

## Welcome Dr. Barbara Ransby

We are excited to welcome historian, writer and longtime activist **Barbara Ransby**, as our newest Fund sponsor. Dr. Ransby is a Professor of African American Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, and History at the University of Illinois at Chicago and director of the Social Justice Initiative and the Gender and Women's Studies Program. She is the author of *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision* and *Eslanda: The Large and Unconventional Life of Mrs. Paul Robeson*. Dr. Ransby is the founder of Ella's Daughters, a network of women working in Ella Baker's tradition and co-convened The Black Radical Congress in 1998. She has been a great supporter of student activism, and we are grateful for the many gifts she brings to the Fund!



Barbara Ransby with Julian Bond (also a Fund sponsor) at Freedom Dreams...Freedom Now! a conference sponsored by the University of Illinois, Chicago Social Justice Initiative marking the 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer.

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### Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund

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Solidarity!  
Solidarity!  
Solidarity!  
Solidarity!



2014  
2015



## 2014/15 Jessie Lloyd O'Connor Scholar – Tamanna Rahman



Each year the Fund selects a grantee who honors the legacy of commitment to peace and justice modeled by Jessie Lloyd O'Connor, a labor journalist, organizer and an early and beloved member of our Board, who with her husband Harvey, opened heart and home to activists seeking respite. Our Jessie Lloyd O'Connor Scholar this year is **Tamanna Rahman** who was politicized while attending an east coast private college where she experienced a very privileged environment. The disparity caused her to develop an analysis of power and wealth, labor and poverty. During summer internships, she worked with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force on an LGBTQ Immigrant project and then did a Union Semester in New York, working full time for a union, taking night classes and living in a radical community of student protests. She traveled to Bangladesh, retracing her parents' journey and became involved with Nijera Kori, a socialist, peasant organizing collective. After graduating, she went to work for UNITE HERE!, deepening her belief in the strength of solidarity. Tamanna founded a radical mental health group, focusing on her vision of movement-based healthcare. She sees her work intertwined with organizing and plans to become a Psychiatric nurse practitioner, providing holistic care in poor communities, while fighting to change standards of healthcare for poor and working class communities. She has completed her first year toward an MSN at Yale University. We believe Jessie would love Tamanna's revolutionary spirit and desire to create caring community while organizing for economic justice.

## The Marilyn Buck Award – Paul Perry



Marilyn Buck was a political prisoner and poet who worked in solidarity with Black Liberation struggles to end white supremacy. She received grants from the Fund in 2003 and 2004, and died of a rare cancer in 2010. Marilyn supported the Fund with regular donations and supportive notes from her jail cell, and with a generous bequest following her death. To honor her memory and legacy, **The Marilyn Buck Award** is given to an incarcerated or formerly incarcerated activist working for justice. This year, the award is given to **Paul Perry**.

Serving a life sentence without possibility of parole at Graterford Prison in Pennsylvania, Paul's movement work takes multiple forms, but is all based on the principle that "people in prison and people outside of prison are part of the same community" and need to work together to make wide-scale change. He is the internal director of the Prison Literacy Project, which he salvaged and grew over the last 14 years. He is a highly respected founding member of the Graterford Think Tank, the core group driving the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, which brings imprisoned students and outside students together as classmates in dialogue-rich postsecondary courses. Paul has coached hundreds of professors from across North America about this Paulo Freire/Myles Horton-style pedagogy of liberation. Paul has offered workshops for and with other prisoners, as well as coordinating with former prisoners who are doing another arm of the work out in the community, often hosting speakers' visits to Graterford such as Cornel West, Kahlil Muhammad, Michelle Alexander and other radical intellectuals. He works in a coalition building model, bringing incarcerated activists into working coalitions with community organizations and university groups on the outside to help make change. Paul's published or performed work includes an essay on the tragically flawed logic of life without possibility of parole; another essay on intellectual and political awakening; and a section of the performance piece,  *Holding Up: A New Prison Legacy*. He has begun a masters in Humanities program from Cal State Dominguez Hills.

## Thank you, Allison

**Allison Guttu**, a Davis-Putter grantee from 2004-2007 has served on our board of trustees for the past 7 years. In addition to her work as a staff attorney with Advocates for Children, she has led the Women of Color Caucus of New York Women's Liberation. Allison's passion for justice and equality has been ever present in her work for the Fund, screening and interviewing applicants and earnestly working to support and award the most deserving grantees. Allison has decided to step down from the board to spend more time organizing with the National Women's Liberation and Malcolm X Grassroots Movement. We will miss her enthusiasm and passion and wish her all the best in leading this radical work of her heart.



# Davis-Putter grantees organize in solidarity - building movements for peace, justice and freedom!

Believing that their own liberation is bound up with one another, our grantees are unwilling to tolerate oppression in any form. Recognizing that although their struggles are not the same, they each must work to find common ground - embodying solidarity. From LA, New York, Chicago to Ferguson, Mo, they are creating the unity and community necessary to make revolutionary change.

**dáko'ta alcantara-camacho**, a descendant of the Chamoru people of the Mariana Islands, uses spoken word to educate and mobilize indigenous communities to act against militarization and colonization while beginning an MFA program at New York University. **Brittany Brathwaite** is a leader in the reproductive justice movement, organizing with the NY Coalition for Reproductive Justice, mobilizing young women of color and examining the impact of institutional racism while beginning an MPH program at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. **Johnny Buck**, a member of the Yakama Nation and co-founder the Native Youth Leadership Alliance, focuses on environmental policy, leadership development and decolonization, while pursuing a BS in Environmental Science at Northwest Indian College.

**Robert Chan** organizes at the intersections of incarceration and immigration, co-founding "The Other Death Penalty Project" to educate society on life without parole while studying Sociology and Criminology at Colorado State University - Pueblo. **Victoria Crider** organized in support of the Chicago Teacher's Union strike, worked to reopen a trauma center in a high gun violence area with Fearless Leading by the Youth and is attending Southern Illinois University Carbondale to become a math teacher. **Denise Ford** co-created the Revolutionary Student Coordinating Committee responding to the militarization of CUNY and challenging the closing of the campus Morales/Shakur Community Center while seeking a BA in History and Political Science at City University of New York.

**Gloria Galvez** is a prison abolitionist with the Youth Justice Coalition and Critical Resistance in LA which is working to stop jail expansion through community education, direct action and a media project out of Cal Arts, where she is pursuing an MFA in Photo and Media. **Dustin Gordon** promotes education in prison, leads discussion groups on mass incarceration and is developing correspondence programs for those in solitary confinement while studying Sociology at Idaho University. **Karen Hanna** researches the history of Filipino Progressive/Anti-Imperialist Movement in the US toward a PhD in Feminist Studies at UC Santa Barbara, bridging community work and academia while organizing Filipino youth using a gender, class, disability, citizenship analysis.

**Mayra Hidalgo Salazar** is a rising leader in the Sarah Lawrence College for Immigrant Advocacy organization, moving administration to adopt immigrant-friendly policies, supporting efforts to stop deportations and mobilizing support for the Dream Act, while working toward a BA in Public Policy. **Ren-yo Hwang** is a core member of Dignity Power Now, a re-entry and resilience support space for formerly incarcerated queer/trans people of color, and is enrolled in a PhD program in Ethnic Studies at UC Riverside, researching the impact of state violence on community organizing. **Luis López** protested the racist and brutal murder of Anastasio Hernandez who was killed by border patrol agents and works in solidarity with the Oaxacan teachers union with Frente Indigena de Organizaciones Binacionales, while seeking a degree in Political Science at San Diego City College.

**Danilo Machado** works at the intersections of LGBTQ, undocumented immigrant and feminist organizing with Connecticut Students for a Dream and the Queer Undocumented Immigrant Project, while studying toward a BA in Literature/Creative Writing at University of Connecticut. **Marco "Mu" Maldonado** is a leader of the Restorative Justice Project at Graterford Prison, has been an Inside-Out Think Tank member, and writes for the activist groups *DeCarcerate, PA*, giving

voice to the realities and injustices of prison life, while working on a master's degree in Humanities at Cal State, Dominguez Hills. **Rickke Mananzala** became a youth organizer with FIERCE, an LGBTQ youth organization, later becoming their director and is now a national leader in LGBTQ, racial and economic justice movements, training grassroots leaders in multi-issue organizing strategies, while completing an MPA in Political Science and Public Policy at Columbia University this year.

**Adan Martínez** organizes with the United Coalition for Immigrant Rights to stop deportations and protest detention centers using an intersectional approach and is a leader of MEChA nationally and at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas where he will complete a BA in English and Women's Studies this year. **Lulú Martínez** is a leader among immigration activists who has been denied a DACA renewal because of her act of civil disobedience crossing from Mexico into the US as one of the Dream 9 last year and works with radical feminist scholars at the University of Illinois, Chicago, while pursuing a BA Women and Gender Studies. **Bruce Micheals** co-founded a College Education Committee at Lakeland Correctional Facility in Michigan, organizing now to start a national Incarcerated Students Association and continuing to create literature and programs to expand educational opportunities, while beginning an MA in Humanities at California State University.

**Aisha Mirza** is a leading voice of fourth wave feminism, co-founded UK Uncut, an anti-austerity direct action movement that spread globally, and with Everyday Sexism Project, forged a campaign resulting in a change to hate speech policies to keep women safer online, while beginning a master's degree in Feminist Activism at NYU. **José Mondragón Torres** co-founded the San Diego Immigrant Youth Collective to challenge deportations, the growing prison industrial complex and militarization of the US-Mexico border, while focusing on social justice education and radical pedagogies in a master's in Language Literacy program at the University of New Mexico. **Maria Peniche** organized with the Student Immigration Movement, became part of the Dream 9 in Nogales, Mexico, was detained and sent to solitary confinement for organizing other detainees and ultimately paroled, continues to work with the Bring Them Home campaign, while working toward a bachelor's degree in Political Science at Pine Manor College.

**Carlos Perea** co-founded RAIZ, an anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist youth resistance movement in Santa Ana, working to stop ICE raids and end the school-to-deportation

pipeline through their deportation self-defense network, while beginning a BA in Sociology at California State University, Long Beach. **Jasson Perez** is a leader in the Black Youth Project 100 (BYP100) and a movement rapper, organizing to stop the criminalization of Black youth and as part of the "We Charge Genocide" Coalition is calling on the UN to force police accountability, while beginning a BA in Economics at the University of Illinois Chicago. **Conor Tomás Reed** is a co-founder of Free University - NYC, creating pop-up education/organizing spaces for Strike Debt, Copwatch and May Day, led teach-ins and mass mobilizations for Occupy and anti-militarization efforts at CUNY and at Medgar Evers College, while seeking a PhD in English at CUNY Graduate Center.

**Myra Solliday** educates prisoners on their rights and works with community organizations to challenge the abuse, rape and harassment she and others have experienced at the hands of prison guards, while beginning a Psychology degree program at Ohio University. **Charity Tolliver** organizes for labor and tenant's rights, works to end the school-to-prison pipeline, and is building a new generation of Black organizers in Chicago through the Black on Both Sides project, while returning to school for a BA in Education at the University of Illinois, Chicago.

Read more about our 2014/2015 grantees on the website at [www.davisputter.org](http://www.davisputter.org)

Grant applications are available on our website in January and must be postmarked by April 1.

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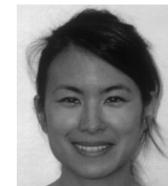
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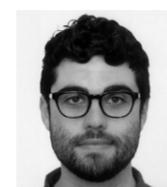
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