A celebration of
Outstanding Adult Students
Scholarships and Awards

THURSDAY
APRIL 29, 2021

Picnic Point | 2000 University Bay Dr
The 2021 Celebration of Returning Adult Students

SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD RECIPIENTS & BADGER READY PROGRAM GRADUATES

Congratulations to all the students who have been selected to receive awards and scholarships as well as those who completed the Badger Ready Program to become transfer students. In a uniquely challenging year, you demonstrate an exceptional commitment to higher education while balancing family, work and personal responsibilities. It is our privilege to honor each of you and the hard work you put forth as you work toward your goal of completing a degree at UW–Madison.

The following scholarships are funded by the organization listed and by private donors to the Adult Student Scholarship Fund.

Tami Elizabeth Burns is a transfer student in the RN to BSN Online program. In 2015 she earned an associate degree in nursing from Madison College. Since graduation she has worked at Mercy Hospital in Janesville, WI, as a clinic nurse in neurology, then in Madison as a dialysis nurse. She current works for UW Health as a bedside nurse in the Heart and Vascular Progressive Care unit. This year she, like many nurses, has had an abundance of new experiences when all IMC (intermediate care) prepared nurses were needed to assist in staffing COVID-19 units. She plans to continue to work bedside while pursuing first a bachelor’s degree, then a master’s degree in nursing.

ASHLEY FEARN

As a single mother who is a full-time commuter student, Tierney Cushman doesn’t have time to work many hours. Additionally, her son’s therapy and other to-dos for his health leave even fewer hours a week for her to work. Because her son is at higher risk of contracting COVID-19, they have been quarantining at home since the pandemic began. She is unable to work at all now and is trying her best to make ends meet. She needs to graduate on time in order to get a job that could provide for her and her son, and in order to do that she needs financial assistance. There is no possible way she could pay for or continue schooling on her own without the financial support provided by scholarships.

LUCRETIA FAIRCHILD

Ashley Crawford is a graduate of UW–Madison with a major in community health. She is now pursuing a master’s degree in physician assistant studies through the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. Despite the many challenges she has faced throughout her journey, her resilience and determination continue to propel her to manifest her dreams of becoming a clinician. As a Black woman, Ashley knows all too well the negative impact that racism has on the health outcomes of communities of color. With a passion for social justice, public health and medicine, she plans to work toward dismantling the systems that reinforce widening health disparities between white and underrepresented Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC).

ASHLEY CRAWFORD

Lucretia Fairchild didn’t delay education to attend to crises and care for loved ones, but instead decided she would interrupt her education to go on a whole bunch of adventures. Now she is having the experiences of returning to school, family crisis and being a support to a loved one all at the same time! Timing has never been her forte, but enthusiasm, creativity and persistence in completing her PhD are. She expects to complete her PhD studies next year, barring natural disaster (or maybe even in the event of).

TIERNEY CUSHMAN

Lisa Fick is in the School of Nursing Doctor of Nursing Practice program and is looking forward to becoming a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner after graduation. She has worked as a registered nurse for 11 years in the mental health, addictions and medical areas of nursing and has found these experiences more rewarding and interesting than she imagined. She has continued to pursue a graduate degree to grow her abilities and further contribute to the field of nursing — and to society. Experiencing losses has helped her to assist those she works with in their mental health journeys. She enjoys spending time with friends and family and the outdoors.

ASHLEY FEARN

Returning adult & single-parent Scholarships

 reboot reentry scholarship

Shue Gottschalk returned to complete a bachelor’s degree in communication arts. Inspired by her rural roots and Midwestern do-it-yourself ethic, she has spent decades exploring 45 states and making a home in five of them. A lifelong lover of art and photography, she’s passionate about documenting the way humans express their uniqueness and connect with one another. Her thirst for culture and far-flung places has paved her exploration of 20 countries, culminating in a seven-month sabbatical circling the Mediterranean...
while living out of a backpack. Shue aspires to use visual communication and digital media to drive social justice and environmental change in an increasingly polarized world.

RETURNING ADULT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Aliya Heber is a second-year graduate student at UW–Madison attending the Part-Time Master of Social Work program. She obtained a bachelor’s degree from Knox College in gender and women’s studies. She is currently an intern at Henger Enterprises Ltd, where she will be gaining employment upon completion of the internship. She is interested in working with sex offenders and reforming sex offender policy.

JOE CORRY AND BARBARA WESTON CORRY SCHOLARSHIP
UNIVERSITY LEAGUE SCHOLARSHIP

Jed Heckman was born in Wisconsin Rapids. As a child, he enjoyed reading, writing and exploring in the woods surrounding his community. As he grew older, he became interested in writing and playing music, learning a number of instruments and performing in many bands over the years. College did not seem to be a fit initially. He decided to focus on work instead and started a career he enjoyed for an employer he liked working for. He was married in August 2005 and following that, he celebrated the birth of two children, Elias in 2007 and Rory in 2011. As they grew it became clear to him that continuing his education was important, and he once again enrolled in college.

CRANKSTART REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP
BERNARD OSHER REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP

Kristi Kimote is a first-generation college graduate and is on her way to receiving a graduate degree through the Part-Time Master of Social Work program. Her dream is to work as a school social worker, preferably in an alternative or at-risk school setting. This passion was ignited several years ago when she read Let Justice Roll Down by John Perkins and moved to Pasadena to volunteer with his nonprofit organization. Kristi currently works full-time in a middle school office in the Fox Valley while raising two school-aged children with her husband. Her family has overcome many trials, including her daughter being diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at a young age.

RETURNING ADULT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP
PLATO SCHOLARSHIP

Nicole Knutson first enrolled at UW–Madison in the fall of 2008, but her academic journey came to an abrupt halt due to the overwhelming presence of mental illnesses. Throughout the years since leaving college, she has worked diligently to overcome the many obstacles she has faced. She persevered and her success propelled her to return to finish the adjourned educational quest at last. She is now fervently pursuing her lifelong dream of obtaining a bachelor’s degree in personal finance. She hopes one day to provide education and guidance to others that will impact their financial futures and help them achieve their financial goals.

CRANKSTART REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP
BERNARD OSHER REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP

Kasey Kohlhardt is currently obtaining a master’s degree in the Part-Time Social Work program. She works full-time at Central Wisconsin Center as a client rights facilitator. One of her greatest passions in life is being a voice for those who cannot speak up for themselves. Kasey is going to use her education to become a clinical social worker in mental health. She intends to educate the public on eliminating the stigmatization that often occurs with having a mental illness. Kasey likes to find the light in the darkness and would like to be that light for many people in the future.

RETURNING ADULT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP
PLATO SCHOLARSHIP

Noel Kroeplin spent years as a wild poet and dreamt of being a goat farmer. Along the way, she realized her true calling was medicine. Noel is a physician assistant student who lives on a water buffalo farm in western Wisconsin with the loves of her life. After struggling through years of undiagnosed depression, anxiety and ADHD, she now gets to have her cake and eat it (which is great because she also loves to bake). She is eternally grateful that she was able to move beyond her struggles, the same struggles many others have drowned in. She hopes to help others forge their own paths to health as a physician assistant in her rural community. She still writes poetry.

RETURNING ADULT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP
STUART DAILY SEEDS OF LEARNING SCHOLARSHIP

Tara McCloskey is the working mother of a 2 ½-year-old girl. She is employed by Tornado Steakhouse and has worked there for 10 years. In addition to being a single mother and working a full-time job, Tara also attends school full-time at UW–Madison in pursuit of a degree in nutritional sciences. In her free time, Tara enjoys outdoor activities, walking and running with her daughter and lifting weights. She is an accomplished cook and is passionate about the role that nutrition plays in overall health. Tara has a personal training certification from the American Council on Exercise (ACE) and has coached clients. She would like to use her gifts and abilities to better serve the community.

CRANKSTART REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP
BERNARD OSHER REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP
SINGLE PARENT UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Dustin M. McKindsey has always loved education and confrontation. The culmination of the two made for a rather tumultuous educational journey. An avid reader and learner of all trades, his greatest fear is simultaneously to never become an intellectual and to espouse that he is one. He is a first-generation student and a UW–Madison Badger Ready alum seeking a bachelor’s degree in psychology and evolutionary biology. He is the quarantine kindergarten teacher of his 6-year-old daughter and primary childcare provider for his 1-year-old son. If not for his partner and two children, he would have never believed in himself enough to entertain the idea that he would one day attend a university.

CRANKSTART REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP
BERNARD OSHER REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP

Megan Mercier is a first-generation undergraduate student who returned to UW–Madison after 15 years away. In the interim she became a single parent to two daughters, an author, filmmaker, public speaker and domestic violence advocate. While living nearly 10 years below the poverty line, she has worked multiple jobs while studying, volunteering, writing and working to create a warm home for her children, a home filled with love, imagination and the pursuit of justice. She returned to UW–Madison in 2020, achieving high grades while studying for the MCAT. She plans to graduate in 2022 and begin graduate studies.

NANCY W. DENNEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
OSHER REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP

A few months before his 30th birthday, David Meyer was diagnosed with ADHD, and a crushing weight he never knew was there was lifted from his shoulders. That 2013 diagnosis helped David understand his past troubles with higher education and other aspects of life and gave him the determination he needed to get back on the path to obtaining a bachelor’s degree. After getting his life in order following too many years of disorder, David followed his dream to enroll at UW–Madison. He plans to earn a bachelor’s degree in applied mathematics, engineering and physics in pursuit of what he calls his “moonshot career goal” of becoming an aerodynamicist for a Formula One racing team.

CRANKSTART REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP
BERNARD OSHER REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP
Ashley Mills has dreamt of being a social worker for numerous years, yet her mental health challenges had kept her from fulfilling this dream at a younger age. She is excited to return to the classroom at her dream school, UW–Madison, and to be learning about all the wonderful ways to effect positive change in today’s world. She hopes to be an advocate for oncology patients when she graduates with a master of social work degree.

ALMA BARON SECOND CHANCE FOR WOMEN SCHOLARSHIP

Lianne Milton is an American photojournalist and documentary photographer. Her work examines the impact of socioeconomic issues by focusing on nuanced relationships between people and their environment — from global migration to the lasting effects of poverty and violence. Lianne has received grants from the Pulitzer Center and the Yves Rocher Environment Foundation. She is also an International Women’s Media Foundation (IWFM) fellow and has been published widely in news journals. She was based in Brazil for seven years before becoming an Interdisciplinary Artist Research Cohort fellow at UW–Madison. Her current research is on transgenerational memory and motherhood.

RETURNING ADULT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP
PLATO SCHOLARSHIP

Monica Rodriguez Morris obtained a bachelor’s degree in environmental engineering from the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico in 2018. She served as the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Caribbean Young Professionals liaison for three years, conducting outreach activities for college students. Currently, her work focuses on solid waste management and how environmental impacts of material disposal change according to consumer behavior and the regional availability of waste treatment and disposal options. She is pursuing a master’s degree at UW–Madison, working in Professor Andrea Hicks’s Emerging Technologies Lab in the civil and environmental engineering department.

RETURNING ADULT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP
STUART DAILY SEEDS OF LEARNING SCHOLARSHIP

Amy Mueller is a doctoral candidate in curriculum and instruction in the School of Education and the mother of a toddler and an infant. Amy overcame homelessness, mental health issues and childhood poverty in order to become an elementary school teacher. Since then she has continued her passion for education and helping underserved communities.

RETURNING ADULT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Carmen Nightfall was a poor kid with a poor education and a rich heart. Always asking questions, she has long been curious about the workings of the world and people. Her inquisitive nature led to the discovery that higher education was, in fact, accessible to her, despite having been told by her high school counselor that Native kids get jobs, not a college education. The more Carmen learns about the scientific world and about the science of people, the more she is amazed and fascinated by them! Thanks to UW–Madison and generous scholarship donors, she has been able to combine her interests of science and how people work to give back to both as a social sciences and analytics scholar.

CRANKSTART REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP
BERNARD OSHER REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP

Eryn Opgenorth is a driven, fun and adventurous person who decided to go back to school for a master’s degree 12 years after completing her undergraduate degree. She is always striving to learn about all things science and really enjoys her current job at the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. Being a full-time student while also holding a full-time job has been a challenge, but she is excited to continue and take all that a master’s degree in biotechnology can offer her.

RETURNING ADULT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP
CYNTHIA MCCREARY HOLBROOK YOUMANS UNIVERSITY LEAGUE SCHOLARSHIP

Kelly Otto is pursuing a long-awaited graduate degree at UW–Madison in the Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis (ELPA) program. Lacking confidence in scholastic abilities and struggling with dyslexia, Kelly created a successful career in fitness. After having two children, she earned a bachelor’s degree in English with a secondary education minor. She was 39 at the time. Teaching high school English, Kelly found her vocation empowering students who lack access and confidence in their abilities. At Madison College she currently teaches students who are starting their college journey. Kelly’s passion is to support all students with engaging curriculum and by creating a college community that thrives because of its diversity. Inspired by her students, Kelly continues to support quality higher education for first-generation and low-income students in Dane County.

ALMA BARON SECOND CHANCE FOR WOMEN SCHOLARSHIP

Rebecca Parmentier is proud to be a UW–Madison undergraduate and single mother earning a degree in psychology and theatre and drama with a dance therapy certificate. Her goal is to do research in body-mind medicine, with the purpose of making nourishing therapies available to people across all socioeconomic backgrounds. In the crossover space of psychology, theater and dance, she has learned the importance of honoring emotions and their expression as an important facet of healing. One’s greatest difficulties in life can be harnessed and overcome through reconnecting with one’s true self through forgiveness and connecting to others. She now recognizes that her experience and life matters to this world and is grateful to be a part of this community.

CRANKSTART REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP
BERNARD OSHER REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP
SINGLE PARENT UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

In her pursuit to complete a lifetime academic goal, Molli Pauliot is currently in her fifth year of a PhD program in cultural anthropology. In 1998 Molli completed a bachelor’s degree in sociology at Viterbo College and in 2002 completed a master of social work from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. After working and advocating for American Indian families, she returned to college to complete her lifelong goal of earning a PhD. A recent cancer survivor, she strives to overcome every barrier life puts in her way. Molli’s goal is to conduct research on her Ho-Chunk community in a cultural appropriate manner and share their stories in way that will benefit future generations. Molli and her husband, Dean, currently care for two young relatives as foster grandparents.

RETURNING ADULT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Kewiana Pollard is a Madison College graduate with an associate degree in liberal arts and is currently studying communications at UW–Madison. Following graduation she plans to attend law school, with the goal of practicing civil law. Kewiana is a woman with many hats; she once served as Madison College’s Black Student Union president and as the communication and recruitment coordinator for the school’s volunteer center. She has also held student chairs on several of Madison College’s boards! Working closely with the Office of Equity and Inclusion, she successfully assisted in organizing several community events targeting racial justice issues. She is responsible for working with programs to help strengthen the parent and school relationship. She is also a single parent to three boys.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN-MONONA/MADISON BRANCH SCHOLARSHIP
CRANKSTART REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP
Ma Guadalupe Miranda Ruiz is a beauty professional who has been able to maintain her business for the past 14 years while raising her children. She has also been able to attend UW–Madison and is very close to fulfilling her dream of obtaining a bachelor’s degree in retail and consumer behavior. She is a hard worker who, as a single mom, dedicates her life to her children while attending school. Her goals are to finish her education and become a successful professional.

Bernice D. Kunej Scholarship

Emily Sanford is proud to be a nontraditional adult student in the UW–Madison School of Nursing. While raising her three daughters, she engaged in many diverse pursuits. She ran an in-home childcare, started a birth and postpartum doula business and worked as a certified nursing assistant in a variety of healthcare settings. For a brief time, she even ran a small farm share, delivering weekly bundles of vegetables, eggs and flowers. After divorce and rebuilding her life as a single mother, she began to prioritize her aspirations and seek financial stability. In her future nursing career, she hopes to be an agent of positive change in her community and an advocate for equality and compassionate care for every patient.

Plato Scholarship

Maria Katia Vine, originally from Lima, Peru, moved to the U.S. over 10 years ago with the hope of a better future. Three years ago she was able to complete an associate degree in liberal arts at Madison College after discovering that she couldn’t continue the degree program she had begun in Peru (Veterinary School) without completely starting over. Currently, she is pursuing an undergraduate degree in genetics and genomics at UW–Madison. She looks forward to applying to the master’s degree program in genetic counseling this year so that she can provide services and support to the Latinx community. Katia works as a Spanish medical interpreter for Access Community Health Centers; before that she worked for other hospitals and clinics in Dane and Columbia counties. While working at the various clinics and hospitals, she noticed the shortage of Spanish-speaking providers and the need for them. This was the reason she decided to pursue a career in genetic counseling. She is a mother of a 2-year-old, living in a house with two cats and two dogs. Going back to school was a difficult decision to make, but with the support of her family and husband, she has been able to succeed in her goals.

Returning Adult Student Scholarship

Mara Williams from Mineral Point, WI, returned to the Physician Assistant program after a medical leave. At 32 weeks pregnant with her second child, Mara was diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer and underwent chemotherapy, surgery and radiation with a newborn and 4-year-old at home. The very next spring, Mara returned to school and began again, determined to be one who will shed light into rural areas, where the need for healthcare providers is high. Mara’s background as a marriage and family therapist and ESL teacher, along with her unique experiences as a cancer patient, will aid in her goal of starting a low-cost mental health clinic in rural southwest Wisconsin.

Bernice D. Kunej Scholarship

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.”

Nominees

Zalei Lewis has faced many challenges on the road to completing the RN to BSN program. She has used a service dog in the past and had to fight to have her dog allowed into clinical settings, at one point enlisting the help of a U.S. senator. She has faced her own disabilities but also those of her two children, now 16 and 17, as she pursued education and work over the past several years. Working as a psychiatric nurse and an investigation/regulation nurse, she has the opportunity to advocate for those who have a small voice or no voice. She plans to stay in these fields for the rest of her life.

Newton Solomon is of Ukrainian and Cuban descent and grew up mostly in Cuba, except for a three-year adventure living with his grandmother in Ukraine on the Crimean Peninsula. He emigrated to the U.S. in 1994 and attended high school in Miami. After taking the ASVAB in high school, he was recruited by the Navy and enlisted. While in the Navy, he took classes on and off but didn’t see the value at the time. When he and his wife, who he met and married while they were both in the Navy, moved to Edgerton, WI, to be close to her family, he decided to return to school. He started at Madison College then transferred to UW–Madison, where he is majoring in nuclear engineering. According to his nominator, Newton has maintained a strong academic performance and is a leader among peers in class despite taking care of a young family at home during the pandemic. He plans to work in the nuclear industry after graduation.
FINALISTS

Dan Gerstl bit off more than he could chew when entering college right out of high school. He ended up leaving school but always planned to return someday. A decade later he returned to UW–Stevens Point at Wausau to restart his education. While there, he met amazing staff and faculty who were an influence on his journey to UW–Madison, a school he never dreamt of attending. During his time at UW–Stevens Point at Wausau, he was recruited by his programming professor to be part of the campus programming team, which he went on to captain. He was asked to tutor other students in computer science. The icing on the cake was winning three academic excellence awards in computer science, mathematics and physics. At UW–Madison he has balanced a full load while working part-time for Geek Squad and has been offered a full-time position with Best Buy corporate headquarters, which he will start after graduation in May. He takes pride in all that he has accomplished. He would like to attend graduate school so that someday he can teach and give back.

Kassandra Gossens is grateful for the experiences she has had as a nontraditional undergraduate student, despite the many challenges. After many successes at Madison College, where she earned academic honors, a leadership award and was the commencement speaker at her graduation, she transferred to UW–Madison. As a full-time nontraditional Badger, she is studying psychology, is a McNair scholar, belongs to the Psi Chi honors society, pursues undergraduate research and has a part-time career. She works as a behavior technician, providing therapy to children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. Kassandra is appreciative of the support systems of the McNair Program, her research mentor and the Transfer Transition Program. She is thriving at UW–Madison and, according to her nominator, “shows strong leadership, incredible perseverance and admirable generosity to other students.”

Her parents enrolled Janel Hutchison in a ballet class when she was eight years old, which eventually led to her 13-year career in professional ballet. At one point she realized that the parts of ballet she found most fulfilling were connecting with people, working collaboratively, and investing in her community. This drove her to begin pursuing a college education, which she started at Milwaukee Area Technical College while still dancing full-time with the Milwaukee Ballet. After years of exploring career options, she transferred to UW–Madison to pursue a bachelor’s degree with majors in community and environmental sociology and life science communications as well as an environmental studies certificate. In addition to attending school full-time, she has been working as a strategic communications assistant for the Nelson Institute, where she has gained critical on-the-job training as a communicator. She is also working on a local worker–cooperative startup project seeking to strengthen Madison cooperative housing. After she graduates this spring, she will pursue a master’s degree in human ecology. She continues to maintain her connection to the world of ballet by teaching ballet, collaborating with local choreographers and performing locally with the Madison Ballet.

WINNERS

Jesus Garza-Noriega is a husband, father, military service member as a United States Marine and full-time student attending UW–Madison. Jesus is the son of immigrant parents that came to America to provide him and his siblings with a better future. He is a first-generation college student and the only person in his family to attend college and receive a degree. Furthermore, Jesus has been accepted as a McNair Scholar and is working tirelessly to one day receive a PhD in counseling psychology at UW–Madison. Jesus is motivated and dedicated to his academic and professional endeavors by his community and his family.

BERNARD OSHER REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP

Before immigrating to the U.S., Marianna Globacheva lived in Moscow where, as a teenager of the 90s, she experienced long hours in line for food. Public school education was marginal, and her parents moved frequently so she changed schools often. Despite the frequent change in schools, she developed a strong interest in STEM courses and envisioned a career in medicine for herself. Unfortunately, her parents did not share that vision and even if they had, private STEM teachers were not affordable to her family. Marianna majored in public administration but was not happy, so she left school. After she and her boyfriend started a family and their finances were more stable, Marianna attended community college to become a midwife. Her goals for practicing midwifery could not be met in Russia, so she moved to the U.S., where she completed an associate degree in nursing at Madison College and is now in the RN to BSN@Home program through UW–Madison. She wants to become a maternity provider for the most vulnerable.
After graduating from high school, Jeffrey Hickel attended UW–LaCrosse but decided college wasn’t for him at that time. An athlete in middle school, Jeffrey took up guitar while recovering from an ankle injury. That led to a successful music career that took him on tour all over the world. He enrolled in UW–Madison’s Summer Intensive Portuguese Institute, which led him to learning about the Badger Ready program. He began completing the Badger Ready requirements in spring 2020 and was admitted as an undergraduate transfer student this spring. He is pursuing a degree in communication arts and is thinking about a leadership role in communications as his career.

After four years of military service in the United States Air Force, Benjamin Hickey decided to change course and return to school to complete an undergraduate degree. He had previously attended classes part-time while fulfilling his military obligation but decided that attending school full-time was more in line with his career and personal goals. He is working on achieving a degree in computer science in the College of Letters & Science. Despite the unique challenges of the current educational situation brought about by the pandemic, he continues to work hard towards this goal with the support of his family, University Veteran Services and other UW–Madison support. Originally a Minnesota resident, Benjamin currently resides in Madison.

Mayra Olguin took classes part-time to complete an associate degree in liberal arts at Madison College. It was her goal to transfer to UW–Madison, but she had no idea how to go about the process until she saw an ad for the Badger Ready program. Mayra was admitted as an undergraduate transfer student this spring after successfully completing the Badger Ready program requirements. She is balancing parenting, school, and work as a nursing assistant while pursuing a degree in human development and family studies.

Suzanne Sweetnam was born and raised in Madison and went to West High School. After high school Suzanne attended Vassar College for two years and then returned to Madison. She worked different jobs during a prolonged pause in her formal education and had a second chance to complete a bachelor’s degree through her participation in the Badger Ready program at UW–Madison. Suzanne is now an undergraduate student in the College of Letters & Science and is majoring in social welfare. Suzanne has worked professionally in various social services positions and aims to use her education and skillset to continue serving members of our community. She has plans to obtain a master’s degree in social work after completing a bachelor’s degree at UW–Madison. Suzanne’s eventual career objective is to become a licensed clinical social worker and substance abuse counselor to provide dual diagnosis counseling to residents of Wisconsin.

Mark Clark is a husband, father and business professional. After starting college the more traditional way, he was unable to finish a degree and thought that was the end of his academic career. However, after nearly 20 years, he decided it was time to roll up his sleeves and finish a bachelor’s degree. His major, political science, has always been a passion of his. After moving back to the Midwest after nearly a decade on the West Coast, he was excited by the prospect of pursuing a bachelor’s degree at a flagship university like UW–Madison. Mark is enthusiastic about the opportunities that come along with having a bachelor’s degree and is looking forward to seeing where it might take him. He is also thrilled about setting a good example for his children and being part of the UW–Madison community.

Alexandra Hentzen served in the Navy, where she attended Nuclear Power School. In the fall of 2019, she started at UW–Madison in the Badger Ready program as a returning adult student. After successful completion of the program requirements, she was admitted as a transfer student for spring 2021. She is working towards her goal to earn a bachelor’s degree in mathematics with a concentration in nuclear engineering and a certificate in education and educational services. Ultimately, she wants to become a Naval officer through the Naval Nuclear Power Officer Candidates program to teach nuclear power operations to the enlisted community. In addition to being a full-time student, she is also raising her son as a single parent.
Acknowledgments

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.

**Crankstart** is a program supported by husband and wife, Michael Moritz and Harriet Heyman. The **CRANKSTART REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP** assists nontraditional students who, after experiencing a cumulative gap in their education of five or more years, are completing a first baccalaureate degree.

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 **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.

**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.

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**Outstanding Undergraduate Returning Adult Student award committee**
- Dr. Elton Crim
- Mari Magler
- Martina Diaz
- Darren Martin
- Contributions to our scholarships and awards are greatly appreciated.

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