About the Fund — 50 years and still on the journey

In 1961, veterans of the student sit-in movement boarded buses with hopes of desegregating the south, putting their lives on the line, building an ever growing student movement, and that same year, a one of a kind scholarship fund was created. The first meeting of the Marian Davis Scholarship Fund was convened on August 26, 1961 at the Davis home in New York City. The Fund was founded by a group of students who believed that education was a fundamental right and that all students should have access to higher education. The Fund's mission was to provide scholarships to students who were committed to social justice and were pursuing education to effect change.

The Fund has been a steady force in the student movement for over 50 years. It has supported thousands of students who have gone on to become leaders in their communities and have made significant contributions to social justice movements. The Fund has played a role in mentoring and supporting generations of activists, including many who have gone on to become leaders in their fields.

The Fund has been able to remain strong and vibrant due in part to the commitment and support of its trustees, sponsors, and supporters. The Fund has received support from a variety of sources, including foundations, individuals, and organizations who share the Fund's commitment to social justice.

In 2011, the Fund celebrated its 50th anniversary and looked back on its history, reflecting on the impact it has had and the role it continues to play in supporting student activists. The Fund continues to be a vital and important resource for students who are committed to making a difference in the world.

The Fund's work is ongoing and continues to be supported by its trustees, sponsors, and supporters. The Fund is committed to continuing to support student activists and to working towards a world where all people have access to education and the opportunity to effect change.

Keep the Fund strong for the next 50 years:

- Give a generous donation – there is no endowment, your contributions determine how much we can award.
- Invite your friends to support the Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund.
- Connect the student activists in your life to the Fund – applications are available on the website and must be postmarked by April 1.
- Plan for the future of student activism by including the Fund in your will.

Make an online contribution at www.davisputter.org
Davis-Putter grantees continue on the journey as part of a 50 year legacy of courageous and creative student activists, forging new paths in the struggle for peace and justice.

Ryah Aqel, a leader in the Arab-American activist network, builds coalition and organizes Palestinian solidarity through rallies, demonstrations, educational forums and film festivals while working on a Masters in Near Eastern Studies at NYU. Ashraf Ashgar builds movements for justice in Palestine through strategic non-violence, conflict resolution and policy advocacy and organizes with the Vermont Worker Center's healthcare campaign while completing a leadership degree at the School for International Training. Mariana Bruno co-founded the South Central Farm Community Center in LA to make affordable organic produce available, organize against police brutality and develop an independent media outlet while working toward a History and Chicano Studies degree at UCLA.

Martine Caverl has organized for workers rights, reproductive and health justice, against the prison industrial complex and military recruitment, founded Rising in Solidarity with Ayiti, organizing support for Haiti's struggle for sovereignty, and is attending Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. Sonja Diaz led campaigns in solidarity with striking AFSCME workers and for educational equity at UCLA and now studies at UC Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law, where she organized the Berkeley Law October 2010 walkout delegation for educational equity in California. Shereen D'Souza supported land reform and water access campaigns in Costa Rican farming communities, led food access and urban agriculture movements in the Bay area and plans to work on national food justice policy after completing a Masters of Environmental Science Degree at Yale. Brooke Eliazar-Macke organized actions in support of the Morning After Pill Coalition of the National Women's Liberation, has advocated for national healthcare and now at CUNY School of Law, is involved with the National Lawyers Guild and Women in Prison project. Remeike Forbes organized against cuts in campus service worker pay and jobs, co-founded the Harvard Anti-War Coalition and is studying graphic design at the Rhode Island Institute of Art with plans to use his art to organize and educate workers. Melissa Gilbarg challenges disparities in housing, health and education based on race and economic status and recruits and develops grassroots leaders to build effective campaigns that create systemic economic change while completing a PhD in Anthropology at CUNY. Adrian Lowe has worked for 20 years in movements for LGBTQ civil rights, economic justice, prison abolition and public health and plans to work in civil rights and criminal law focusing on the needs of underrepresented transgender people after completing law school at Temple.

Rickie Mananzala has spent the last decade building coalitions to advance public policy in the LGBTQ, racial and economic justice movements and is completing a BA and MA in Urban Studies and Public Policy at NYU with plans to work with grassroots groups on multi-issue organizing. David Morales co-founded a counter-recruitment coalition as a high school junior, restricting the ROTC program and eliminating marksmanship training in the entire San Diego Unified School District, and has become active in anti-racist and student access movements while enrolled in the Latin American Studies program at UC San Diego. Felipe Matos will complete a BA this year at St. Thomas University, while working to end deportations, promote the DREAM Act and to push back racial profiling perpetrated in programs such as Secure Communities and 287g which gives local law enforcement increased power to carry out federal immigration law. Ezinne Nwankwo organized efforts to defeat a proposed building project that would construct homes on a radioactive site in her community and plans to continue working on the environmental impact of other communities after completing a master's in Public Health at University of Michigan. Luke Patterson has worked against police brutality and war, for affirmative action, freedom for Mumia and justice for Oscar Grant, and co-founded Social Workers for Anti-Oppression and Equality at Columbia University where he is working toward an MSW. Christian Peruyero has led protests of budget cuts and tuition hikes to make CUNY a liberated space for oppressed nationalities while continuing solidarity efforts for Puerto Rican independence and will complete a BA in Puerto Rican Studies at Lehman College/CUNY this year.

Carlos Roa works to stop deportations of students and pass the DREAM Act, was a "Trail of Dreams" organizer and participant and currently works with Presente.org maintaining its social media organizing, while seeking an Associate's Degree in Architecture at Miami Dade College. Matt Smucker created Beyond the Chooz.com to mobilize those not already involved in progressive movements, organizes with the Bradley Manning Network and has been Occupying Wall Street, while completing a BA in Social Movement Theory at Goddard College. Tania Unzueta co-founded the Immigrant Youth Justice League to stop deportations, created the "Undocumented and Unafraid" campaign and continues building immigrant rights, LGBT and labor movements in Chicago where she is working on an MA in Latin American & Latino Studies at the University of Illinois.

The 2011-12 Jessie Lloyd O'Connor Scholar

Each year the Fund selects a grantee who exemplifies the lifelong commitment to peace and justice modeled by Jessie Lloyd O'Connor, a labor journalist, organizer and an early member of our Board. Our Jessie Lloyd O'Connor Scholar this year is Maricela Aquilari. Concerned about how her undocumented status would impact college admission, Maricela contacted Voces de la Frontera where she learned to organize actions and mobilize students to work for instate tuition in Wisconsin, which they won in 2009. She led student efforts in Wisconsin protests last spring, organizing buses daily to go to Madison and coordinated a student walk out, marching to the University and taking over the concourse while she led a teach-in on the new budget. She said that was the most inspiring movement moment so far and gives her hope that people from labor, immigrant communities, teachers and students coming together can create the future of Wisconsin. She currently organizes with the Spanish speaking Network and participates in a young people's listening group about the political economy of race-ethnicity. In the fall of 2011 she enrolled in the Political Science and English at Marquette University with a goal to create and sustain a strong foundation for immigrant youth movements, a goal modeled by Jessie's lifelong support of student activism.