

# Scholarship Reception and Fall Welcome

October 7, 2021

University Farm Circle

# UFC

Founded 1914



friendship • enrichment • scholarships

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# **Agenda**

## ***President's Welcome***

Susan Rodgers

## ***UC Davis Welcome***

Chancellor Gary May

## ***Honorary Lifetime Membership Award***

Presented to Lois Wolk by Molly Hillis

## ***Scholarship Introductions***

Janet Collins

### **Marion Freeborn Undergraduate Scholarship**

Valeria Blanco Castaneda

Julinna Cheung

Cayla Hanson

Janet Kuzmenko

### **Kate Fizell Founder's Scholarship**

Diana Garcia Perez

### **Marion Freeborn Re-Entry Scholarship**

Valerie Nyasimi

### **Carol Lee Coss Memorial Scholarship**

Natalie Laurie

### **Blanche L Price Scholarship**

Jimena Calderon

Maya Vargas

## ***Closing Remarks***

Susan Rodgers

# Honorary Lifetime Membership Award

Past UFC president **Lois Wolk** will receive an Honorary Lifetime Membership Award in recognition of her service renegotiating UFC's relationship to UC Davis. UFC was first designated an official University support group in 1983. By 2020 the original oral agreement had become outdated. Changes to both University leadership and regulatory requirements for educational support groups led to divergent views about support groups. In 2020-2021, Lois worked with the UFC Board to renegotiate the terms of its scholarship program and support group status. She invested many hours in discussions to clarify the terms of the original agreement and to identify the changes necessary to comply with recent regulatory requirements while preserving the intent of the parties. Supported by the UFC Scholarship Review Committee, Lois led the discussions with UC Davis staff to a successful meeting of the minds. Lois will present a summary of these discussions and their results at a public forum in November. She will discuss documents signed by representatives of both parties and how they preserve and strengthen the cooperative relationship between University Farm Circle and UC Davis. The documents are stored on the UFC website, ensuring that the results of her work will benefit students for many years in the future.

## ***UFC MISSION STATEMENT***

UFC (University Farm Circle) connects campus and community through friendship, enrichment, and scholarships.

- Friendship: Welcomes newcomers to the campus and community.
- Enrichment: Provides programs and activities to meet the needs and interests of its members.
- Scholarships: Assist students through scholarships.

# University Farm Circle Scholarships

Scholarships are presented annually at the Scholarship Reception and Fall Welcome to junior, senior, and re-entry students demonstrating high scholastic achievement, leadership, community service, high goals, and volunteerism. Each year, the recipients' names are engraved on plaques and permanently displayed on campus in the Memorial Union.

## Marion Freeborn Undergraduate Scholarships

Undergraduate scholarships have been given almost every year since 1937. In 1959, these awards were named Marion Freeborn Scholarships in honor of the wife of the first Chancellor and past President of UFC. There are now three categories under that umbrella, all funded by the UFC Scholarship Endowment:

- **Marion Freeborn Undergraduate Scholarships**
- **Kate Fizell Founder's Scholarship** Established in 2008 and named after the founder of UFC, this scholarship is awarded with the same guidelines as the Marion Freeborn Scholarships.
- **Marion Freeborn Re-Entry Scholarships** Beginning in 1980, re-entry undergraduates became eligible for grants.

## Carol Lee Coss Memorial Scholarship

This endowment was established in 2008 by the Coss family and friends of Carol Lee, a past president of UFC. It is awarded annually to an outstanding undergraduate who has displayed creativity and community involvement or participation in extracurricular activities. Preference is given to arts majors—e.g., Design, Landscape Architecture, Art Studio, and Dramatic Arts.

## Blanche L. Price Scholarship

This endowment was established in 1997 by past President Elizabeth Sagehorn as executor of her Aunt Blanche's estate. This scholarship is awarded to an outstanding undergraduate who has overcome a disadvantage (including financial).

## ***Marion Freeborn Undergraduate Scholarships***

**Valeria Blanco Castaneda** is double majoring in Sociology and Spanish, with a minor in Education. Her participation in the University Honors Program, as well as her personal experiences working a myriad of on-campus jobs, have inspired her to pursue a career in higher education. Valeria strives to continue her career aspirations by enrolling in graduate school and eventually conducting research to best support college students from marginalized communities.

**Julinna Cheung** is a Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior major with a minor in Psychology. She hopes to attend a Physician's Assistant program after graduation and then join an orthopedics practice. Her current work in Elena Flower's lab at UCSF has helped her gain an understanding of the role of research in health care. As a volunteer for Bayanihan clinic this past summer, she was able to help provide support for underserved communities. She hopes to continue working for the clinic and to gain more healthcare experience.

**Cayla Hanson** is majoring in Political Science and plans to pursue a J.D. after her undergraduate degree. Her internship at former Congressman Paul Cook's office and her experience in Mock Trial has helped solidify her career aspirations. In the future, she plans to become either a District Attorney or a civil rights attorney and then open her own law firm.

**Janet Kuzmenko** is majoring in Global Disease Biology and is working toward becoming a doctor who specializes in cancer. As an under-graduate researcher in the Eskalen Lab, she is learning the dedication and hard work needed to succeed in the professional world. In her pursuit of medicine and public health, Janet wants to reach underserved communities around the world. She is finishing her fourth year at UC Davis and preparing to graduate in the summer of 2022.

## ***Kate Fizell Founder's Scholarship***

**Diana Garcia Perez** is majoring in Sociology with an emphasis in Law and Society and minoring in Political Science. She plans to pursue higher education to serve system-impacted individuals through non-profit work. Her internship with the Prison Education Project, which serves incarcerated youth at the Division of Juvenile Justice, has helped solidify her passion to be of service to this population of often dehumanized individuals. Her ultimate goal is to use her education to be of service to others in her community.

## ***Marion Freeborn Re-Entry Scholarship***

**Valerie Nyasimi** is majoring in Global Disease Biology. She plans to pursue a Master's in Physician Associate Studies with a primary focus in Pediatrics. She is currently working in the Cook Lab as an Undergraduate researcher and volunteers at Ushirika Africa. Her research and community volunteer work have helped solidify her career aspirations. As a future PA, she wants to work with children who come from underserved communities and are undocumented. In her free time, she enjoys weightlifting as physical activity and going to the beach. This balance of physical fitness and studies has helped her to maintain a perfect grade-point average in a STEM major.

## ***Carol Lee Coss Memorial Scholarship***

**Natalie Laurie** is a rising junior double majoring in Cognitive Neuroscience and Music Performance. She is a research assistant in the Janata and the Corina Labs at the UC Davis Center for Mind and Brain, a UC LEADS Scholar, president of the UCD chapter of the National Association of Music Education, and the Chief-of-Staff of the UC Davis Mental Health Initiative. Natalie also has had jobs in the music department and student housing. Fascinated by the interdisciplinary nature of both her majors, she is considering applying to interdisciplinary PhD programs in Musicology, Education, Composition, and Psychological and Brain Sciences.

## ***Blanche L. Price Scholarships***

**Jimena Calderon** is majoring in Political Science with an emphasis in Public Service and plans to go law school after graduation. She seeks to become an Immigration Lawyer to provide services to historically under-resourced communities. Her work at the AB540 and Undocumented Student Center at UC Davis, and now as an intern for the Eastern District Court of California in Sacramento, has allowed her to appreciate the importance of understanding the legal system.

**Maya Vargas** is majoring in Design and minoring in Human Rights, and aspires to work at the intersection of these disciplines on design projects that are centered around equity and community building. Her training as a peer educator for the Center for Advocacy, Resources, and Education (CARE) has solidified her determination to work in a human rights related field, and her self-guided interest in equity design has led her to a role as a student designer for the Digital Healthcare Innovation Program at the UC Davis Health Center.

### **Friendship•Enrichment•Scholarships**

University Farm Circle was the name selected in 1914 by the founding group of 24 women. We retain this unique name today as a reminder of our roots on the “University Farm” and of the long history of our organization. In 1983, Chancellor James Mayer granted UC Davis Support Group status to UFC. This special status formalizes a close and continuing relationship of UFC to the University.

Membership is open to all who are interested in participating in an organization that is both social in nature and supportive of the University of California, Davis. UFC has a wonderful series of events planned for 2021-2022 and looks forward to an exciting year. For a list of programs and interest sections, please visit our website [www.ufcdavis.org](http://www.ufcdavis.org).