A celebration of Outstanding Adult Students Scholarships and Awards

April 24, 2018 | Memorial Union
Welcome
*Martin Rouse*, associate dean and director, Adult Career and Special Student Services

Opening remarks
*Derek Kindle*, director, Office of Student Financial Aid

Presentation of Scholarships
*Jennifer Sandridge*, student services coordinator, 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**
Olinka Clark Jen Proud

**American Association of University Women-Monona/Madison Branch Scholarship**
Ingrid Simpson

**Joe Corry and Barbara Weston Corry Scholarship**
Elizabeth Arth Rebecca Parmentier

**Stuart Daily Seeds of Learning Scholarship**
Maureen Mead Lisa Wilson

**Nancy W. Denney Memorial Scholarship**
Darlene Shafer

**Kindness Matters Scholarship**
Onyekachi Nwoke

**Bernice D. Kuney Scholarship**
Reynaldo Morales

**Lisa Munro Two Generation Scholarship**
Ahmad Alabboud Alkheder

**PLATO (Participatory Learning and Teaching Organization) Scholarship**
Jennifer Johnson Brittany Neal Chee Thao
Returning Adult Scholarship
Kylie Bryant Lizeth Garcia-Jennings Mariglen Gjoni
Jose Bien Rafaelo Hernandez Brian Lu Devin McDonald

Single Parent Undergraduate Scholarship
Tierney Cushman Brandon Hahn

University League Scholarship
Rachel Smith

Cynthia McCreary Holbrook Youmans University League Scholarship
Jessica Landergott

Bernard Osher Reentry Scholarship
David Boland Melady Elifritz Mia Greene
Robert Hall Hanna Hubiankova Nicholas Jackson
Craig Kunkel Maritza Lahodik Kerri Mack
Carmen Nightfall Cameron Thain

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
Kate Bradley, coordinator of alumni engagement and advancement, Division of Student Life

Nominees
Fathiya Ali Angela Baldocchi Rose Chujor
Willa Henner Jennifer Holland Moua Lee
Naomi Snow Miicke Benjamin Stapleton

Finalists
Samuel Carlson Tenzin Kunsang Deidre Nieman
Angela Ramos

Winners
Chance Cork Angeline Mboutngam
Ahmad Alabboud Alkheder came to Wisconsin as a refugee from Syria. He attended Madison College from 2014 to 2017 and participated in the Odyssey Project in 2017. He is now enrolled as a biology major at UW–Madison and plans to attend dental school. In addition to studying, Ahmed volunteers at Jewish Social Services, Lutheran Social Services, the Islamic Center, and a dental clinic. He has learned to navigate Madison as an Uber driver.

Originally from Somalia, Fathiya Ali grew up with 11 siblings. She came to the U.S. as a teenager and moved to Minnesota, where she later started her own family. After moving to the Madison area, she enrolled at Madison College and then transferred to UW–Madison to earn a degree in consumer finance. Fathiya is completing an internship at Common Wealth Development, where she works with high-risk youth. She also volunteers at her children’s schools and is vice president of a Somali community group in Madison. Her children inspire her, and she hopes to teach them that their obstacles shape and mold them to become the people they want to be.

Elizabeth Arth is returning to school to achieve a bachelor’s degree in nursing. After living here for 15 years, she considers Madison home and wants to help the city become a healthier and more sustainable place to live. Elizabeth is grateful for the opportunity to return to school and looks forward to serving the Madison community as a nurse. She believes in treating people with respect by listening to their concerns, helping them overcome challenges, and encouraging them to achieve their goals. Elizabeth has found that she is happiest when moving and will work to promote community health through physical fitness. She loves to cycle, hike, and spend time in the woods.
Angela Baldocchi started college after high school but left when her mother passed away. She entered the workforce and did well in information technology but was laid off in the 2008 recession. This spurred her to return to school first at Gateway Technical College and then UW-Madison. As an undergraduate, she has excelled in her course work and immersed herself in research and writing about her passion: freshwater ecosystems and climate change. She has also held two internships and participated in leadership activities focused on the environment and women in science. After graduating, Angela plans to pursue a PhD and work to solve the problems caused by global warming.

David Boland is a 30-year-old New Jersey native. His academic goals include a bachelor’s degree in engineering mechanics followed by graduate school in aerospace engineering. Nearly 10 years of volunteer firefighting has instilled a sense of community service in David that has created a mindset of helping others and working towards the greater good. After a four-year break from academia he has restarted his scholarly journey and his motivation has never been stronger. With dreams of working in the burgeoning field of privatized space exploration, David sees more hope in the career field than ever before with literal astronomical aspirations.

The most important part of Kylie Bryant’s life is her family. She recognizes that without their love and support, she would not be capable of achieving her goals. As a nontraditional student, Kylie finds that the most significant challenge to her education is balancing work, personal life, and her studies. Additionally, financing her education has been a challenge. She hopes to become a social worker for Child Protective Services after graduation and serve her community in Dane County. Inspired by a social worker who helped her family when she was a child, Kylie hopes to reflect the graciousness she received by helping other families.

Samuel Carlson joined the military after high school because he wanted to help people. While deployed in Iraq, he volunteered at the base hospital on his days off. This experience sparked his interest in nursing. After leaving the military, he and his wife lived in Kenya for seven months, where they partnered with a local social worker to start a nonprofit that works to get children living in poverty back into school. This work, along with his experience in Iraq, helped him to understand that “the first step to helping people is to try to understand where they are coming from.” Upon returning to Wisconsin, Samuel applied to UW–Madison but was not accepted. He enrolled at Madison College and applied himself with determination. On his second try, he was accepted. He will graduate this May and was recently accepted into the nurse residency program at the VA hospital in Madison.

As a child, Rose Chujor admired the nurses at her community center in Southern Nigeria, but she did not have the opportunity to pursue college. She worked as a secretary for several years in Nigeria, married, and had four children. In 2000 she joined her husband in Tajikistan where they worked with an organization that helps children, refugees, and people with HIV. During this time, her passion for nursing grew. In 2008 her family moved to the United Kingdom where she volunteered in her community until 2013 when they moved to the U.S. Once in the United States, Rose struggled to find work and decided to pursue a degree in nursing. Although she was able to get financial aid, the financial stress has been significant for her family. In addition to studying, Rose works as a certified nursing assistant, helps her children with their homework, and volunteers with the Salvation Army and the UW–Madison MEDIC program.
Olinka Clark took her first college course in 1992, while incarcerated in the Wisconsin prison system. Though she faced many obstacles, her determination and dedication helped her complete a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice 23 years later. She decided to continue her academic studies by enrolling in UW–Madison’s School of Social Work, where she is on target to complete a master’s degree in 2019. Olinka also founded the only Wisconsin chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers here in Madison. She dedicates her persistence to her three children and nine grandchildren.

Chance Cork is completing a degree in materials science and engineering. His path to UW–Madison was difficult. He experienced a challenging childhood until a stable family took him in and encouraged him to attend Madison College after high school. In addition to attending school, Chance got a job and an apartment so he could support his younger sister. Chance decided to transfer colleges, but it did not go well, and he ended up dropping out. After working for six years, he returned to Madison College with a clearer goal and an encouraging partner. He then transferred to UW–Madison where he has pushed himself to learn new skills and become involved in leadership roles in his department. He is looking forward to his “dream internship” this summer as well as getting married after graduation. He and his partner are considering becoming foster parents and hope to start a nonprofit that helps foster youth transition into college.

Tierney Cushman is a single mother to a beautiful five-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, nutritional sciences, and potentially occupational therapy in a NICU.

A nontraditional, first-generation student, Melady Elifritz is pursuing a double major in philosophy and gender and women’s studies. Her passions include growing and preserving food, community organizing, and being challenged by new ideas. Melady has worked with K-12 youth for many years and is also a birth and postpartum doula. Her work as a child and family educator and food sovereignty advocate informs her theoretical lens at UW–Madison and beyond. Her current work involves such diverse topics as sex workers’ rights, epistemic injustice in academia, and ecofeminist philosophy.

Lizeth Garcia-Jennings always knew she wanted to help people. She began her undergraduate degree 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 her 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.
Mariglen Gjoni had a difficult upbringing watching some of her close family members suffer from a lack of access to health care. Her personal mission is to provide as much relief as she can for patients and families. Her journey has been challenging, but she kept going because of a promise she made to her grandfather. She started and stopped her education twice, never giving up on her final goal. Thanks to UW–Madison, she is now closer than ever to realizing her goal of providing medical care to those who need it most. She looks forward to doing that in underserved communities in the Chicago area.

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 them strengthen communication skills within their 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 on her educational path. She is most proud of making a place of belonging for herself on the UW–Madison campus. She looks forward to applying what she has learned to serve and support youth and their families in Madison and beyond.

Brandon Hahn has done things the hard way his entire life, entering the military straight out of high school, starting a family while being deployed overseas, and starting a career first then going back to school. He has done all of this with a smile on his face, uttering his motto: “I love a challenge.” He still stands by that claim, and he is ready for whatever challenge life throws at him next. His loving children encourage him to learn something new every day, and he encourages them to do the same.

Robert Hall is an undergraduate researcher and scientist in training. He left UW–Whitewater when he was 18 after completing only one semester. Ten years later he began again at UW–Waukesha with the goal of transferring to UW–Madison. He also hopes to study evolutionary biology and potentially science writing in graduate school. Using his own resources and the help of key people in the community and academia, he now is achieving his dreams. At UW–Waukesha he earned an associate’s degree and made friends with dynamic professors and staff. At UW–Madison he is forming connections with wonderful people who help others thrive.

Although Willa Henner attended Madison College after high school, she struggled with depression and left school to work as an early childhood teacher. Six years later, she returned to school, motivated by her son and the desire to address unfinished business. She completed an associate’s degree and transferred to UW–Madison, where she is completing a degree in special education. Willa says she can hardly wait to take the tools she’s been given and use them to make a difference in the world. While she is excited to achieve her goals, she is also a little sad to be leaving what she calls “one of the most amazing experiences of my life.”

As a first-generation Filipino-American immigrant, Jose Bien Rafaelo Hernandez has been disadvantaged throughout the course of his educational career. This, however unfortunate, has fueled his desire to pursue higher education and serve others. Through education, he has uncovered opportunities to not only overcome his own obstacles but, more importantly, act as a role model, providing a path that gives others the hope and optimism necessary to liberate them from their fears and limitations.
After earning an associate’s degree, Jennifer Holland was unsure what she wanted to do next so she left home to work at Yellowstone National Park. She planned to stay one season but ended up staying four summers and two winters doing a wide variety of jobs, from scrubbing buses to leading tours and driving an over-snow vehicle. Although she liked many aspects of the work and loved the outdoor experiences, she realized she needed more job security and stability. She moved to Madison to take care of her aunt who had cancer and enrolled at UW–Madison. Although she has encountered a number of hurdles, including ACL surgery and the deaths of her grandmother and a close friend, Jen has been active in the community. She has served as co-facilitator of Queer Climbing Social at Boulders Climbing Gym and is also an intern at Girls Inc. Jennifer will earn a degree in community and environmental sociology and plans to work with nature based youth programs.

Hanna Hubiankova is a second-year student at UW–Madison. She is pursuing a double major in music performance in the College of Letters and Science and graphic design in the School of Education. She started her higher education in Belarus majoring in choral conducting and folk music. She is interested in art, music, folklore heritage, and education.

Nicholas Jackson dropped out of high school and earned a GED, and then left school again to work and care for his mother, who was suffering from muscular dystrophy. After her death he kept working, holding various leadership positions around Madison. Motivated by his interest in entrepreneurship and art, he decided to go back to school years later. He is currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree in retailing and consumer behavior as well as a certificate in studio art, and is looking forward to an internship at American Family Insurance.

Jennifer Johnson is a master’s degree candidate in the La Follette School of Public Affairs at UW–Madison. Jennifer began her higher education career at Madison College in 2009, and then transferred to UW–Madison in 2014. In 2015, she graduated with a bachelor’s degree in political science. Jennifer worked at the Latino Academy of Workforce Development and the Wisconsin Elections Commission before beginning graduate school. After graduation, she hopes to effect positive change in her community.

A former art major returning to school to cross an item off his bucket list, Craig Kunkel has immersed himself in study and research. His three scholarly loves are philosophy, art, and nature. They are the reasons he now studies environmental science and plans to pursue a master’s degree. His goal is to one day conduct research, advocate for conservation and reasonable environmental regulations, and creatively communicate those needs to the public. His dedication has earned him opportunities and honors he never imagined for himself previously, and he is grateful to all the people who have supported him on his journey. While his studies come first, when time permits, he enjoys video games, martial arts, board games, woodworking, painting and drawing, travel, and hiking.
Tenzin Kunsang’s parents fled Tibet for a refugee camp in India, where she and her brothers grew up until they moved to the U.S. in 2002. Tenzin’s family needed the extra income she could provide, so she entered the workforce after high school and put aside her plans for more education. She worked as a certified nursing assistant, with nurses who encouraged her to pursue a nursing degree. She started this path at Madison College, where she was a full-time student while also working full time. Then she transferred to UW–Madison and was accepted into the nursing program. Tenzin volunteers at the student-run MEDIC clinic, is an interpreter for the Tibetan community, and has engaged in community nursing in rural Wisconsin. She plans to pursue additional education in nursing while addressing the health issues of patients in need.

Maritza Lahodik acknowledges that many people encounter difficulties and obstacles during college, many times through no fault of their own and other times as the result of poor choices. She has seen people reprioritize their goals as they grow older and finish raising their children. Even when goals shift, people still have educational dreams and lots to offer society, but reentering school can be difficult both academically and financially. She is thankful for the financial and academic support she has received to help her achieve success in her education and career goals.

Jessica Landergott is a second-degree student pursuing a degree in physical education with a minor in health education and an adaptive concentration. While working as an elementary school teacher, Jessica found that she really enjoyed teaching physical education, so she returned to school. She feels that being passionate about what she teaches fosters an environment where students can become passionate about learning. Although taking a break from full-time teaching has presented financial burdens, Jessica was willing to take this risk to work in a field where she feels she truly belongs. Her hard work and dedication to her education are reflected in her academic achievements.

As the child of refugees from Vietnam, Moua Lee was encouraged to go to college but lacked the motivation and drive to be successful. That all changed when he enlisted in the U.S. Army as a combat medic. Through his combat experiences in Afghanistan, he learned what was most important to him and gained the perseverance he needed to work toward his goals. He returned to college with a new sense of conviction and direction. While in the Army, he had the privilege to teach soldiers. At UW–Madison, he tutors other students and has been involved in research. He is earning a degree in pharmacology and toxicology, and he intends to pursue a doctorate of pharmacy at UW–Madison.

Brian Lu graduated from UCLA with a bachelor’s degree in biochemistry in 2015 and attended a Bible school program for two years to gain Bible knowledge and character training. After a break in his education, he came to Wisconsin for a doctorate in pharmacy, with the hope of gaining enough expertise to tackle health care problems in the U.S. and provide better care for patients.

Kerri Mack is a registered nurse and single mother who worked in health care while attending Madison College part time from 2011 to 2017. She graduated from Madison College in 2017 with an associate’s degree in nursing. She is pursuing a career focused on women’s health and wants to become an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant. She hopes to eventually become a certified nurse-midwife and work at a birthing center in a Madison hospital.
Angeline Mboutngam was raised in a Cameroon village where the privilege of going to school is largely limited to male children and girls are looked upon as property and prepared for marriage at age 15. This was the case in her family. In 2004, she moved to the U.S., where her eagerness for knowledge led her to attend an adult learning center. Here she learned to speak, read, and write in English and earned a GED. Upon moving to Madison, she realized she wanted to be a role model to her children and a more productive member of the community. She started classes at Madison College and began volunteering for several organizations, including a club that provides clothing and food to students from underserved populations. Her transition to UW–Madison was difficult, but she found the resources to be successful while pursuing her bachelor’s degree in community and nonprofit leadership. She is active in many groups, including the Wisconsin Union Directorate and the CEO Student Advisory Board. She also volunteers at her children’s school and the St. Vincent de Paul Pharmacy. She hopes to attend pharmacy school in the future.

Devin McDonald’s path from high school to UW–Madison was by no means conventional. Before coming to 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. In his studies of history, political economy, philosophy, and politics, he seeks to understand the historical context and political infrastructure responsible for the social inequities faced by many people he knows, including his loved ones back home in Seattle and people he interacted with while abroad.

Maureen Mead returned to college at age 40 to complete a secondary teaching certificate. Her motivation at that time was to support her two young girls and share a similar schedule with them as a teacher. She is pursuing a master’s degree for professional educators, which allows her to expand her research and develop a curriculum focused on culturally responsive teaching practices. While balancing teaching, solo parenting, and grad school coursework, she is continually inspired by the resilience and drive of her 10th grade students at Madison East High School.

Naomi Snow Miicke always wanted to return to college but it wasn’t until she was laid off and moved to Wisconsin that she started taking math and science classes. These classes reignited an interest in botany and environmental studies and led her to apply to UW–Madison. In addition to being a student, Naomi works, volunteers for the Community Action Coalition, and helps parent her partner’s son. Naomi is considering applying to graduate school in a few years to pursue her interest in phycology, seaweeds, and algae. For now, she is considering a job at a shellfish farm in Washington, which would allow her to be closer to her daughter and grandchildren.

Reynaldo Morales is a UW–Madison dissertator pursuing a joint PhD in the School of Education and the Nelson Institute of Environmental Studies. It focuses on the restoration of indigenous knowledge systems and the protection of indigenous genetic resources. He spent six years working with the Department of Biochemistry, the POSOH Project, and the College of Menominee Nation on a USDA grant for science and environmental education incorporating indigenous knowledge. During the last five years, he assisted with a tribal youth media project and global health field course. He also organized and
facilitated an international seminar on global indigeneity and sustainability with the Institute for Regional and International Studies and teaches an ethnic studies course, “The Native American Experience,” at UW–Platteville.

Brittany Neal is a student in the part-time master’s program in UW–Madison’s School of Social Work and works full-time as a service coordinator for the Community Development Authority. She is also a mother of two kids who enjoys spending time with family and friends.

A Marine Corps veteran, Deidre Nieman thought she would have a lifelong career with the military. But after four years with two deployments, she decided to switch to the Marine Corps Reserves and become a nurse. She completed her prerequisites in San Diego and was getting ready to move back to Wisconsin to attend UW–Madison when she and her fiancé learned they were expecting a baby. The baby was due the same semester she would be starting at UW–Madison, and her fiancé would be deployed overseas. Although having a baby partway through the semester required her to work ahead and get additional help, she managed to make it work. She is now near the end of her program and was recently accepted into the nurse residency program at the VA hospital in Madison.

Carmen Nightfall grew up in the rural mountains and desert of Arizona, hearing stories of the great grandmother she was named after, a Pasqua Yaqui curandera (medicine woman). By experiencing her great grandmother’s generosity, grace, and compassion, Carmen learned the fundamentals of kindness and developed a desire to help others. Her grandmother always said she wished she could have gone to high school, which was uncommon in her era. She would be so proud that Carmen is a UW–Madison student. Carmen’s great-grandmother would smile knowing that she is pursuing a career in genetic counseling, a health career that allows her to compassionately and professionally help others.
Onyekachi Nwoke received a bachelor’s degree from Benedictine University in 2012. She is a research assistant at the Wisconsin Institute of Medical Research’s neuroradiology laboratory and a full-time student working toward a doctorate in pharmacy. She has several years of experience in education and research. She spent time working and traveling across the United States and to many different countries with no particular destination but a goal: to find her center, her purpose, her home. In traveling the world, she found home. Her purpose became global health work, education, and empowerment through scientific knowledge.

Rebecca Parmentier is beyond ecstatic that others have supported her so generously. This has encouraged her to believe in her goals and dreams, and strive toward what once seemed impossible. In her work after graduation, she hopes to make a unique contribution to the health of the community. She has many people to thank, including her two sons, who have demonstrated a unified commitment to excellence in education. She has loving and supportive family and friends, and is grateful for all the help in making life work. She is proud to be a part of the amazing UW–Madison community.

Jen Proud is a first-generation college student majoring in molecular biology and minoring in integrated studies in science, engineering, and society. She is an Undergraduate Research Scholar working in the Lindroth Lab of Chemical Ecology. A lifelong love of dogs led her back to independence after a devastating accident left her with multiple disabilities, and in spring 2017, she started college at UW–Madison. She plans to graduate in spring 2020 and hopes to attend graduate school.

Angela Ramos pursued a career in restaurant management after two semesters of college. Although she found this career satisfying for many years, she eventually wanted something more intellectually challenging. Part of her motivation came from her desire to be a role model for her two children. By returning to school, she demonstrates how to confront challenges and setbacks while maintaining a sense of hope and resiliency. Angela is completing a degree in psychology and English literature and hopes to engage in a career that helps provide educational opportunities to underserved communities. While a student, she has tapped into her love of language as a Writing Fellow and published original works in several literary journals.

Darlene Shafer is a single parent of two teenagers, which has provided ample practice in perfecting her arguments. This should come in handy when she starts law school next year. When not in class she can be found cheering on her kids at basketball games and mountain biking competitions, hosting team dinners, and hiking with her dogs. As a nontraditional student and female small business owner, Darlene believes in and embodies this precept by Helen Keller: “Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved.”

Though Ingrid Simpson has been through a lot, she has kept her focus on what she holds true to her heart. Working as a hospital corpsman in the Navy solidified her desire to work in health care. Providing medical care as a nurse will be a long-awaited dream come true. In addition to helping her accomplish her dreams, this scholarship will allow her to work fewer hours, focus on her education, and spend more time with her daughter. She hopes to eventually become a nurse practitioner.
Rachel Smith is a returning adult student who began her educational career at UW–Madison in 2003. After marrying her husband, purchasing a home, and raising a young family, Rachel returned to the university in 2011 to continue her undergraduate career in psychology. Throughout her college experience, she commuted 120 miles daily and raised five children with her husband. She aims to complete her degree this year. Rachel believes resolve and perseverance are vital to overcoming obstacles. She plans on giving back to her community after she finishes her degree and hopes to work with children and families.

Benjamin Stapleton and his wife knew his return to college would be a major time-management challenge. As a dual-career family with demanding careers and young children, they realized Ben would have to confront some bad habits if he wanted to complete his degree. These bad habits prevented him from attaining his goal in the past, and not having a degree was holding him back professionally. With the support of his spouse and several advisors, he is now completing a degree in sociology. He plans to continue his career in information security and looks forward to new career options in the future.

Growing up in Louisiana, Cameron Thain became interested in cooking at a young age. Whether working with monstrous crustaceans or the most humble tomato, transforming the fruits of the field, ocean, or garden into an intoxicating meal was captivating. As a UW–Madison food science student, Cameron’s experience has include tempura, ice cream, cheese, and milk. He hopes to work in research and development, transforming food into innovative and honest products.

Chee Thao is studying to become a soil and water science engineer. He completed his undergraduate work at UW–Madison in fall 2016 with a major in soil science and a certificate in environmental studies. He was accepted into the biological systems engineering master’s program in fall 2017 after interning with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department, and the City of Madison Stormwater Engineering department. He credits his accomplishments to the sacrifices of his family.

Eau Claire’s Lisa Wilson is passionate about human rights and social justice. As she pursues a master’s degree in social work, she is especially motivated to become a mental health practitioner. She also has a special interest in addressing the needs of the LGBTQ+ community. Despite life’s many hardships, Lisa has excelled in academia. She has extensive experience helping homeless families with children in a shelter setting. Lisa connects well with families and seeks to empower her clients as they work toward self-sufficiency. At home, she is a compassionate and hardworking mom, friend, and wife. Lisa’s strengths include easily connecting with people and advocating for her clients.
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 Rosenberry. 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.

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. 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 Youmans 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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