

The Scoop

Summer 25' Vol. 21

UCI Scholarships



Meet Our Scholar

**Andrew
Nguyen**



Meet Our Scholar

**Ruby
Flores**



Campus Resource

**UC Irvine
Sustainability
Resource
Center**



Donor Highlight

**Dolalas Family
Legacy
Endowed
Scholarship**



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SCHOLAR OF UC IRVINE



Major
Political
Sciences



Minor
History



Academic Year
Senior &
1st Year MA



Scholarships
Distinguished Anteater Award &
Huang and Gao Scholarship

WHAT IS ONE PIECE OF ADVICE YOU
WOULD LIKE TO GIVE TO CURRENT
OR INCOMING STUDENTS?

Andrew Nguyen

“
Be true to yourself. Do things beyond academics so that you help your mental health. College is the time to explore, learn, and develop as a person, don't be afraid to try something new.
”

-ANDREW NGUYEN





Andrew Nguyen's path to discovering his passion for law and public policy began in high school, where he was actively involved in extracurricular activities. He participated in volunteer organizations and was a member of the California Scholarship Federation. However, it was his involvement in Model United Nations that truly sparked his interest in international diplomacy and political science. Despite facing pandemic challenges as he transitioned to college life, Andrew persevered by joining the Model United Nations at UCI. He later discovered his interest in law through a trial law class and joined the Pre-Law Society, which reinforced his desire to pursue law as a means to help people and contribute to community building.

Andrew has developed a strong interest in civil law, particularly in immigration and constitutional law, driven by his desire to help those who lack access to legal representation. His commitment to community-oriented work has solidified his decision to pursue a legal career. As a first-generation college student, Andrew faced unique obstacles, from navigating the application process without familial guidance to managing finances and academics. He learned to take initiative, build a support network, and utilize campus resources like the Basic Needs Center. Andrew actively sought mentors, attended office hours, and engaged in various campus activities, which not only clarified his career goals but also exposed him to different potential paths. As he prepares for the next steps in his journey, including the LSAT and law school applications, Andrew feels well-prepared and content with the comprehensive learning experience his undergraduate years have provided.

Andrew's college experience has been characterized by extensive involvement in various campus activities and professional development opportunities. He served as the President of Model UN, doubling their annual conference size and now advises the club. His work with the Pre-Law Society led to a position at the Student Outreach and Retention Center, where he manages grants for 36 student organizations. Andrew also gained research experience through an independent study project and has participated in student lobbying efforts at both state and national levels. His advocacy efforts expanded in his senior year, joining the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs' Student Council and initiating discussions on technology access for students, which led to the formation of a task force to implement this effort across campus.

Andrew's dedication to his studies and community involvement was recognized through two significant scholarships: the Distinguished Anteater Award and the Huang and Gao Scholarship. Receiving these scholarships had a profound impact on Andrew's college experience, allowing him to reduce his work hours from juggling three part-time jobs to focus more on his studies and campus involvement. Beyond financial relief, these scholarships provided Andrew with valuable networking opportunities through dinners where he met fellow recipients, alumni, and donors, connecting him with people who believed in his potential. These experiences not only eased Andrew's financial burden but also boosted his confidence, expanded his network, and reinforced his commitment to community service and academic excellence.



SCHOLAR OF UC IRVINE



Major
Mechanical
Engineering



Academic
Year
Junior



Scholarship
Summer Success
Scholarship

WHAT IS ONE PIECE OF ADVICE YOU
WOULD LIKE TO GIVE TO CURRENT
OR INCOMING STUDENTS?

Ruby Flores

“

**Definitely know
your limits and
then push past
them because if
you're stuck
with what
you're
comfortable
with, you'll
never find
success in the
uncomfortable.**

”

-RUBY FLORES





Ruby Flores has always been deeply integrated into the engineering field. Her passion for building began early, participating in STEM competitions since middle school throughout high school. During her high school years, Ruby gained valuable experience with CAD software, 3D printing, soldering, and circuit building. As she progressed through her college career, Ruby felt a strong sense of belonging in the engineering world. Now in her junior year, she has honed her existing skills and acquired new technical ones, successfully applying her knowledge both in the classroom and on hands-on projects. Ruby's career plans are focused on the aerospace industry, driven by the fascination with the possibilities of space exploration. Her future plans include working in the industry for a few years before returning to school for a Master's degree or PhD.

At UC Irvine, Ruby has immersed herself in a diverse array of academic and extracurricular activities, showcasing her leadership skills and commitment to community outreach. As part of the Computational Solid Mechanics Research Lab, headed by Dr. Rimoli, Ruby leads the prototypes division. She revolutionized the fabrication process for tensegrity structure prototypes, reducing production time from 50 to 17 hours while staying under budget. Her innovative approach, using SolidWorks, 3D printing, and laser cutting, resulted in the lab's best prototype to date. Additionally, she works with the Stacey Nicholas Office of Outreach, Access & Inclusion, particularly with the MESA program, which she was part of in her youth. This role allows her to introduce underrepresented middle and high school students to STEM fields through various competitions and summer camps.

Ruby's experience as a first-generation college student has significantly shaped her academic journey and extracurricular involvement at UC Irvine. Coming from a family where both parents have a high school education and being the first sibling to enter university, Ruby carries the weight of being a trailblazer. She navigates unfamiliar college processes independently, from scholarship applications to class registration. Despite her parents' unfamiliarity with college systems, they compensate with unwavering inspiration and support. Ruby prioritizes her education above all else, channeling her parents' inspiration into becoming a better student and actively engaging in academic and extracurricular pursuits.

Ruby was selected as a recipient of the Summer Success Scholarship. As a student fully responsible for her college expenses due to family financial constraints, this support has provided significant relief. The scholarship allows Ruby to reallocate funds towards essential living costs. Moreover, it enables her to enroll in summer classes, accelerating her degree progress while reducing her course load in future quarters. By reducing financial stress and allowing for a more balanced academic schedule, Ruby can now maintain her academic progress while also engaging more in extracurricular activities and projects. This balance has enhanced both her academic performance and professional development, enabling her to make the most of her time at UC Irvine.



UCI Sustainability Resource Center

The Sustainability Resource Center (SRC) serves as a vital hub for sustainability initiatives on campus and in the Orange County community. Acting as a focal point for students, staff, faculty, and community members, the SRC connects individuals with research opportunities, academic paths, and volunteer work in the field of sustainability.

The center offers internship programs, educational workshops, and leadership certificates to enrich students' experiences. Looking ahead, the SRC aims to expand its offerings, providing more paid or credit-bearing opportunities for students to gain applied experiences in campus sustainability projects. By empowering the next generation of environmental leaders, the SRC is not only shaping the future of the campus but contributing to a more sustainable world.

➤ MORE INFO

Want to learn more? Join SRC weekly newsletter:

src.sustainability.uci.edu/digest/

➤ MORE INFO



src.sustainability.uci.edu/



sustainability-center@uci.edu



Resources & Services

- **Green Event Resources:** Green Party kits with reusable flatware, silverware, and cups, as well as X-frames and compost bins for events not serviced by the Student Center or Event Services. These initiatives aim to reduce waste from campus events and align with UC Irvine's single-use plastic policy, which seeks to phase out single-use plastics by 2035. Students and staff can access these resources by submitting a form through the SRC website's resources page or via Campus Groups.
- **Earth Reps:** A partnership program between UCI Student Housing and SRC, where first-year students learn the basics of sustainability and educate their peers in residential halls to promote environmental awareness and practices among new students.
- **Student Organization Affiliation:** SRC offers an affiliate program for student organizations interested in sustainability. Affiliates have access to the R.I.S.E. Suite conference room Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. As well, access to the Sustainability Leaders Network, a network of e-boards across campus connecting sustainability-affiliated registered campus organizations.
- **Connecting with the SRC Staff:** Students are welcome to connect with SRC staff members to seek advice or discuss career counseling for students interested in sustainability, regardless of major. This service aligns with the SRC's motto that sustainability can be integrated into any career path, encouraging students from all academic backgrounds to explore sustainable practices in their chosen fields.
- **R.I.S.E. Suite Space:** Located on the 4th floor of the Student Center, the SRC is open Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM for general use. The center provides a physical space for studying and socializing, open to all students. Notably, the SRC shares its location with the Latinx Resource Center, Dream Center, UC Immigrant Legal Services, and Women's Center for Success, fostering an environment for intersectional dialogue and reflection.

Signature Programs



CAMPUS AS A LIVING LAB

A year-long internship program that has been running for 9 years, offering students valuable hands-on experience in sustainability projects across various UCI departments. Interns work on diverse initiatives such as certifications, infrastructure analysis, and sustainability projects with partners like UCI Transportation, Basic Needs Center, and Campus Planning. The program includes a weekly 50-minute seminar featuring guest speakers from campus, community, and alumni, providing insights into sustainability careers. If a department is interested in participating, please contact the SRC for more details.

Applications open Spring Quarter



BONNIE REISS LEADING ON CLIMATE FELLOWSHIP

A University of California-wide initiative that provides funding for sustainability projects across all UC campuses. At UCI, the program supports six fellows: three focusing on climate action projects and three on sustainable agriculture and food initiatives. Fellows work on various projects such as resilience planning, decarbonization studies, student engagement in climate action, and sustainable food initiatives. The program is open to all students and facilitates monthly meetings with fellows from all UC campuses.

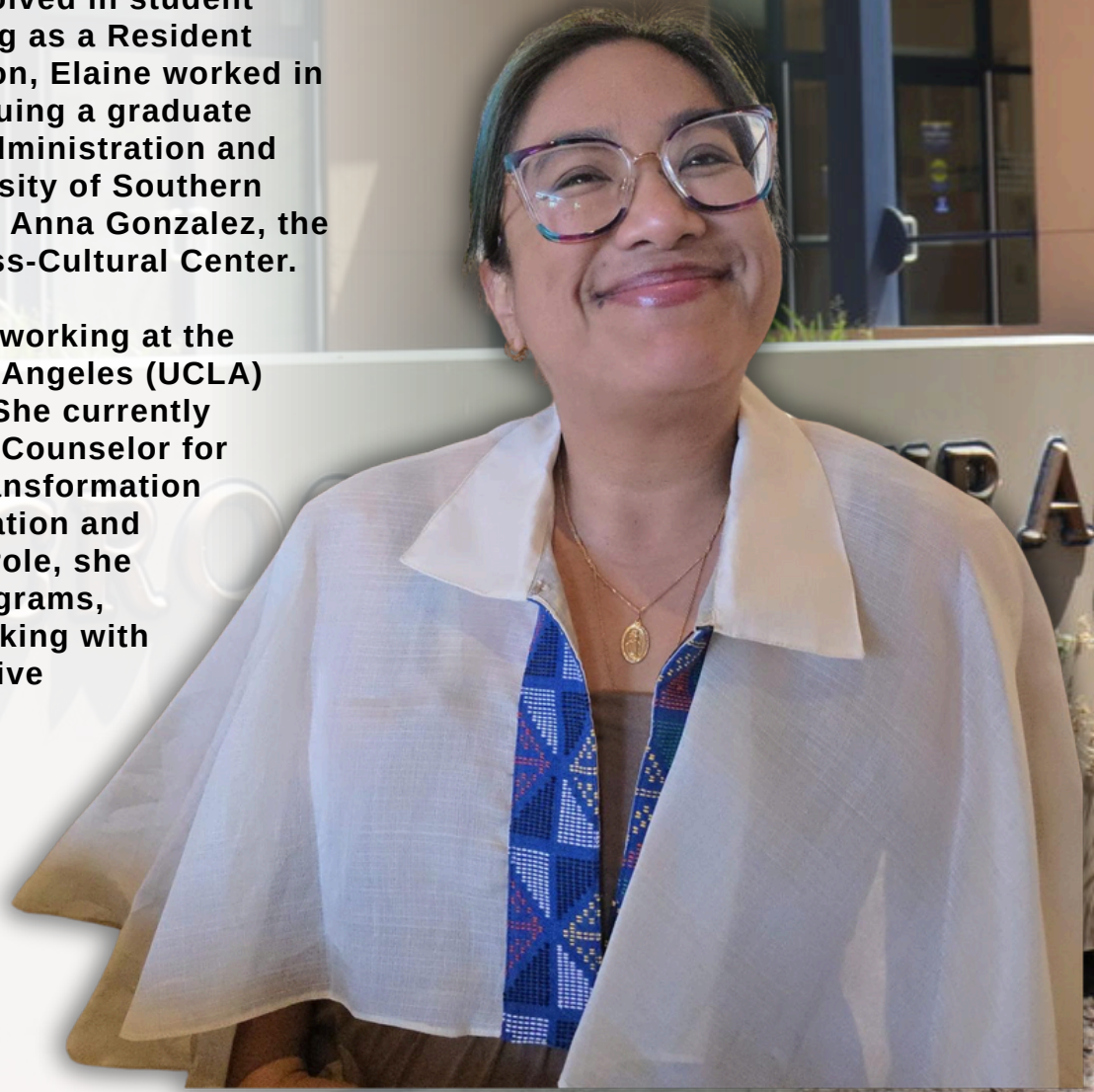
Applications open Spring Quarter via Handshake

Dolalas Family Legacy Endowed Scholarship

Elaine Dolalas, a Filipino-American UC Irvine alumna (2003) from the San Fernando Valley, has built a career in higher education. As the child of Filipino immigrants who attended college in the Philippines, Elaine navigated much of the U.S. education system independently, identifying as a "1.5 Gen" college student.

At UCI, she was actively involved in student leadership, including working as a Resident Advisor (RA). After graduation, Elaine worked in event marketing before pursuing a graduate degree in Post Secondary Administration and Student Affairs at the University of Southern California (USC), inspired by Anna Gonzalez, the former director of UCI's Cross-Cultural Center.

Since 2008, Elaine has been working at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in Undergraduate Advising. She currently serves as an Undergraduate Counselor for the Education and Social Transformation major in the School of Education and Information Studies. In this role, she supports undergraduate programs, continuing the legacy of working with students and making a positive impact on their educational journeys.



The Dolalas Family Legacy Endowment Scholarship honors Elaine's parents and supports Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) community, especially those involved with the Cross-Cultural Center (CCC), continuing the legacy of community engagement and cross-cultural understanding. Elaine views philanthropy as a way to give back to the community and institutions that shaped her. By donating to UC Irvine, Elaine aims to provide transformative experiences for students, reflecting her connection to the university and her desire to support future community leaders from the CCC and the UC Irvine community.

Elaine's experiences as a Filipino-American student at UC Irvine, especially her involvement at the Cross-Cultural Center (CCC), greatly influenced her life and career. This aligns with her family's history of community activism, including her father's role as a student organizer in the Philippines before martial law. After losing both parents within a five-year span during the COVID-19 pandemic, Elaine inherited her parents' legacy and sought a meaningful way to honor them. The scholarship emerged as an opportunity to create a lasting impact and support students who, like herself, may not have initially seen college as an option.

Elaine hopes that the Dolalas Family Legacy Endowment Scholarship will inspire a ripple effect of generosity and community support at UC Irvine. Her vision is that in 50 years, a recipient of this scholarship might be moved to create their own family legacy endowed scholarship, thus establishing a lineage of giving that supports CCC students for generations to come. This cycle of support would strengthen the UC Irvine community and continue to foster an environment of cross-cultural understanding and engagement.

Elaine encourages students to embrace their passions without worrying about having their entire future mapped out. She emphasizes the value of learning for its own sake and urges students to be authentic, love their studies, and follow their interests rather than conforming to traditional paths. Elaine believes this approach can lead to unexpected opportunities and meaningful contributions to their fields and communities. Through this scholarship, she aims to empower students to explore diverse interests and continue the Cross-Cultural Center's legacy of community engagement at UC Irvine.

Elaine is grateful to UC Irvine for the opportunity to establish the Dolalas Family Legacy Endowment Scholarship, honoring her parents' values. She hopes the scholarship will provide financial aid and inspire recipients to positively impact their communities.

