

# Small Gifts, **BIG PROMISE**

UC DAVIS SCHOOL OF EDUCATION  
**ANNUAL FUND REPORT (2013-14)**



**THE UC DAVIS SCHOOL OF EDUCATION** is pleased to present this report on the impact of Annual Fund support in the 2013-14 school year. Gifts to the School's Annual Fund provide the foundation for our philanthropic program and strengthen all of the School's activities, from offering top quality academic programs and student support to providing programs, advice and expertise to youth, community leaders, and policymakers throughout the state and nation.

Every gift makes a difference. No matter their size, gifts to the Annual Fund increase the power of each of us to support the School's students, faculty, and scholarship, while also strengthening the University's unique dedication to public service from which our entire region benefits.

Last year's average gift to the School's Annual Fund was \$78. This report features the people whose lives have been enriched through the generosity of each and every gift made to the Annual Fund last year.



**WE THANK** *all of our Annual Fund donors for their generosity and shared vision of a brighter future for all.*

*Every gift makes a difference.*

**PHILANTHROPY** has truly helped shape the School of Education, providing our young School with the ability to grow into one of the top 50 schools of education in the country in just 12 short years. Most importantly, unrestricted giving like the gifts we receive through the Annual Fund provides us with the flexibility to allocate funding to areas where it is needed most.

# STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS A Top Priority

## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS ARE A TOP PRIORITY

Student support is critical to the continued growth of the School and its ability to provide high quality teachers, researchers, and education leaders. Meet three of our students who received Annual Fund Scholarships this year thanks to gifts made between July 2013 and June 2014.

### Dean Shreve

TEACHING CREDENTIAL STUDENT/  
ANNUAL FUND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



**ARMED WITH A BAD ATTITUDE AND A LOVE OF READING**, Dean Shreve passed sixth grade by memorizing *Romeo and Juliet*.

"I was failing, but my teacher offered 1 point of extra credit for every line of the play we memorized, so I did the whole play; she begrudgingly gave me an A in the class," recalls Shreve.

Shreve, who is a student in the UC Davis School of Education's teaching credential program, has taken a long and winding road to become a teacher, a goal he set in fifth grade when another exasperated teacher challenged Shreve to be quiet or take over: "I taught the class one day. I loved it and I did a fantastic job," said Shreve.

The irascible boy grew into a troubled teenager who struggled with alcoholism and barely graduated high school. "I got kicked out of the house my senior year and moved to Washington, working odd jobs for a couple years," he said. Eventually, he worked on a fishing boat in Alaska for six months, all the while continuing to read literature voraciously and dreaming of becoming a teacher.

When he saved enough money, he moved to California, enrolled in Diablo Valley College and got a job waiting tables. When the restaurant went out of business, he lost his job. "I was so in debt, I couldn't afford to buy textbooks."

Driving by an Army recruiting station, he decided on the spot to enlist in the infantry. "I figured I could get money for college, but what I didn't realize was that in the military I would learn the discipline I had been lacking, and I learned to lead." Rising through the ranks quickly, Shreve became a non-commissioned officer. "I was the guy they sent the problem soldiers to," he said.

In 1999, Shreve was deployed to Kosovo. He returned to California in August 2001, joined the National Guard, and enrolled in college. Then September 11th happened, and he was deployed to Ft. Lewis, Wash., and eventually Iraq.

*"I have learned that you can only divide your resources so far," said Shreve, a father of three with another on the way. "Without the Annual Fund Scholarship, my whole family would be eating ramen. It's great knowing I can focus on my students and go the whole year without worrying about having to drop out. As a teacher, I will return this gift multiple times through my students who I really believe will change the world."*

– Dean Shreve, teaching credential student

"My time there made concrete all the things I noticed were important for a society: the Iraqis supporting us were educated; the people fighting us, weren't," said Shreve. "I also realized that I am always connecting with people. I shared poetry with our interpreters and they shared theirs with me. That was true when I was in Kosovo, too. I shared my love of literature with Albanians and Serbians, alike. It all just solidified the importance of education for me."

In 2004, he re-entered community college. He received his BA in English from UC Davis in 2012. He took a year off to teach English in Spain, earned a master's degree, and researched teaching credential programs. Now, he is doing his student teaching at Florin High School in Sacramento and is determined to provide support and guidance to students who may be struggling as he once did.



# Michal Reznizki

PHD STUDENT/ANNUAL FUND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

## A "WRITING PROFESSOR IN TRAINING,"

Michal Reznizki is wielding her expertise in classical rhetoric and composition to shine a light on how PhD students are trained to teach writing.

"I am really interested in teacher training because this is the key to understanding the teaching of writing in higher education, and it may have some implications on the way writing is taught at the secondary level," said Reznizki.

Now entering her fourth year in the UC Davis School of Education's PhD program, Reznizki must devote her time to collecting data on the 90 national PhD programs in rhetoric and composition and to interviewing prominent professors who teach in these programs. Then she will take on the task of writing her dissertation.

An Annual Fund scholarship makes this possible.

"This support is really helping me focus on the research," said

Reznizki. But more important than the funding may be the boost to her morale. "I know that the School of Education cares and is doing everything it can to help students. Getting this scholarship indicates that students really matter and that someone is recognizing my hard work. It is not just a gift; it is very motivating."

Reznizki, who was born in Israel and for whom English is a second language, earned an MA in English literature from San Jose State University. "I've known since I was 12 that I wanted to study in the United States," she said. She chose UC Davis for her doctoral studies because she values the "practical pedagogical approach" that is offered through what she has learned is a unique program.

"There are very few rhetoric and composition PhD programs in the country, and ours is one of them," she said. She credits her advisor Dana Ferris, a professor in the University Writing Program and a faculty member of the Graduate Group in Education, and the program with "opening a lot of doors" into applications for her research.

"I'm glad I took this path," she said.



# Destiny Ramos

STUDENT TEACHER/ANNUAL FUND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

## FOR THE YOUNG DESTINY RAMOS (BA 2014),

school was not always a source of joy. Growing up in Fairfield, Calif., Ramos received little encouragement from teachers and struggled academically. Then she entered fourth grade, and everything changed.

"My fourth grade teacher made me feel like I was not a problem," she said. "When I became successful as a student, I knew I wanted to be a teacher."

Thanks to an Annual Fund scholarship, Ramos is now able to, well, fulfill her destiny. Because her path to teaching was not straight, she is grateful for the financial and moral support that gifts to the Annual Fund provide to aspiring educators like her.

Her grandfather told her that as a teacher, she would be "poor," so after some college, she began working at the Solano County courthouse, eventually becoming supervisor of the collections department. "It was not for me," she said.

When she became a CASA (court-appointed special advocate) for abused and neglected children, she knew she had to get back to college. "I remember helping one girl who was failing science pass her class," said Ramos. "I quit my job and enrolled at UC Davis, with the intention of eventually earning my credential from the School of Education."

At the age of 29, Ramos found entering and affording college a challenge. As an undergraduate, she worked two jobs while holding down a full load of courses. "Going back to school

*The UC Davis School of Education is "creating really great teachers. Everyone in the program—the faculty and my fellow students—have good hearts. The focus is on diversity and community building. Other programs I looked at just don't compare."*

— Destiny Ramos, student teacher

was scary. I had no idea how I was going to pay for it, so I had to work," she said.

But after a full day of student teaching and education classes well into the evening, earning a credential is more than a full-time job. "The Annual Fund scholarship allows me to give my all to the classroom and my students and to absorb all that I can learn. This support is a tremendous advantage and a blessing," said Ramos.

Comparing her experience in the classroom, her preparation for teaching, and the support she receives from the Annual Fund to a "huge circle" of community building, Ramos has taken her own education full circle.

"I spoke to my fourth grade teacher when I got accepted into the credential program and thanked him for all that he did for me," said Ramos.



# Making a Difference



## Marcela Cuellar

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

"The funds I have received from gifts to the Annual Fund will help me right away to attend conferences, where I can disseminate my research and get additional perspectives from colleagues, and to jumpstart my research regionally. I want to thank everyone who made a gift to the Annual Fund. As a new faculty member, I don't have a lot of external funding, so this really helps me represent the School of Education at a national level and bring more attention to our work here."

## A LITTLE SUPPORT FOR NEW FACULTY CAN JUMPSTART NEW RESEARCH

The School is pleased to welcome three new faculty to the School this fall (read more about them in the Fall 2014 *Catalyst*, pp 10-12). Gifts to the Annual Fund help us provide a leg up to these early career scholars to establish themselves, make connections with other scholars, and represent their work as an integral part of the School of Education's research.

## OTHER ANNUAL FUND GIVING BENEFICIARIES

Listed here are just a few other ways gifts to the Annual Fund helped make a difference this past year.

- **Honoring Educators Outstanding Student Award:** Each year, the School honors outstanding students, alumni, faculty, and education advocates at its annual Honoring Educators award event. Only the student honoree receives a cash gift, which they use for research or travel related to their studies.



Thomas Shirley

**Thomas Anh Shirley**, (PHD '14), 2014 HONORING EDUCATORS OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDEE. Thomas Shirley completed his PhD in education in June. His interests include psychometrics, language learners, and eLearning. He holds a Master of Business Administration in International Business and a Master of Science in Computer Information Systems from the University of Miami. Prior to his doctoral studies at UC Davis, he held roles as a mergers and acquisitions advisor and executive with McKinsey, KPMG, and General Electric (GE).

- **Student Conference or Professional Organization Membership:** PhD students have many opportunities to present their research, but often lack the ability to cover the cost of travel or membership. Gifts to the Annual Fund provide support to students who have great promise and great need.
- **Distinguished Speaker Series:** The Annual Fund helps to defray the costs of welcoming educational scholars to the campus each year to present their research and to interact with students and faculty.

## CREDITS

### SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

**Harold Levine**, dean

**Paul Heckman**, associate dean

**Alison Morr**, executive director, development and external relations

**Damian Chapman**, assistant dean, finance, administration and strategic planning

**Susan O'Hara**, executive director, REEd (formerly the CRESS Center)

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## PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A GIFT

We are very grateful to our alumni and friends who made gifts to the School's Annual Fund this past year.

Thank you for including the School of Education in your philanthropic giving this year. As the voices and heartfelt thanks of this year's beneficiaries attest, small annual gifts really can add up to BIG PROMISE.

Please make your Annual Fund gift today at:  
<http://giving.ucdavis.edu/SchoolEd/AnnualFund>