

Fall 24' Vol. 18

MEET OUR SCHOLARS

Mengjie Xie
Angel Derouin

CAMPUS RESOURCE

UCI Division of
Career Pathways



THE SCOOP

UCI Scholarships

SCHOLARSHIP
HIGHLIGHT

Aramark and
Barnes & Noble
College

SCHOLARSHIP
UNIVERSE HIGHLIGHT

Scholar of UC Irvine

Mengjie “Kaylee” Xie



Major: Computer
Science &
Engineering



Year: Senior



Scholarship:
Steve & Jenny
Mizusawa
Student Award

Kaylee Xie, originally from China, attended a high school with an international department, where she took several AP classes and successfully transferred those credits to UC Irvine. At UCI, she joined multiple research labs, gaining invaluable hands-on experience. Additionally, she served as a board member of the Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) at UCI, enhancing her growth and expertise in her field.

During her junior year, Kaylee worked on the IEEE Micromouse project, designing a small robot to navigate a maze, which sparked her interest in embedded systems. Her coursework and research also exposed her to Artificial Intelligence and reinforcement learning, inspiring her to merge these fields. Graduating soon, she plans to attend Stanford for a Master's in Computer Science, aiming for a career that integrates embedded systems with machine learning.

Receiving the Steve & Jenny Mizusawa Student Award at UCI brought immense joy to Kaylee. This recognition motivated her to give back to the community by becoming an IEEE Micromouse Officer and teaching fellow students how to build robots. Kaylee encourages students to seek out research positions and club activities despite potential rejections. She emphasized the importance of exploring different classes and research topics to discover one's passion, which defined her academic and career goals. Kaylee expresses gratitude to UCI's supportive professors and abundant opportunities during her undergraduate years. Grateful for her journey at UCI, Kaylee looks forward to continuing her development in embedded systems and machine learning while mentoring others.



Angel Derouin



Major:

Aerospace
Engineering



Year: Junior



Scholarship:

Rose Hills
Scholarship

Growing up in San Diego, Angel faced significant financial struggles as his family navigated job insecurities and limited higher education. Determined to succeed, Angel researched extensively and was accepted into UCI with the Chancellor's Excellence Scholarship. Balancing a job at Chick-fil-A and a demanding course load, he embraced the opportunities at UCI despite a grueling schedule. Support from friends and multiple scholarships were pivotal in this journey. Now deeply involved in the UCI Rocket Project, he aims to surpass a 14,000-foot apogee record, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to aerospace engineering and the transformative power of education and community support.

Angel was inspired by his father's service as an aircraft mechanic in the Navy. This early exposure to aeronautics fueled a desire to work with top defense companies such as Lockheed and Northrop Grumman. Although his father later earned a degree, he felt like a first-generation college student, driven to achieve a higher education against familial financial hardships. This journey fostered resilience, requiring sacrifices like sleep and meals to succeed academically and contribute to activities like the UCI Rocket Project.

Angel applied to multiple scholarships daily and officially received the Rose Hills Scholarship, which brought immense relief and joy. This allowed Angel to continue his studies without financial strain. His family's dinner celebration marked a testament to their collective sacrifices and determination. Angel's advice for high school students is to maximize academic credits through AP courses or dual enrollment. Angel encourages college students to "actively be involved in relevant clubs and projects is crucial; remember, earning a degree is just the start—success requires continuous learning, strategic internships, and active involvement."



UCI Division of Career Pathways

UCI Division of Career Pathways assists students in achieving their career potential through career discovery, internships, full-time employment, and graduate school advising, with services offered in-person and online. Quarterly career fairs and networking events, organized with 20 student clubs, are open to all students. The department also hosts workshops on resume writing, interview skills, LinkedIn profiles, networking, and career fair preparation. Their vision is to empower Anteaters to thrive in meaningful careers by seamlessly integrating career services into students' lives, ensuring comprehensive support throughout their university experience.

Below are some of the services the department provides:

- **Professional Photo Booth:** A free Iris professional photo booth for UCI students, staff, faculty, and alumni. Users can take professional photos for LinkedIn/Handshake profiles, UCI Digital IDs, and graduation portraits in their cap and gown. No appointments are needed; walk-ins are welcome.
- **Drop-ins & Appointments:** Career education staff are available to assist students in planning their careers, searching for internships and jobs, exploring graduate school options, or polishing their resumes and cover letters. They also offer personalized advice tailored to individual goals.



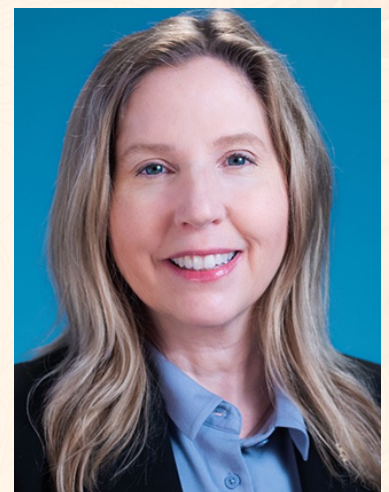
Focus 2 Career

A tool designed to identify students' interests, values, and skills, providing career clarity and aiding in interviews. By highlighting around 20,000 job roles, it broadens horizons and shows that a major does not dictate a career path.



Employer Info Sessions

Students engage with an employer to learn about company culture, recruiting processes, and candidate preferences. They are useful for applicants and early career exploration. All sessions are listed on Handshake, mostly virtual.



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Scholarship Highlight

Aramark and Barnes & Noble College Scholarship

With the generosity of UCI's campus business partners, Auxiliary Services designed a scholarship program to significantly benefit students. During his time at the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, Associate Vice Chancellor of Auxiliary Services, Brice Kikuchi, learned firsthand how scholarships can positively impact a student's success at UCI. He used that experience to collaborate with Auxiliary Services business partners to create a scholarship plan for students—not just as a one-time award, but as an ongoing yearly opportunity. In addition to funding the scholarship, the business partners wanted to help students who value leadership, academics, and community service.

Students receiving the Aramark or Barnes & Nobles College Scholarship, will receive \$3,000 per year, for up to four years for first-year students (36 recipients), and up to two years for transfer students (18 recipients). The yearly award begins in Fall 2024. The aim is for Auxiliary Services and its business partners to make the scholars' time at UCI financially predictable and to give back to the students through this award among other contributions. Every time the campus community uses dining or bookstore services, Auxiliary Services provides student scholarships, student jobs, and value to the campus.

Brice Kikuchi was born and raised in Honolulu, HI. He moved to California to attend UC Irvine where he earned both his B.S. in Biological Sciences and an M.B.A. After serving in the healthcare and service industries, he returned to UC Irvine where he held various leadership positions within Student Affairs, including directing the Student Center and the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. He currently serves as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Auxiliary Services (housing, dining, retail, card services, and event planning).



Brice Kikuchi

Associate
Vice Chancellor,
Auxiliary Services

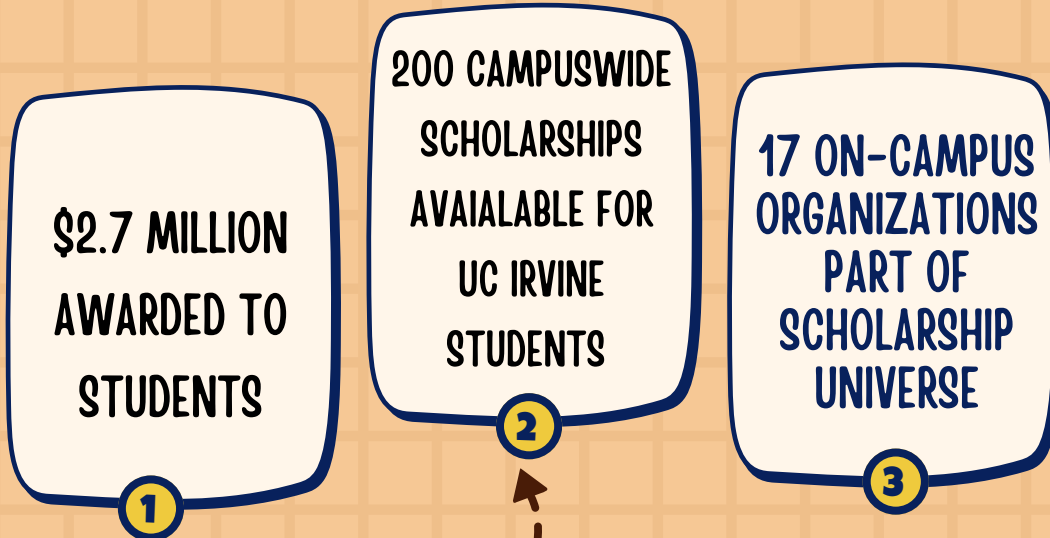


studentaffairs.uci.edu



MISSION

To support UC Irvine and its diverse, talented, and ambitious student body by cultivating scholarship opportunities to further individual growth and interests that meet societal needs. Through engagement with students, as well as collaboration with campus and community partners, the Scholarships Unit strives to support access to a world class education.



SCHOLARSHIP UNIVERSE

HIGHLIGHTS

