

2022 UA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Linda Backus Memorial Scholarship

Marissa Cobeo

Marissa Cobeo is a graduating senior in the College of Education and Social Services at the University of Vermont. She is receiving her Bachelors in Social Work and minored in the Education of Cultural and Linguistic Diversity. Marissa has been very involved working with the BIPOC community in Burlington Vermont. Over the past 6 years, she has worked closely with Refugee youth and families in various programs. She has many years of advocacy experience in the field such as requesting and facilitating training for people working with minority youth, meeting with schools and community programs, and planning equitable programming. Marissa will be continuing her social work journey by attending NYU in the fall for an MSW.

David Shiman Scholarship

Ali House

Ali House is honored to be this year's recipient of the David Shiman scholarship. In the 1960s, David Shiman used his voice to advocate for fair housing legislation and other critical issues. Today, Ali and her community continue similar fights right here in Burlington. Ali credits her time at UVM, especially the Social Work Department, with helping her find her voice. Through her educational experience, Ali found the language to describe the injustices she has seen and felt in the world. She believes that language (and the refusal to be silent) liberates and empowers people. She plans to continue using her voice to stand for justice.

Jeffrey Brace Scholarships

Molly Gress

Molly Gress is a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences, graduating with majors in Economics and Environmental Studies and a minor in Community and International

Development. While at UVM, Molly interned with Sustainable Transportation Vermont (STVT) in her sophomore year and interned with a political organization known as Rights and Democracy (RAD) during her junior year. She utilized her knowledge of transportation and environmental issues in the STVT internship to work on a local biking initiative. While interning with RAD, she worked towards bettering her community organizing and communication skills to work on local social and environmental justice issues. After graduation, Molly hopes to gain opportunities that bring both the field of economics and the environment together.

Caitlyn Kutash

Caitlyn Kutash is a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences pursuing a double major in political science and sociology with a concentration in crime and criminal justice. This year she interned with the Office of the Federal Public Defender and the Chittenden County Public Defender's office where she assisted attorneys and investigators with criminal defense casework on behalf of indigent clients. Last year, she volunteered at the East Allen Dismas House in Winooski to create a resource manual for the residents to support their reintegration into their communities after prison. Through her internship experiences and coursework, Caitlyn has become an advocate for investing in community-based alternatives to incarceration. She hopes to attend law school in the future.

Emily Wanzer

Emily Wanzer is a senior studying geography and history, with curiosity and love for the natural world and belief in the power of disability justice. They have written about food justice initiatives across the state of Vermont and are working on a thesis about human-tree interconnection amidst settler colonialism. They are currently learning a lot about organizing through work with Resource Generation, which organizes young people with wealth and class privilege to become leaders working towards the redistribution of wealth, land, and power. Emily lives with loving housemates next to pigeon and squirrel friends and plays on UVM's ultimate

Frisbee team.

Hannah Rose

Hannah Rose is a recent 2022 graduate of the University of Vermont. During her time at UVM, she discovered her passion for social work and hopes to continue in this caring profession going forward. She shows her commitment for social justice through her position as the coordinator of the Social Justice Coalition of the UVM Outing Club, and through previous mentoring and leadership positions. Outside of the classroom, she most enjoys recreating outdoors, reading, and spending time with friends and family. Hannah will continue her social work journey in Seattle, Washington this fall.