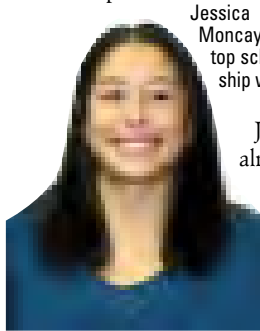


## Three Great Futures Are on Track With Club Scholarships

■ The Club Scholarship awards three children of Club members, celebrating achievement and the promise of a great future.

"I am so proud of her," said Cynthia Beltran, Housing Dept. employee, City worker for 28 years, Club member and mother of Jessica Moncayo, the grand winner of the Club's 2004 Scholarship.



Jessica Moncayo, top scholarship winner.

"She can accomplish anything she wants to."

Jessica Moncayo has already proven that to be true. She has won the top scholarship in Club's annual Scholarship program. She has already proven her worthi-

See Club Scholarships, Page 10

## Hail to the Interns!

■ Port program has reception for interns. Club sponsored gifts.

On Thursday, Sept. 2, the Harbor Department hosted the International Trade Academy (ITA) at Banning High School's Summer 2004 Internship Program culmination reception. The Port of Los Angeles has been a sponsor of the ITA since its inception by former Harbor Board Commissioner Carol Rowen. Martín Chavez, Harbor Department Human Resources Development Officer, with intern Rosio Becerra—a senior Public Relations major at Cal State University Dominguez Hills—administers the internship program.

See Interns, Page 36

Martín Chavez, Harbor Department's Human Resources Development Officer. Martín was responsible for coordinating the highly acclaimed internship.



■ Zoo employees go to extraordinary depths to serve the City.

Story and photos by Robert Larios, Club Operations Manager

Underwater photos by T.J. Jones, Zoo View photographer



Erin Fleming, Senior Animal Keeper, 6 years, with sea lions ready to have fish lunch.

It took an extraordinary vote of confidence for the citizens of Los Angeles to approve a bond fund to build the under-construction Sea Lion Cliffs exhibit at the L.A. Zoo and Botanical Gardens.

A handful of Zoo employees returned the favor, by going to extraordinary depths to serve this new gift to the City. Last month, after hard work, study and training, they became certified in scuba diving so that they can clean and service the new tank when it opens next year.

Only a handful of civilian City employees are scuba-certified for their job. These men and women are some of them.

"It is exciting to see the progression of our employees as scuba divers from their first dive to the last," said Zoo Director John Lewis.

The Sea Lion exhibit, designed about four years ago, was funded with donations and a bond. The

See Zoo Divers, Page 19

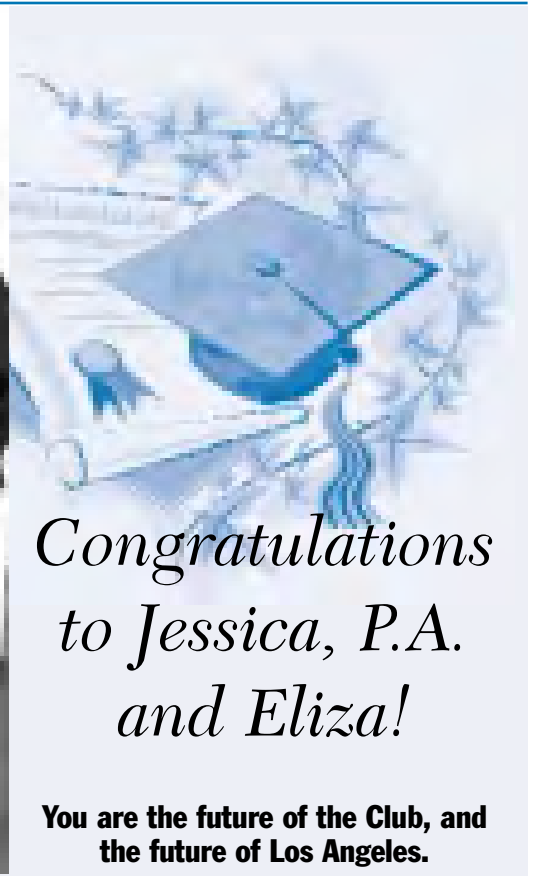
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### Inside This Issue

Letters to the Editor.....	3	Pet Club: Protect Pets from Disaster.....	17
LAX 9/11 Observance.....	4	Events 411: What's Happening Around the City.....	18
Political Forum: Dennis Zine, Councilmember District 3.....	5	Ontario Airport Annual Picnic.....	20
Harbor GM Keller Resigns.....	5	Harbor Dept. Golf Classic.....	21
LACECA: Chicano Assoc. Swears in New Board.....	5	Coloring Contest.....	22
Central Library's Performing Books Program.....	6	New GMs at IT and General Services.....	23
All In A Days Work: Ontario Landscapers.....	7-8	Club Staff and Members at Dodger Game.....	24
Halloween Safety Tips from LAFD.....	9	LAPD September Update.....	25
Happy Birthday LA and Club Members.....	11	Harbor Throws End of Summer Picnic.....	26
Congratulations to the Grads.....	11	West LA Sanitation Yard Annual Picnic.....	27
Retiree News.....	12	Life's Important Moments.....	28-29
LACERS Members to Pay Less for Healthcare.....	13	Dept. of the Month: Office of the City Attorney.....	30-33
New LACERS President: Thomas Mizo.....	13	Port of LA Lobster Fest.....	34
LACERS in the Black.....	13	Where in L.A.? Contest.....	37
LAFD Fireboat Retired.....	14	Alive! Around The Globe Contest.....	37
LAFD Battalion Chief Roy Prince Retires.....	14	New Club Promotion: Recipe Contest.....	38
DWP Recognizes Sergio Torrez.....	14	Cooking with the Club.....	39
LAPD Health Fair.....	15	Movie and Book Reviews.....	40
Pet Adoptions, Halloween Tips for Pet Owners.....	16	LAX Hosts Annual Employee Picnic.....	32
Pet Look-a-Like Contest.....	17	Classifieds Ads.....	41
		Discount Tickets and Merchandise.....	42-43



*Congratulations  
to Jessica, P.A.  
and Eliza!*

**You are the future of the Club, and  
the future of Los Angeles.**

The Club staff supports scholarship winner Jessica Moncayo (center) and her mother Cynthia Beltran, in the dark suit to Jessica's left.

## Club Celebrates City Family by Honoring 3 Scholars

### Club Scholarships

*Continued from Page 1*

ness of it by enrolling at Loyola Marymount University and continuing her challenging academic career.

She represents the very best of everything the Club stands for: excellence, hard work and family.

"The Club is all about families and recognizing excellence. We recognize the quality of our City employees every month in *Alive!*, and that's what the Club's scholarship program is all about," said Club CEO John Hawkins in introducing Jessica to the Club staffers who had gathered to applaud her at a event Sept. 7. "Recognizing excellence. Recognizing hard work. Building the City family. And giving back; those are all important to the Club.

"Jessica's accomplishments are really incredible and speak for themselves," Hawkins said. "She honors us with her presence."

This year, the Club selected three winners. Jessica won the grand Club Scholarship for \$4,000, and two children of Club members won scholarships of \$500 each. The other two winners are Philip Anthony Lava and Eliza Brown.

"As I introduce our Scholarship Winner, you might notice a theme: how important it is to give back to world," said Club Board President Robyn Barnes, who works in Police and Fire Pensions. "These great young women and one great young man insist on it. That's why we like them so much. They have accomplished much, and given back at the same time."

The Club Scholarship Committee was headed by Club CFO Brian Trent, with assistance from Club staffer Michelle Moreno. Candidates were judged on academic achievement and promise, need and service.



Club Board Chair Robyn Barnes (right) reads the accomplishments of Jessica Moncayo to the gathered Club staff at the event.

## Scholarship Winners

### Jessica Moncayo, winner of the Club's \$4,000 Scholarship



Jessica, the younger sister of Jennifer Moncayo, last year's Club Scholarship winner, won the top scholarship all on her own accomplishments. Briefly, they are:

- Jessica has a stellar academic record. She has just begun her freshman year at Loyola Marymount University in Westchester.
- At Bishop Alemany High School, Jessica was on the honor roll every semester. And this despite taking a large number of advanced-placement and high-level courses including physics, chemistry and calculus.
- She was a member of the National Honor Society all four years.
- She was a standout on the soccer team for four years. She was the team captain and MVP, and she won an all-league award, a coach's award and a leadership award.
- At the moment, her career goal is to become a physical therapist. She says she has seen all the severe injuries that athletes can sustain, and she wants to help others through healing their injuries.
- She has volunteered her time by tutoring elementary students, running book drives, and collecting and donating canned goods and clothes.
- She has also helped coach youth soccer teams.

- Her mother, Cynthia Beltran, has worked for the City for 28 years and works in the Housing Dept.

Jennifer deflected all credit for winning the top scholarship to her mom, Cynthia. "I want to thank my mom," she said. "She's my number one supporter. "Without her, none of this would be possible."

### Philip Anthony Lava, winner of the Club's \$500 Scholarship



The first winner of the \$500 Club Scholarship has already set a high level of achievement. Here's a summary of P.A. Lava's accomplishments:

- P.A. just entered his freshman year in college with his sights set on a Bachelor's degree—at least!—in biochemistry.
- He was also accepted into UC Irvine and USC.
- He graduated with honors from Damien High School in LaVerne, with an almost perfect grade point average.
- During the summer, he drove more than 100 miles (round trip) every week to volunteer with the LA Boston BioScience Research Group, performing lab research work in the fight against cancer.
- That's his educational and career goal: to become a cancer researcher.
- It's important to him because many in his

family have died of this awful disease. He wants it to end as soon as possible.

- He has a whole list of leadership credits, and he has also volunteered with at-risk children, the Red Cross, the Eagle Scouts and his church.
- P.A.'s mother is Amalia Lava, a database architect with ITA.

### Eliza Brown, winner of the Club's \$500 Scholarship

The third scholarship winner, Eliza Brown, has accomplished much through adversity:

- Eliza is currently enrolled at LA Valley College, where she is studying child development and the arts.
- She is an amazing success story of hard work and perseverance, as she continues to overcome the lifelong challenge of dyslexia.
- Despite this, she was on the honor roll at Grover Cleveland High School in Reseda, and she continues to progress toward her career goals.
- Eliza wants to design beautiful and stimulating educational materials that make learning fun, to help those who suffer learning challenges like she does.

- She has already created and developed educational tools that teach diversity and reinforce developmental concepts.
- She has won numerous awards and recognitions for her talents, her perseverance and her achievements.
- Her mother, Rosalynn, is an education director with Rec and Parks. Eliza says that she was raised "in the park!"

### Eliza, who was not able to attend the scholarship reception, sent the following note:

*"Thank you for your generosity in choosing me to receive a 2004 Los Angeles City Employees Club Scholarship. I deeply appreciate your affirmation of support and confidence in the pursuit of my academic and professional goals. I value your faith in me even more than the economic support, but both help a great deal.*

*"I partly applied for this award because I found the article about last year's winner an inspiration. When I read her story, I thought, 'Maybe I could win one, too.' I would certainly advise other members and their families to apply in the future. I feel that by your helping me, you have also given hope to other students, struggling with learning disabilities.*

*"I will do everything in my power to prove a worthy recipient of the award, and I look forward to a productive semester this fall. By the end of this term, I will have completed my 12 units necessary in order to work in a licensed childcare facility. I will continue to gather resources and create exciting materials to enhance my work when I enter the field."*

*Eliza Brown*

# Zoo Goes Deep to Serve City

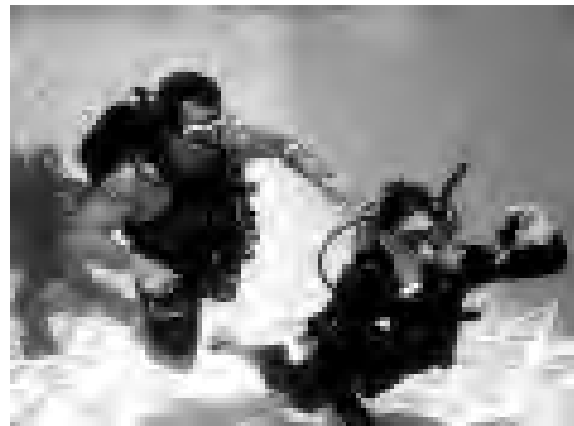
## Scuba

Continued from Page 1

exhibit will feature two connecting filtered water tanks with an underwater viewing window, and the tank will require rock face cleaning.

The exhibit will hold about 165,000 gallons of water, and five sea lions in separate tanks. It will be the first saltwater filtrated system at the Zoo.

"The LA Zoo is striving to meet the demands of the future and the 21st century by becoming an elite modern institution," Lewis continues. "Safety is of the utmost importance. All our exhibits mimic the natural habitats of plants and animals."



Instructor Matt "Dragon" Howard with Erin at a pool session.

Other exhibits are in the works such as exhibits for elephants, gorillas, and an American Rainforest.

"They are all interpretative exhibits," he says. "We thank the people that live in Los Angeles for voting for the propositions that allowed funding for the LA Zoo exhibits."

The scuba certification included homework and book study, four hours of pool training, and training in the ocean. Sue Thisdell, Safety Officer for the zoo, explained that the employees went to Catalina Island and Channel Islands to conduct their training dives.



Vicky moving down the anchor line at Anacapa.



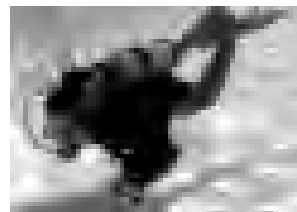
Construction of the Sea Lion Exhibit continues at full steam. The exhibit may be ready for the public in early 2005.



Los Angeles Zoo Crew come up from the last dive – and are certified! From left: Randy Petitt, Plumber; Vicky Gaurnell, Animal Keeper; Kris Willis, Aquatics Keeper; Erin Fleming, Senior Animal Keeper; Stephanie Zielinski, Animal Keeper; and Scott Haist, Animal Keeper.



Stephanie, Chris, Erin and instructors Shirelle and Matt.



Scott at a pool session.



Mona, a 14-year-old sea lion, looking forward to settling into the new exhibit.

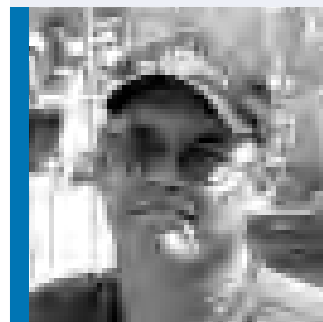


Erin Fleming, Senior Animal Keeper; Stephanie Zielinski, Animal Keeper getting ready for a dive.



Zoo Director John Lewis at Anacapa Island.

## Here are the new scuba-certified Zoo employees:



### Randy Petitt,

**Zoo plumber, 5 years with the City**

Randy worked on City projects before at Piper Tech. He was a foreman on the City Hall retrofitting project, and he worked on other projects including Staples Center, and the 911 Call Center next to Parker Center.

Randy is the most experienced of the Zoo divers. (In fact, he is the only one with previous dive experience.)

"This is a great experience for us because it builds teamwork and makes you fully aware of the importance of safety," he says.



### Erin Fleming,

**Senior Animal Keeper, 6 years with the City**

Erin's deepest dive was at 49 feet; she never scuba-dived before.

"LA Zoo employees live and breathe for the animals," Fleming says. "I've never scuba dived before. It was fun. It's a great skill to have, and it's an opportunity that I couldn't pass up."



### Kris Willis,

**Aquatics Keeper, 3 years with the City**

According to Kris, the sea lions will be fed fish including capelin, mackerel, sardines, herring and squid. The water will be chilled and will be similar in salinity to ocean seawater.

Kris had no prior diving experience. Kris' deepest scuba dive was 49 feet.

"It was a good experience, a good skill to have," Kris says. "It was mentally challenging because you have to control your fears."

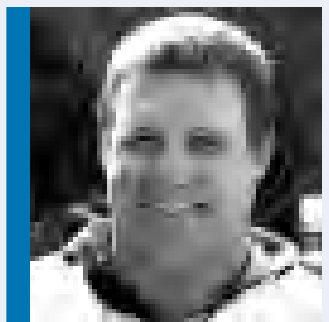


### Vicki Guarnett,

**Animal Keeper, 9 years with the City**

It was Vicki's first scuba certification.

"It was scary to get in the ocean and rely on just your tank of oxygen to keep you breathing," she says. "I was apprehensive, but it's been a great experience. It's really a whole new world underwater."



### Scott Haist,

**Animal Keeper, 10 years with the City**

Like most of the rest, Scott had never scuba-dived before this program.

"I echo Vicki's thoughts," he says. "I would never have done this on my own."

"Ocean diving is incredible...it's a whole new existence out there. Whenever I get a chance to vacation, I will definitely go scuba diving."



The Intern class of 2004



Carol Rowen was the founder and executive director of the International Trade Education Programs



From left: Bill Cheng, MA II at Construction & Maintenance, 28 years; Yessenia Castañeda, Construction & Maintenance Intern; Joannie Mukai, Director of Port Construction & Maintenance and club Board Member.

# Port Rewards Students at Event

## Interns

*Continued from Page 1*

To be eligible for the Summer Internship Program, students must maintain academic and attendance standards, as well as pass the test of Adult Basic Education.

The interns, their parents, friends, employers and supporters were welcomed by Martin Chavez, who introduced the Port's Executive Director Larry Keller. Dr. Myrna Rivera, Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent, District Eight, followed Mr. Keller, who thanked the Port for its support and the 15 employers for allowing these young students into their work places.

The City Employees Club and LA Federal Credit Union sponsored student awards by providing AMC movie and Border's Books gift certificates. Interns were recognized for their outstanding attendance at work and being on time for the weekly workshops, the recipients were: Edgar Garza, LA Maritime Institute; Yessenia Mendoza, Computer Consulting - Operations; and Andy Zamora, POLA - Test Lab.

Students also attended workshops every Friday afternoon and were given word analogies, essay comprehension, and analytical exams. The students who did well—Christine Pina, POLA Contracts and Purchasing, and Wendy Sanchez, Stevedoring Services America Marine—were given certificates for workshop excellence. The Workplace Professionalism Award for the student who displayed proper business etiquette and learned how to interact with professionals was presented to Lorna Baker, PASHA Stevedoring and Terminals.

The Outstanding Student Award was presented to Edgar Garza, who had exceptional attendance, participated in every workshop and displayed professionalism through out the program. His employer was thoroughly impressed with his skills, attitude and outgoing personality.

The Club offers congratulations and wishes all "graduates" good luck. Many thanks to the employers for "Opening the World Today and Preparing for Tomorrow" by allowing these students to earn and learn.

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**Brick-n-Treat Celebration**  
October 20th/21st & 29th/31st, 2004

Our 8th annual Halloween celebration has more than 100 displays that children can collect goodies on the Spooky Treat Trail, enter a costume contest, and win a special award. We'll have a variety of scary and silly party favors for you too!

**Knights & Damsels**

### Knights and Damsels Mini-Renaissance Faire

November 6th/7th, 13th/14th & 20th/21st, 2004

Reenactment will bring in our Knights and Damsels Mini-Renaissance Faire. Feast, feisty fun and fun! Dance with illuminated musicians, games in children's games of adventure and enchantment and enjoy a live Blacksmith's show.

**OCTOBER**

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**NOVEMBER**

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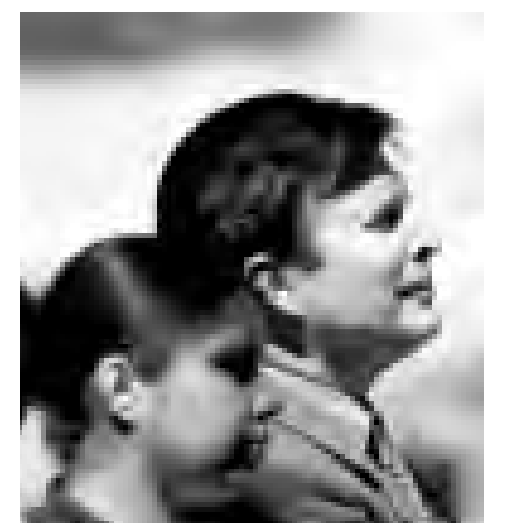
**DECEMBER**

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Rosio Becerra, College Intern Program Coordinator.



Port Director Larry Keller showing his support for the intern program.