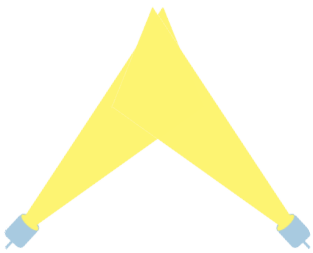




# THE SCHOLARSHIP SCOOP

Summer 2021 | Volume 5

UCI Scholarships



## Donor Spotlight: Dr. John Tracy

Dr. Tracy created the Victoria Alegria Tracy Scholarship in his mother's name to assist underrepresented STEM students.



## Campus Resource: Beall Applied Innovation

The resource center fosters ingenuity and innovation to guide students, faculty, and staff to achieve success as entrepreneurs.



## Editor's Letter: We made it!

Congratulations, Anteaters! You made it through this year even though it was extremely difficult. We remain strong together.

# DONOR SPOTLIGHT: Victoria Alegria Tracy Scholarship



Victoria Alegria Tracy took her five year old son, John, to a local Coca Cola bottling factory in Los Angeles. Walking around the factory, Victoria showed him the various tasks the workers were assigned to do. One employee manned the machines; another inspected the bottles to check each was uniformly filled. But the job that she pointed out and that caught John's eye was a chemist dressed in a white lab coat. He oversaw the secret Coca Cola recipe and ensured the soda was perfectly made. His mother told John that if he wanted a job like that, he needed to prioritize his education and attend college.

Victoria knew just how precious higher education was. She was unable to continue to college after high school in order to support her family. Victoria was a homemaker until the age of 55 when she started

working outside the home and started her 30-year career. She constantly emphasized the great importance of STEM careers and even pointed out the homes of engineers to young John while driving through the neighborhood.

STEM has always had near and dear place in Dr. John Tracy's heart. From his early exposure to it from his mother to his own career, STEM changed his life. He started off as a first-generation college graduate that eventually became a high school teacher, a rocket scientist, and a UCI Ph.D. graduate. He climbed the ladder to become Boeing's Chief Technology Officer and Senior VP of Engineering, Operations, and Tech, leading 110,000+ employees. He achieved the American Dream which his parents could also experience through him. Dr.

credits education with leveling the playing field. No matter what disadvantages someone may experience throughout life, education is the factor that forces people to pay attention to you and allows for upward mobility in the professional world.

Seeing the profound effect STEM had on his life, he wanted others to experience that same success. He and his wife, Katherine, set up a STEM scholarship around twenty years ago in his mother's name to honor the importance of education. The Victoria Alegria Tracy Scholarship was established at California State University, Los Angeles and has been awarded to nearly 100 college students across the country and has now come to UCI. The award prefers awardees who are involved in groups such as the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Society of Women Engineers



(SWE), Women in Chemistry at UCI (WCUIC). Dr. Tracy sees how students from underrepresented communities do not have the same educational opportunities due to factors out of their control. Through this award, he is providing opportunities to have a future in STEM.

Dr. Tracy wants to provide young people with the possibility of that career. Not only does the scholarship aid the student and his/her family, the student's community also benefits when it sees that someone like them can achieve success - the graduate improves the family's quality of life and also improves the community. Dr. Tracy explains that at its core, the scholarship has two functions. The first is changing the vision of what the future can be like for underrepresented communities. These students can be successful and find a career in STEM. The second part is providing the financial assistance that these students need to focus on their studies and relieve the burden placed on their families. They need a support system of people that can help them get there.

John and Katherine Tracy simply want to help people. The Tracys believe in the ripple effect of compassion and change; a person they help today will go on to help someone else. People that are helped help others. Their idea is synonymous with UCI's mission of helping its students which makes the university the perfect place to house the Victoria Alegria Tracy Scholarship.

*Thank you, John, Katherine, and Victoria!*

# MEET OUR SCHOLARS

## Eric Ramos

- Creativity & Entrepreneurship Scholarship
- Drama Major
- Senior



### **Eric, what was your experience as a Creativity & Entrepreneurship Scholarship recipient?**

It was really exciting! The best part was the innovation advisers that my team and I worked with. They helped us expand our network by providing resources for financials, team building, leadership, etc. The funds allowed us to build a prototype to hopefully get into the Wayfinder Program. More money brought more opportunities for us. My team and I are creating a hand sanitizing station using UV-C technology. Traditional sanitizers produce plenty of waste that are harmful to consumers and the environment. Other UV light products require protective gear and aren't regulated. I saw an opening in the market for safe UV-C sanitization. We took the good from the bad of the pandemic, and we are looking at hygiene in a new and innovative way.

### **What did you learn along your journey?**

When I first joined the team, I doubted myself. I was not sure if I had a future in drama, but I did not know if I would be accepted in the business world as a queer man. But I learned that it can be a future for me. Skills I learned as a Drama student transferred to business like being creative, adaptable, and working through stressful situations. I want other students who are looking for a future in entrepreneurship to know that there are going to be a lot of obstacles along the way. But do not give up; it makes you stronger. Find a business idea that you are passionate about, not just something that you think will make you money.

## Erin Joy Araneta

- Creativity & Entrepreneurship Scholarship
- Chemistry Major
- Senior



### **Erin, tell us about your work as a Creativity & Entrepreneurship Scholarship recipient.**

I am currently working with a business coach at the Entrepreneur Center to create personal website. My main goal is to get two children books published by the end of winter and another two published next year. I used my background in chemistry and my experience in working with kids in STEM to write books that make science more digestible for kids. I want to show them what is possible. I am a part of the American Chemical Society where we plan outreach events for children to make science more available. I struggled to find books for my cousin that isn't the stereotypical nerd that books portray scientists as "nerds" or having no friends, which isn't true. Plus, I love that chemistry isn't found just in labs. It is outside in nature and in our daily lives.

### **How has the scholarship helped you through the process of pursuing your goal?**

The mentorship from the Entrepreneur Center helped me to see the bigger picture of my work. I was able to envision my goal and create a piece of work that perfectly combined who I am into a comprehensive package. Writing a book is a great thing, but it came with a few expenses - an illustrator and printing and marketing costs. The scholarship allowed me to make the book the best it could be. I could afford the printing costs that I had to pay upfront and hire a skilled illustrator. My quality education at UCI allows me to create my books where I can disseminate knowledge and reach people.



# Resource: Beall Applied Innovation

Innovation is at the heart of UCI and is perfectly exemplified through the ingenuity of UCI Beall Applied Innovation. Beall Applied Innovation nurtures UCI's and the surrounding community's creativity into entrepreneurial success. It is a fairly new unit on campus that reports directly to the provost. Not only does it serve the UCI community, but it also connects startups within Southern California. Beall Applied Innovation creates programming for the UCI community, shares entrepreneurial resources and teaches its constituents how to get started on their business idea - no matter how new their idea may be. The department truly wants to nurture UCI and the community's ideas and watch them grow as inventors and business-people who would create an impact on the local economy.



[The ANEntrepreneur Center](#), part of Beall Applied Innovation and the Division of Undergraduate Education, is a dedicated entrepreneurial hub on campus for student entrepreneurs to connect, share resources and learn from one another. The ANEntrepreneur Center offers UCI students from all disciplines free mentorship, learning opportunities, resources to develop business ideas and connections to the greater Irvine entrepreneurial network. Students interested in learning more about the process of entrepreneurship can sign up for one of the Center's entrepreneurship programs to receive guidance and mentorship. Depending on the stage of their startup idea, the ANEntrepreneur Center can recommend available scholarship opportunities and connect students with resources within UCI and the community.

Another opportunity for students is the center's [Innovation and Entrepreneurship Internship](#). It is the first for-credit internship program at UCI that introduces the process of entrepreneurship, startup anatomy and business terminology as students apply the concept of entrepreneurship to their

own startup idea. Students gain 'real-world' experiences through hands-on opportunities. Student interns are able to create a viable business model by the end of the 10-weeks program. They report that the internship provides them with an invaluable experience one cannot receive within a classroom environment. Many state that their self-confidence and public speaking skills improved after the internship. The internship provides students with opportunities to expand their network by meeting influential investors, mentors and other entrepreneurs.

Students can also apply for Beall Applied Innovation's Creativity and Entrepreneurship scholarship, a collaboration between Beall Applied Innovation and the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. The scholarship awards \$3,000 to students to develop a distinctive solution to a problem faced by the campus or the community as a whole. The Creativity and Entrepreneurship Scholarship removes the early funding hurdles for students by providing them with capital to help with things like market research and building a prototype. Scholarship recipients are expected to fully commit and engage in Beall Applied Innovation's programming. They attend workshops and present their progress to Beall Applied Innovation's staff.

Some success stories of the scholarship include a student recipient from Claire Trevor School of the Arts, who is working on a sanitizing device. He took his idea to the Paul Merage School of Business' New Venture Competition and made to the semi-finals. Another student is conducting market research to create a vending machine geared towards college students that would include scantrons, green books, and healthy snacks. She hopes for it to be placed around UCI's campus to make exam materials accessible in all parts of campus. [Read more about the 2021 winners.](#)

Beall Applied Innovation helps students, faculty, staff and the Southern California community harness their innovative ideas into attainable entrepreneurial goals and serves as a resource for innovation, networking and much more. Even if a student knows nothing about startups and only has an idea, they can find the best resources and what they need to evolve an idea into a viable business model at Beall Applied Innovation. Through its programming, internship, and scholarship, Beall Applied Innovation is creating the next generation of ANEntrepreneurs within UCI and the Southern California community.

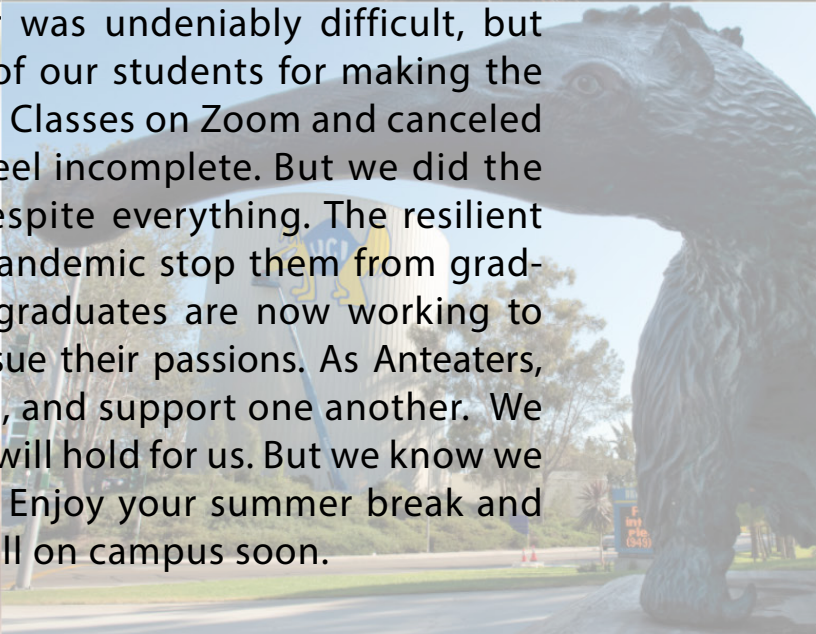
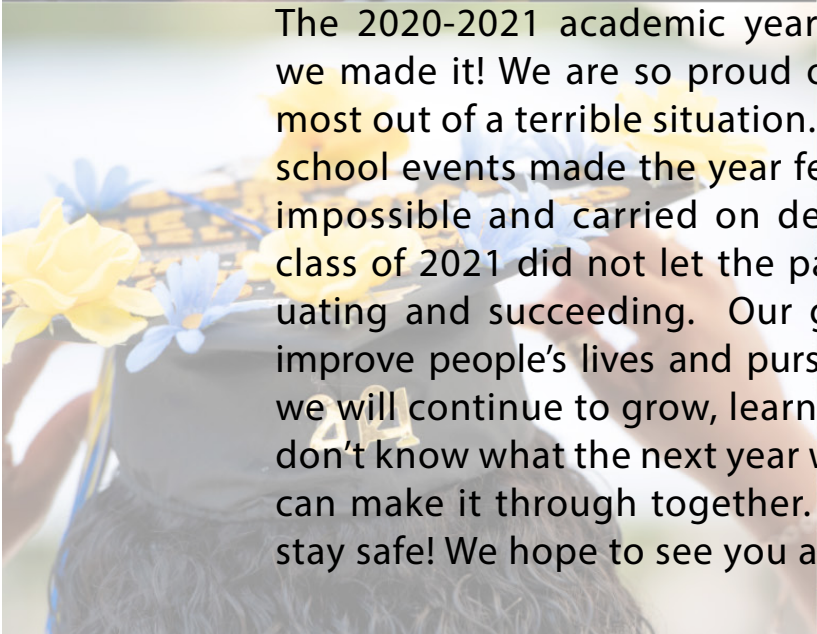






# Editor's Note: We did it!

The 2020-2021 academic year was undeniably difficult, but we made it! We are so proud of our students for making the most out of a terrible situation. Classes on Zoom and canceled school events made the year feel incomplete. But we did the impossible and carried on despite everything. The resilient class of 2021 did not let the pandemic stop them from graduating and succeeding. Our graduates are now working to improve people's lives and pursue their passions. As Anteaters, we will continue to grow, learn, and support one another. We don't know what the next year will hold for us. But we know we can make it through together. Enjoy your summer break and stay safe! We hope to see you all on campus soon.



Zot zot zot!

