

# The 2010-11 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 **Kandace Vallejo**, a 2008 grantee who found movement work as an undergraduate organizing against the war and supporting the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and the Student Farmworker Alliance on campaigns including mountaintop removal, immigrant farm worker rights, and ending human rights abuses in the agricultural industry. After arrest at the 2004 RNC protests, she began organizing with the Student Environmental Action Coalition and now works for Proyecto Defensa Laboral, an immigrant workers' rights organization. Kandace attended the free university of Brazil's Movimento dos Trabalhadores Sem Terr, inspiring her goal to challenge capitalism and systemic oppression by opening a free, accredited university for marginalized social groups after completion of a master's in Education at University of Texas, Austin - a goal we are sure Jessie would encourage.



Kandace Vallejo

Davis-Putter honors the memory and legacy of Marilyn Buck, political prisoner, poet, civil rights and anti-imperialist activist and a 2003 and 2004 grantee, who died August 3, 2010. She wrote the following words of support for our grantees and all student activists...

“Delights me to see all the folks studying, working for social justice. No matter what occurs politically, even the worst, there will always be those who will rise to resist injustice and to imagine a world where humanity lives in harmony with nature and itself, quite an undertaking which requires immense imagination and creativity! Carry on! Marilyn “



Make an online contribution at [www.davisputter.org](http://www.davisputter.org)

## Anne Braden Award

Following Anne Braden's death in 2006, the Fund created an award to honor this long-time civil rights activist and Davis-Putter Trustee that recognizes an activist in the South who keeps racism central to all aspects of their work. This year we chose, **Moki Macias**. In response to an anti-crime, pro-police outcry from gentrifiers in Atlanta's inner city neighborhoods, Moki helped assemble a group of activists to reframe the message - police accountability, response to crime, and holding up strong communities with access to adequate services. The group founded BLOCS: Building Locally to Organize for Community Safety, a grassroots effort working for police accountability with a commitment to simultaneously addressing community-based safety and challenges to the prison industrial complex. Her thesis research at Georgia Institute of Technology will use the BLOC experience to explore the relationship between the presence of the prison industrial complex in neighborhoods and the ability to respond to violence by building power rather than relying on further criminalization. Moki is committed to cross-class, cross-race mass liberatory organizing and movement building, something Anne would not only support, but would readily join.



Moki Macias

## Imagine how your support creates change:

- Give a generous donation today—there is no endowment, only your contributions.
- Invite your friends to a house party that raises funds and awareness for Davis-Putter.
- Connect student activists in your life to the Fund.
- Plan for the future of the student activism by including the Fund in your will.

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## About the Fund

The Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund was created in 1961 as a memorial to Marian Davis, a teacher and advocate for peace, racial justice and the rights of working people. Organized by her husband, Horace B. Davis, the Fund honors Marian and her family's long history of standing up to McCarthyism. Norton Putter was a civil rights activist who brought needed resources and new energy to the Board in 1987. We are proud to be approaching a half century of supporting student activists who have the same commitment and passion for justice as Marian, Horace and Norton.

Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund

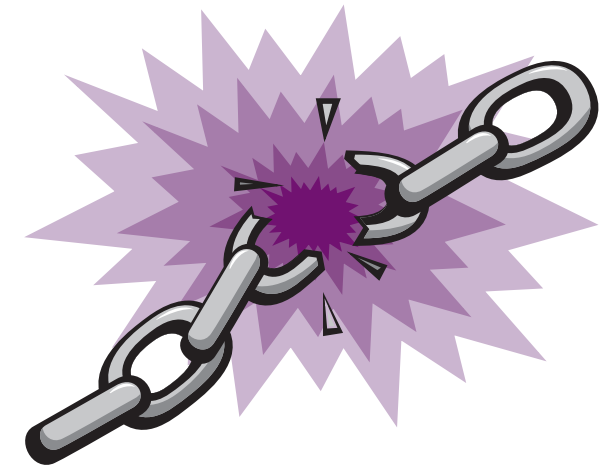
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# Until all



# are free

# 2010 2011

The **Davis-Putter**  
Scholarship Fund

# Grantees imagine a world where all are free

**D**avis-Putter grantees work creatively each day to break the chains of economic injustice, racism and all forms of oppression and repression. They imagine a world of true liberation, equality and peace and are building movements for systemic change.

**Ari Lev Fornari** organizes foreclosure eviction blockades, works to redevelop brownfields into affordable housing in Boston, and leads a chapter of Taanit Tzedek, Jewish Fast for Gaza, which creates solidarity between Jewish leaders and the people of Palestine while continuing rabbinical studies. **Valerie Francisco** creates international solidarity and works for the rights of Filipino immigrant workers as a leader of GABRIELA USA, an alliance of progressive women's organizations in the Philippines, and conducts participatory research with Filipino domestic workers toward completion of a PhD at CUNY. **Melissa Gilbarg** is an economic and racial justice organizer who builds power for systemic change with the Coalition Against Poverty through housing, education, living wage and voter empowerment campaigns, while seeking a master's in social work at Boston University.



Ari Lev Fornari

**Fnann Keflezighi** builds multi-ethnic student coalitions to create accessible education for



Valerie Francisco



Melissa Gilbarg



Fnann Keflezighi



Felipe Matos



Rachel Matteson



Alberta Nells

poor students and students of color and to challenge institutional, racist policies and actions while working on a bachelor's degree in Ethnic Studies at UC San Diego. **Felipe Matos** was a key organizer and participant in the 2010 "Trail of Dreams" walk from Miami to DC, and continues to mobilize support for immigration reform, access to education and an end to student deportations while studying economics at St. Thomas University. **Rachel Matteson** works in coalition on campus and in the community against US occupations in the Middle East, and is committed to building a mass

movement challenging the exploitation of workers and the environment while studying Global Security at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

**Alberta Nells** began speaking out at the age of 14 with the Save the Peaks Coalition and then co-founded Youth of the Peaks to educate about the negative impact of ski resort expansion on Navajo land, and will begin a degree in Indigenous Liberal Studies at the Institute of American Indian Arts. **Claudia O'Brien** mobilizes support for immigrant and worker rights with unions and community grassroots groups, and is part of a growing democratic and participatory student movement demanding a public education for all while studying Political Science at Hunter College. **Silvia Rodriguez Vega** organizes for immigrant rights and mobilizes weekly protests against oppressive conditions

created by Sherriff Joe Arpaio and the state of Arizona, created Teatro Nopalero, a Theatre of the Oppressed inspired project, and is beginning a master's degree in Arts Education at Harvard University.

**Heron Russell**, who created coalition between her high school Peace Club and community peace groups to organize civil disobedience at recruitment centers, educate students about alternatives to the military and mobilize protests against the war on Iraq, is beginning Peace and Justice Studies at Wellesley College. **Mayuran Tiruchelvam** is a film student at Columbia and storyteller of struggles, bringing lessons of grassroots activism to the filmmaking world while supporting Domestic Workers United through Regeneracion, a movement education project that he co-founded for children of activists.

**Alicia Virani** organizes to dismantle the prison industrial complex through campaigns to end police violence and disproportionate imprisonment of LGBT people, communities of color and youth, and co-founded INCITE! LA and Imprenta Transgender Law Project while completing a law degree at UCLA. **Shunya Wade** is a spoken word artist who challenges racist actions and policies, organizes for affordable accessible higher education and works in coalition with the Native American Student Alliance on repatriation issues while studying English at UC San Diego.



Claudia O'Brien



Silvia Rodriguez Vega



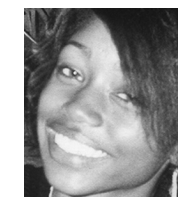
Heron Russell



Mayuran Tiruchelvam



Alicia Virani



Shunya Wade

**T**his year the Fund awarded a grant to a six-person college education committee at Lakeland Correctional Facility in Michigan, established and maintained by prisoners. The group advocates for educational opportunities within the prison system and encourages fellow inmates to participate - "promoting real freedom through academics". As many of our grantees work to abolish the prison industrial complex, we also support the efforts of these men to radically change the system from the inside.

**Donald Bolton** studies Sociology and Criminal Justice while assisting fellow inmates with writing legal challenges. **Robert Coleman** is committed to building the prison college program while completing a degree in Sociology. **Matthew Martone** seeks to transform the prison from "a warehouse for men into an academy that empowers them" while studying Psychology and Business. **Jamie Meade** is involved with community groups seeking prison and judicial reform while pursuing a degree in Sociology and Criminal Justice. **Bruce Micheals** is writing a book on college in prison and leads the College Education Committee while studying Sociology and Business. **Ahmad Nelson** is seeking a Sociology degree hoping to gain more knowledge in conflict resolution and dynamics of race, class and gender to be more effective in providing mediation with fellow inmates.



Donald Bolton



Robert Coleman



Matthew Martone



Jamie Meade



Bruce Micheals



Ahmad Nelson