgrounds. This ultimately led her to pursue a degree in rehabilitation psychology, which will allow her to improve the quality of life for the members in her community. Pursing her education will grant her personal happiness while becoming an admirable, insightful role model for her impressionable and adoring son.

NICOLE METKO graduated from UW–Madison in 1989 with a bachelor of science in urban planning and architectural design. After a 23-year break in education, she was admitted to the University of Nebraska Omaha as a biology major undergraduate. She moved back to Madison in 2013 and transferred to UW–Madison to finish a biology degree, which she completed in December 2015. Over the past three years, she has been working as a phlebotomist for the UW Health West Clinic, as well as volunteering on a medical mission trip to Guatemala and as a respite care provider with Agrace Hospice. She’s returning to UW–Madison this May to obtain a bachelor of science in nursing through the accelerated nursing program.

ADRIAN MOLITOR is a returning adult student with two amazing sons named Miles and Isaiah. When he started his academic journey he had an 8th grade education. He currently works in the nonprofit sector with 5- and 8-year old children in need. His intention is to teach English and creative writing in alternative settings and in areas of high financial need. Adrian is proof that the human spirit is indestructible with the right amount of faith. His greatest inspiration to keep pursuing his education is his late grandmother, Mildred Molitor, who raised him.

In 2013 **MARK T. MOUA** earned a bachelor of science from UW–Stevens Point. Being the child of Hmong refugees from Thailand, he sees the need for more Hmong professionals in healthcare. He is returning to school to pursue a doctorate of pharmacy. He hopes to be a leader in the community, addressing the need to change traditional medicine practices to more conventional methods. All of his accomplishments come from the hard work and sacrifices of his parents. In his free time, he loves to cook, hike, and travel.

NINA NEFF is a second-year law student and an intern for Justice Shirley Abrahamson. She is a U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies fellow, president of the LGBTQ Law Students Association, the senior program editor of the Wisconsin International Law Journal, and a member of the Moot Court team. Nina is the proud parent of a 6-year-old daughter, Emma. She credits her success in law school to the support of her mom Joanie and step-dad Charlie, whose exceptional grandparenting has allowed Nina to be fully engaged in her legal education. Nina will spend this summer clerking at DeWitt LLP Law Firm in Madison.

MIRANDA NEWMAN's earliest memories of her keen interest in animals are from elementary school: caring for injured grasshoppers and writing papers on animal behaviors for entertainment. After graduating in 2010 with an associate degree in science, the financial opinions of others dissuaded her from immediately pursuing education in an animal field. She continued to satiate her fascination by volunteering with local park districts and animal shelters. After her son was born, serving as an example was far more important than foreboding conjecture. The following year she enrolled at Madison College and subsequently transferred to UW–Madison to pursue a zoology major. Though maintaining harmony among responsibilities is taxing at times, she is grateful and hopes to attend veterinary school after graduation.

Being Pasqua Yaqui, **CARMEN NIGHTFALL** learned that as garlic goes into traditional foods, kindness goes into every medicine bag. Recently diagnosed with cancer, her experience of people's kindness, which includes UW–Madison people, has illuminated a new dynamic plane of what it means to be alive. Kindness brings connection, healing, and synergy to every endeavor and interaction. Though cancer has been a challenge, it has also brought a magnificent opportunity to live with greater intensity, appreciation, and presence. To have more time and opportunities to fountain kindness in every breath and step is a blessing. Carmen is so happy to be back to her academic career and excited for her future medical career where kindness and expertise are most needed.

Single mother **SUSAN NOLTE** is participating in project EPIC, a two-year special education teacher-training master's program that emphasizes evidence-based practices and interdisciplinary collaboration to enhance inclusive educational experiences for students with significant disabilities, such as autism and intellectual disabilities. Her passion for this field is inspired by a desire to see a more just society and by her two beautiful children, Rory and Zoey. The challenges they faced together have created opportunities for Susie to grow in courage and confidence she never knew she had. After graduation, she hopes to have a positive impact in a local school.

REBEKKA OLSEN is a doctoral student in the Department of Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education. Originally from Madison, she spent almost a decade in Boston as a teacher and nonprofit leader. Her goal is to become a professor of special education and to work on funding, creating, and running programs that support new teachers in the field. Her research interests are about preparing teachers to work at the complex and multi-faceted intersections of language, culture, and ability differences. She hopes to make a positive impact on the lives of new and preservice teachers, students, and families and to be a positive example of leadership and community service for her young son.

REBECCA PARMENTIER began her journey at UW–Madison in 1989 and returned recently to complete a bachelor of science in psychology with a dance therapy certificate. Upon this accomplishment, she will do research in body/mind medicine. Using her experience in the transformation of pain and trauma into resources, Rebecca plans to contribute to the greater good by working to increase access to alternative health care. She would like to be a community educator and pioneer in this field. She wishes to thank Adult Career and Special Student Services and the generous donors for their tremendous support. They have helped contribute to her being a positive role model to her two sons and will help her bring healing to future generations.



JEN PROUD is a first-generation college student majoring in molecular biology and minoring in integrated studies in science, engineering, and society. A lifelong love of dogs led her back to independence after a devastating accident left her with multiple disabilities. On a bet to prove she wasn't just wasted potential, in spring 2017 she started at UW–Madison and integrated a full-time education into an already busy lifestyle. She plans to graduate in 2020 with hopes to attend graduate school.

Prior to having the chance to return to academia for a graduate degree, **ASHLEE PUGH** had the chance to travel the coastal U.S. teaching children maritime history and coastal conservation. Continuing this historical preservation and community involvement was incredibly important to them and when a medical issue blocked this specific path, they decided that there was still a way to do the work they were passionate about from a different angle. Having the opportunity to pursue a master's of library and information science has been a life changing next step, and they are incredibly grateful for the support of the UW–Madison community.

TYLER RASMUSSEN struggled in high school due to a learning disability. He went to work after completing high school but became interested in engineering as a possible career. He enrolled at UW–Fox Valley where he excelled in STEM subjects. He transferred when UW–Madison implemented the Badger Promise program. He is now active as a tutor and doing research. He will complete a degree in chemistry and hopes to attend graduate school.

STEVEN RATHBURN is currently an undergraduate studying actuarial science at UW–Madison. Initially he went to college from fall 2006 to spring 2007 studying chemistry. After the summer 2007, in order to provide for his wife-to-be, he transitioned into retail management. He and his wife spent spare time investing in children's lives by volunteering through the Boy Scouts of America's Cub Scouts and Venturing programs. In 2016, an opportunity was presented to Steve that allowed him to return to the university. Objectives in this career field will provide greater personal contributions to various philanthropic organizations he has associated with in the past, such as Fountains of Hope and the Boy Scouts of America.

As an elementary school teacher, **LEAHRAE RUSU** started her career learning alongside refugees and immigrants in Kansas City's urban core. She returned back to her hometown, Madison, to be with her family as her mother-in-law battled breast cancer. With the support of her husband and 5-year-old daughter, she is pursuing a master of science for professional educators. She believes that school is an extension and reflection of community and is leading a project-based learning pilot at her current school. Her team works to create meaningful, authentic learning experiences and build relationships with community partnerships. She plans to use her degree to push her to the next level in bridging the gap between school and the local community.

As a child, **UMAIMA MOHAMMED SAED** and her family fled Iraq and became refugees in Malaysia. For the next seven years, Umaima longed to attend school but her family could not afford the cost so she and her siblings studied at home. When they finally moved to Madison, Umaima enrolled at West High School. Despite a language challenge, Umaima graduated and went on to earn an associate degree from Madison College in 2018. She participated in the Odyssey Project in 2015-16 and is now enrolled as a human development and family studies major at UW-Madison. She plans to become a physician assistant. She will use the next generation portion of her award to support her younger siblings.

After graduating from UW-Madison in 2004 with an undergraduate degree in English, **RACHEL SALSEDO** was able to return this year to pursue a long-desired graduate degree in physician assistant studies. She and her husband are the parents of two awesome kids, ages 6 and 9, and she intends to serve low-income patients in a community health center upon graduation.

Through a long and arduous process, **JESSICA SHATTUCK** is proud to say she has overcome several adverse experiences in her lifetime. She credits her success to the unconditional positive regard she receives from friends and family, coupled with her natural resilience and tenacity. Jess's career goals are ambitious and attainable with a master's in social work from UW-Madison. Specializing in mental health, she is interested in becoming a licensed clinical social worker and coordinating a transitional housing program for young adults exiting the foster care system. That said, she is captivated by social science research, contemplating a PhD, and seeking advisory faculty here at UW-Madison. In her free time, Jessica loves to travel, play volleyball, and listen to live music.

A 34-year-old mother of two boys, **AMANDA SIMS** is pursuing a doctorate of pharmacy beginning fall 2019. She has been a practicing dental hygienist for 11 years. She strives to be a bigger advocate for her patients as well as a strong female role model. She obtained a bachelor of science while working three days a week in a dental office and being the main source of support for her family. Her husband worked three jobs to support her educational journey. It's been a dream of hers to be in the pharmaceutical doctoral program. She wants to prove to her 8-year-old and 5-year-old sons that hard work, dedication, and following your dreams can be done at any age.

AMY SMITH is a current doctoral candidate at UW-Madison in the School of Education. Her research focuses around creating culturally responsive informal learning environments for K-12 students. Currently, she is focused around makerspace design and implementation in elementary schools. Amy is the parent of a wonderful almost 1-year-old child.

DAMON TERRELL grew up in Madison. He is a teacher at heart but struggled to reconcile his understanding of quality pedagogy with systems-level approaches to education. He grew increasingly disillusioned with traditional schooling and sought genuine opportunities to practice his craft with integrity. Damon spent several years away from formal education organizing in his local communities. With insights gained and a clearer focus, he returned to school this fall in pursuit of a degree in community nonprofit leadership. Damon is committed to engaging and supporting the larger movement toward self-determination



through a warm, methodical, and values-based approach to community organization and support.

TORREY TIEDEMAN is a native of Janesville and was raised in Rochester, Minn. In January 2011, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and began his four-year enlistment in September 2011 following his graduation from high school. He was honorably discharged from active duty in June 2015 and began his undergraduate studies at UW-Madison that September. He is now pursuing majors in economics, political science, and legal studies in addition to a certificate in archaeology. Torrey is active on UW-Madison's club tennis team, Student Veterans of America organization, and Missing in Action Recovery and Identification Project. He also serves on the UW-System Board of Regents.

Pursuing a PhD in special education from UW-Madison School of Education, **ANDREA TRUITT** has a desire to help students with disabilities be successful in higher education. Her dissertation focuses on persistence, a topic close to her heart as she has had to persevere throughout her time at UW-Madison. Her progress in her program was delayed after having two beautiful children and leaving an unhealthy marriage. Now living in Georgia, where she is collecting her dissertation data, Andrea understands how important having support is to achieving goals. She is grateful for this award and wants to say "thank you!" to all those who made it possible.

MATTHEW TYLER is returning to school after a few years in the workforce, hoping to find a career that he is passionate about. He loves the Madison area and hopes to make it his home after graduation, as he currently commutes from Janesville. Matthew is grateful for the opportunities UW-Madison provides and is excited to work towards graduation with a double major in economics and political science. He believes that everyone should participate in our political process, as many of the current issues could have been avoided with better citizen participation.

BO VUE is a first-generation student who returned to school to pursue nursing. Her desire to become an interculturally competent nurse is derived from her lived experiences of providing care and working in diversity. Growing up in a low-income family and having to take care of her elderly parents has empowered her to be resilient and patient. She values diversity and strongly believes that there is a need for intercultural competence in healthcare, where these skills lead to effective communication with people from various cultures. She is eager to join the healthcare field to help deliver inclusive patient-centered care and be a patient advocate.

OLIVIA WINE left college to work and travel. She returned to her hometown of Madison and began volunteering with the LGBTQ youth group Proud Theater. This experience awakened in her an interest in social justice issues and the desire to return to college. She attended Madison College and learned how to manage her depression, advocate for herself, and manage school and other commitments. She transferred to UW-Madison and is completing a degree in sociology. Olivia also interns at the Dane County Community Restorative Courts and continues to mentor at Proud Theater.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Adult Career and Special Student Services in the Division of Continuing Studies would like to thank the following donors for their generosity:

The **ALMA BARON SECOND CHANCE FOR WOMEN SCHOLARSHIP** was established by **ALMA BARON** in 2001 to support a female returning adult student over the age of 45, given her own personal experience of returning to college at age 51 to earn a doctorate in adult education. Following Alma's death in 2006, friends and family continue to support the fund in her memory. We are especially grateful to her daughters, Dr. Jill Baron and Professor Ellen Jo Baron, for their generous contributions.

Support by the **AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (AAUW)-MONONA/MADISON BRANCH** dates back to 1993 with the establishment of the initial **SINGLE PARENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND**. In addition, our **RETURNING ADULT STUDENT AWARD** program receives funds each year in remembrance of **ANNIE D. SWENSON AND LOIS MATHEWS ROSENBERY**. Swenson was the first president of the Madison branch in 1909. Mathews Rosenberry was dean of women and professor of history at UW-Madison from 1911 to 1918. Both were among the founding mothers of the national AAUW.

Alumni **JOE CORRY** and **BARBARA WESTON CORRY** established the **JOE CORRY AND BARBARA WESTON CORRY SCHOLARSHIP FUND** in 2000 after devoting a combined 53 years to the university as academic staff members. Barbara Weston Corry retired as a senior editor at the Center for Demography and Ecology, and Joe Corry as an associate vice chancellor in the Office of Academic Affairs. Their scholarship supports a single-parent student.

Crankstart is a program supported by husband and wife, **MICHAEL MORITZ** and **HARRIET HEYMAN**. The **CRANKSTART REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP** assists nontraditional students who, after experiencing a cumulative gap in their education of five or more years, are completing a first baccalaureate degree.

To support a returning adult graduate student, **KAREN DOERFER DAILY** established the **STUART DAILY SEEDS OF LEARNING FUND** in 2004 in honor of the memory of Stuart G. Daily, a teacher of much to many. Daily taught in England and at UW-Madison and worked in the corporate world. Always an athlete, he died unexpectedly after leading his rugby team to victory. Daily's most valuable asset was his knowledge, and he encouraged others to gain knowledge.

The **NANCY W. DENNEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** was established by **FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND COLLEAGUES** in memory of Nancy Denney, a devoted professor of psychology and a single parent who died of breast cancer in 1995. The goal was to continue Denney's advocacy for students who faced joint responsibilities of parenting, work, and study. The scholarship exists due to a generous initial contribution by the **EVJUE FOUNDATION** and contributions by numerous private donors moved by her advocacy for student-parents.

The **SOSA FAMILY** started the **KINDNESS MATTERS SCHOLARSHIP** to give returning adult students with financial need and strong academic history the opportunity to focus on achieving their target degrees. Beth and Brandon's daughter Aanya chose the name Kindness Matters in light of their family belief that, above all, love and kindness are most important.

The **BERNICE D. KUNEY SCHOLARSHIP** was established in 1989 with a gift from **EDITH MARTINDALE**. It honors her mentor, Bernice Kuney. Kuney taught English for 40 years at UW-Extension, serving adults returning to college for degree work or professional development. Martindale, class of 1944, devoted her professional life to better understanding and responding to mental illness and mental disability, topics she explored in her work and writings.

The **LISA MUNRO TWO-GENERATION SCHOLARSHIP** was established in 2014 and recognizes an Odyssey Project graduate who is working toward a degree at UW-Madison. The UW Odyssey Project provides adults facing economic barriers with a chance to start college for free. In addition to the award for the student, the scholarship also includes a next-generation gift of financial support for a young person chosen by the recipient. The second-generation gift is intended to inspire and support a child in grades K-12 by providing funding up to \$300 and mentoring by the Odyssey graduate.

PLATO (PARTICIPATORY LEARNING AND TEACHING ORGANIZATION) is a learning-in-retirement program whose members organize and lead its courses. Historically, PLATO supported the degree-completion goals of single-parent undergraduates. Beginning in 2013, **PLATO SCHOLARSHIPS** became available to a broader group of returning adult and nontraditional students striving to complete UW-Madison degrees.

THE UNIVERSITY LEAGUE has supported a **SINGLE-PARENT SCHOLARSHIP** for a returning adult student since the fund was established in 1993. In 2004, it added a second scholarship to support a female adult student, the **CYNTHIA MCCREARY HOLBROOK YOUNG ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**. This award honors a former president with a distinguished history of community and campus service.

The **BERNARD OSHER FOUNDATION** seeks to improve the quality of life through support for higher education. The **OSHER REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT** assists adults who wish to return to college to complete their undergraduate degrees after a significant break in their studies. UW-Madison is one of 88 universities nationwide selected to receive the endowment.

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