

CLUB HEADQUARTERS



Congratulations!

Club Honors 12

Scholarship Program for 2009 awards \$1,

The Club is pleased to announce the winners of the Club's annual Scholarship Program for 2009.

Here are the recipients of the 12 scholarships:

- Soukeyna Moore, daughter of Jené Brown, Library;
- Edward Cruz, Son of Maria Cruz, City Attorney's Office;
- Aryel Gilmer, daughter of Tonja Payne, Public Works;
- Stephanie Winger, daughter of Deborah Winger, DWP;
- Sabrina Amaro, daughter of Sergio Amaro, DWP;

Here are brief profiles of the awardees:

SOUKEYNA MOORE

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Soukeyna Moore is beginning her sophomore year at Humboldt State University in Arcata, where she is studying wildlife and conservation.

At Humboldt, she is secretary of the Humboldt Circus, an on-campus circus that performs twice a year. She also part of the group Crossing Borders, which focuses on breaking racial barriers.

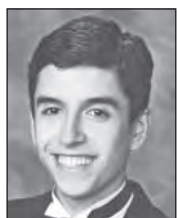
"My life's goal is to become an exotic animal keeper ... Normally, when I tell people of my life's goal, they are taken aback," she wrote in her essay. "Most people simply can't understand why I want to work with big and potentially dangerous animals. It's funny how most dwell on the negative, and while those are valid concerns, there are many positives as well, such as the gratification that comes with rehabilitating an injured animal and releasing him back into the wild, or saving an animal's life.

"If you choose me, you'll be funding and supporting the education that can make my dreams come true."

She's the daughter of Jené Brown, Library.

EDWARD CRUZ

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Edward Cruz is studying architecture at USC, where he is active in the Astronomy Club, the Spanish Club, the ACE Program (architecture, construction and engineering) and Fishbowl, a student organization.

He volunteers for USC's Mexican American Alumni Association and as an altar boy at his local parish.

"I love architecture," he wrote. "I love the idea of creating a space for a person to inhabit, and that the space I create can have an impact on his or her life. Over the past three years, I have learned to appreciate all the late nights and lack of sleep and food because the end result is the best part. Being able to see a finished building, real or not, is very satisfying. I truly appreciate being in a good program, and I look forward to completing my final two years, for I could not see myself doing anything else."

Edward is the son of Maria Cruz, City Attorney's Office.

STEPHANIE WINGER

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Stephanie Winger attends San Francisco State University, after graduating from College of the Canyons in Valencia. At SFSU, she plans to pursue communication studies.

She has been actively involved in choir since high school, and she has competed in volleyball. She volunteers with the Save a Kitty Kat rescue group, the Honors/H.I.T.E. program, and at the Castaic Animal Shelter.

"Once [graduate] school is done, I hope one day to be a campaign manager for a political candidate, an advertising executive, or a public relations representative for any aspect of the entertainment or political industries," she wrote.

"I still plan on further honing my skills as a musician and actress in choir, musical theatre and performing in general. Music and acting have always been passions of mine.

"I cannot wait for [my mom and three dogs] to see how this journey will allow me to grow as an adult."

She's the daughter of Deborah Winger, DWP.

ARYEL GILMER

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Aryel Gilmer attends Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, where she is pursuing communications disorders coursework.

She has a long list of honors, including numerous academic achievements, and she plays bass. She has volunteer experience serving Thanksgiving dinner to those in need; giving out candy on Halloween at a Harvest Festival; working at a booth at a Fourth of July Festival; setting up Easter egg hunts; and working in the children's ministry at her church. She has also risen above a number of serious health-related issues.

"Education is one of the most vital tools in society today," she wrote. "Going to college to further my knowledge is more valuable now in

my generation than it used to be. With the current state of the economy, it is important that I earn a higher level of education to better my chances of having a good, solid career.

"[I want to] eventually develop a career working with children, either teaching them sign language or speech language pathology. [I want to] help children who are deaf or hearing-impaired communicate efficiently and encourage them to not allow their hearing impediment to keep them from achieving their dreams."

She's the daughter of Tonja Payne, Public Works.

SABRINA AMARO

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Sabrina Amaro attends Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H. At Dartmouth, her goal is to pursue a math degree with a minor in biology. She intends a medical career.

From her career at Canyon High School in Canyon Country, she lists more than two pages of academic, athletic and service honors. She was active in cross-country; she played hockey (in an all-boys league); she was in the top one percent of her class; she had her own private tutoring business; and she was involved in numerous volunteer activities.

"There is so much she is anxious to master," she wrote of herself in the third person. "[Like] exploring the fields of medicine, biology or mathematics; traveling the world; finding the cure for cancer; and basically, scoring a hat trick of life! Sitting in front of the television, hanging out around the house, or just having nothing noted on her calendar and nowhere to go is physically impossible for her. A packed schedule is the only way to live life."

She is the daughter of Sergio Amaro, DWP.

KAI MANUEL

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Kai Manuel attends the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania, where he is studying engineering.

At Highland High School, he was part of the California Scholarship

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awards \$1,000 to 12 members of the Club family.

- Kai Manuel, son of Roland Manuel, DWP;
- Janina Paragele, daughter of Medy Marmaril-Paragele, CDD;
- Alfredo Salcedo Jr., a City Employee;
- Janae Henderson, daughter of Gidget Blevins, Finance;
- Melinda West, daughter of Veronica West, Public Works; and

- Andrew Di Tucci, son of Julie Di Tucci, Harbor.
 - Vincent Frias, son of Angel Frias, Police Officer;
- Congratulations to the awardees, and the Club wishes the best success to all those who applied.

Federation and was the treasurer of the College Club. He also worked on the school yearbook. He has volunteered for the Red Cross and at High Desert Medical and the Piute School carnival.

"For me, being my own person has not been a hard thing to accomplish because I have always felt content about choices that I have made, and I have my parents to thank for that," he wrote.

"A quality that I have and am proud of is my ability to take things apart, and then put them back together again. Doing this helps me understand how things work ... I like understanding how things work, and when we did engineering problems in physics class, I realized what I wanted to study as a major."

He is the son of Roland Manuel, DWP.

JANINA PARAGELE

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Janina Paragele attends UC Irvine, where she is studying journalism.

At Los Osos High School in Rancho Cucamonga, she was a staff writer/editor on the school newspaper; she was recognized by the California Scholarship Federation; she was a group leader for incoming students; and she was a member of the Cum Laude Society. She volunteered for Interact, a community service organization; for the Red Cross Club; for Lowercase People, a community service organization; and for Invisible Children.

"When I entered high school, I knew from the beginning that my career must have something to do with writing," she wrote. "Perhaps one of the most memorable interviews I had ever had was with Mr. Terrence Roberts. He was part of the Little Rock Nine, African-American students who were prohibited to enter a segregated school in Arkansas, but President Eisenhower interfered, which enabled the students to attend the school. [The interview] allowed me to see that I am the bridge for people to hear the stories that were never told."

"Someone once said, 'Journalism is the first rough draft of history.' Therefore, I intend to be part of history."

Janina is the daughter of Medy Marmaril-Paragele, CDD.

ALFREDO SALCEDO JR.

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Alfredo Salcedo Jr., currently a City Employee, just graduated from Cal State L.A. with a Bachelor's degree in child development, and a partial degree in theatre arts and dance, and further

credits in kinesiology.

At Cal State L.A., he was on the Dean's list three years. He has been a youth group leader, a Sunday School teacher, a Praise dance leader, a youth theatrical coordinator, president of the church choir, and a member of the Dance Ensemble. He was also a cabinet member of the Chicano/a Latino/a Resource Center.

"I would like to work with children who deal with obesity, and teach them how to become physically active and adopt a healthy lifestyle," he wrote. "A child, especially at a very young age, can gain more confidence, be outgoing, and energetic by participating in healthy activities such as walking, running, dancing and playing sports."

"I can either sit and do nothing, or change the life of a child forever."

JANAE HENDERSON

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Janae Henderson attends U.C. Berkeley, studying business administration and media studies. At Carson High School, she participated in the drama club, the step team and the marching band, as

well as the Junior State of America. She volunteered at the Vista Veranda Assisted Living facility, served hot meals for the homeless on Christmas, supported the No on Prop 8 campaign, and she worked for Rec and Parks for various events.

"I aspire to reform Corporate America," she wrote. "When I graduate from college with my degree in business management and media studies, I will attend law school and then go into the entertainment industry as an aspiring CEO."

"One of my long-term goals is to publish a minimum of two books, with at least one going on to become a best-seller or part of Oprah's book club."

"I am not the American Dream yet, however I am willing to strive for it every day."

She is the daughter of Gidget Blevins, Finance.

MELINDA WEST

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Melinda West attends UCLA, pursuing music.

Her achievements at Junipero Serra High School in Gardena are long and varied. She was a member of the Academic Decathlon team, winning eight medals; she won awards in the science fair; she ran cross country; she was the senior class treasurer; she was a member of the Sons and Daughters of Mary Club, the Vocations in Progress Club, and participated in the Catholic Math League. She graduated summa cum laude and was on the Principal's Honor Roll. She received a merit scholarship for earning the highest entrance exam score at the school. She won community service awards and volunteered her time at a number of organizations. She is a guitarist in one church choir, and a pianist and leader for another church choir. And she helps feed the homeless.

"From the very beginning, there were expectations of me," she wrote. "I was daily lectured on the six letters that would make or break my high school career: GPA and SAT. Others had defined me by numbers and grades, and I almost began to do so as well. But on my way to becoming a textbook straight-edged teenager, something interrupted my path."

"My grandfather was diagnosed with brain cancer ... we were extremely close. I decided to do something for him. I spent hours at his house, learning to play ragtime piano. Ragtime was cheerful and fitting. Ragtime sparked my interest in music, gave me confidence, and made me realize that I would have to direct my own path and go beyond my classical piano teacher to grasp everything that I wanted in music."

"With music, I am confident and excited to take the next step of my life and to make the change that I am capable of making in this world."

She is the daughter of Veronica West, Public Works.

ANDREW DI TUCCI

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Andrew Di Tucci attends the California Maritime Academy, majoring in marine transportation.

At the LAUSD Magnet Program, he was involved in a number of maritime-based activities.

He has already been working as a deckhand. He credits his character formation on the Scouting program - he is a Life Scout and held troop leadership positions.

He volunteered at the L.A. Maritime Museum; through the Boy Scouts of America; with the Little Sisters of the Poor; at Rec and Parks; at the San Pedro Elks Lodge; at the Croation Club; and at the Brighter Days Montessori School. And he is an avid basketball player.

"My father is a merchant marine, and since I was a little kid, he has taken me out on trips with him," Andrew wrote. "I slowly fell in love with his career, and eventually [I] decided that that's what I want to do when I grow up."

"I look forward to starting my college career. I will be first in our immediate family to go to a university, and I plan on staying on track with the rigorous curriculum that the Academy has."

Andrew is the son of Julie Di Tucci, Harbor.

VINCENT FRIAS

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Vincent Frias attends UCLA.

In high school, he was honored for academic achievement, having maintained a 4.0 GPA. He has volunteered at an L.A. Animal Services shelter;

for the City of Santa Clarita; at the Ronald McDonald House; and as a tutor.

"I know that the challenge at UCLA will be tough and demanding, but it is a challenge I am ready and willing to face," he wrote. "I know that I will have to work hard, but when I graduate, UCLA will make me the best 'me' I can be."

He's the son of Angel Frias, Police Officer.