

THE CLUB



Congratulations!

Club Honors 15

The Club's Joannie Mukai Scholarship Program for 2010

The Club is pleased to announce the winners of the Club's annual Scholarship Program for 2010. The Club's Scholarship program was named for the late Joannie Mukai, the former Club Board Member who passed away earlier this year.

Because of the quality of the respondents, the Club awarded 15 students this year, up from 12 last year.

Here are the recipients of the 15 scholarships:

- Sabrina Amaro, daughter of Sergio Amaro, DWP;
- Raven Burrell, daughter of Adrian Buchanan, Building and Safety;
- Thomas Chang, a City employee, Transportation;
- Vincent Frias, son of Angel Frias, Police Officer;
- Aryel Gilmer, daughter of Tonja Bellard Payne, Public Works;

Here are brief profiles of the awardees:

SABRINA AMARO

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Sabrina 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.

At Dartmouth, she participates in Habitat for Humanity; the Dartmouth Big Brother Big Sister program; the Multi-Faith Council; and the women's Ultimate Frisbee team.

"My dreams for the future are to become a doctor, but not just any ole' doctor," she wrote. "I want to work in a Third World country where my knowledge and expertise will be needed the most. I want to travel where diseases exist that Americans only hear about, and do something about it. I don't just want to help people, I want to save lives. I know my dream is a lofty one, but when I have a goal, nothing can stop me."

Sabrina is the daughter of Sergio Amaro, DWP.

RAVEN BURRELL

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Raven attends the University of California, Irvine.

At UCI, she's involved in the schools iRise Program, a stay-over program hosted by the Black Student Union. She participates in the West African Dance Group, where she is a performer and choreographer.

"College life has not only made me independent, but I have learned to use my social skills, my moral values, and my goals to lead me to my future aspirations. As I strive to become a physician of obstetrics, orthopedics or pulmonology, I will continue to use the leadership that I gained from being captain on my dance team in my senior year of high school and use the support of my mother."

Raven is the daughter of Adrian Buchanan, Building and Safety.

THOMAS CHANG

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Thomas is a full-time Supervising Transportation Planner, Transportation. He has 21 years of City service.

He is also a full-time doctoral student in organizational leadership at the University of La Verne. He has many volunteer and service credits.

"Leadership is indeed a fascinating arena to study and to explore. In my view, the City today is facing the leadership crisis. Our leaders need to be adequately trained to solve complex problems and make tough decisions. As we see that the City workforce is negatively impacted daily by factors such as the budget shortage, early retirement, furloughs, pay disparities, dissonance with unions, and layoffs ... maintaining the morale for City workers becomes a critically essential task for the leaders at each level in the organization. We need our leaders to be authentic and effective so that they can set priorities, address complex issue and set things into the right perspective.

"In light of that [need], I plan to volunteer to become a lecturer for City employees on team building, group dynamics and working cohesively."

VINCENT FRIAS

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Vincent attends UCLA.

At UCLA, he's part of the Floor Government.

"I can still remember those days [as a child] when I couldn't lift my arms," he wrote. "I used to get angry because this [Sprenkel's Deformity] was progressing inside me. I believe, however, that from every bad experience must emerge some good, and my experience is no exception. My strength and moral stability were pushed, but I refused to break down. Through this dark, challenging time of my life, I emerged a more confident, grateful young man."

He's the son of Angel Frias, Animal Services.

ARYEL GILMER

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Aryel attends Azusa Pacific University in Azusa. She hopes to continue her studies after college in communication disorders and sciences.

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.

"My first year of college ... was one of the biggest adjustments I had to make that has significantly affected my life," she wrote. "I had an

amazing first year through all the tough assignments, long work hours and stressful finals. It's given me even more desire to achieve better each semester because I have a recipe of goals that I want to accomplish and dreams to fulfill, and giving up is not one of the ingredients."

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

BENILDA GUICO

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Benilda graduated from Cantwell Sacred Heart of Mary Catholic High School in Montebello and plans to attend Mt. San Antonio College in the fall.

She was an emergency room volunteer at Greater El Monte Hospital, and a choir member at St. Denis Catholic Church. At Cantwell, she was involved in music, theatre and the photography club.

"My experience in the [El Monte] emergency room was really important to me because of the exposure to the medical field and the contribution of my time and efforts to the community," she wrote. "Thinking about my future, I know that I could help out a lot of people just like how my grandpa did when he was alive."

"From here on, focus and hard work will be the keys to making my dreams come true in honor of my beloved grandfather and for the service of caring for the children. In all that I do, I give glory and thanks to God."

She's the daughter of Cynthia Cruz, City Attorney's Office.

ANDREWANA MATHEWS

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Andrewana attends El Camino Community College.

She has volunteered at the L.A. Regional Food Bank, the Santa Monica Beach Cleanup, the San Pedro Beach Cleanup, and We Connect/L.A. Works.

"Volunteering demonstrates personal characteristics such as: leadership, personal self-awareness, responsibility and interdependence, she wrote. "I developed these characteristics during high school. I also learned important life skills such as organizing events, public speaking, researching, brainstorming, working with a team, and much more. I value education and all the skills I've gained along my life journey, and I want to continue in the right path to become successful and a positive role model for the younger generation."

She's the daughter of Constance Moore, Airports.

With Mukai Scholarships

awards \$1,000 to 15 members of the Club family.

- Benilda Guico, daughter of Cynthia Cruz, City Attorney's Office;
- Andrewana Mathews, daughter of Constance Moore, Airports;
- Laura Miller, daughter of Frank Miller, Public Works;
- Shannon Polee, daughter of Alan Polee, Rec and Parks;
- Danielle Smith, daughter of Bonita Calloway-Smith, DWP;
- Michael Smith, son of Cheryl Craig, Transportation;

- Lindsay Vega, daughter of Pierre Vega, Building and Safety;
- Andrenique Wilson, daughter of Andrea Wilson, Public Works;
- Andrea Yip, daughter of Daisy Cheung, DWP; and
- Katrina Yugovich-Wood, daughter of Miriam Cruz, Harbor.

Congratulations to the awardees, and the Club wishes the best success to all those who applied.



Laura Miller

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Laura attends Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. She has held a series of leadership positions, including the editor of the Triple Helix at Cornell, and an art gallery director, both at Cornell; and she was in the art club and sang in the honor choir in high school. She was a course assistant for pre-freshman chemistry at Cornell.

"I am now a chemistry major at Cornell, and I plan to seize every opportunity to keep the fine arts in my hectic pre-medical curriculum while broadening my cultural horizons.

"Once I am able to practice [medicine], I plan to spend a couple of years with Doctors Without Borders, providing medical care to those with the most urgent need for it. I know that developing one's well-roundedness is essential for becoming a good medical practitioner, and I will use all aspects of my education to make a difference in many lives."

She's the daughter of Frank Miller, Public Works.

Shannon Polee

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Shannon just graduated from Westchester High School, and plans to attend the University of California, San Diego, in the fall.

Through Co-Op LA, she performed in a number of volunteer capacities, including for fundraisers, student assistance and toy and clothing drives.

"My skill of writing has blessed me with a pass on the AP English test, has enabled me to be selected to speak at my elementary, middle school and high school graduations, and has played a role in my acceptance at U.C. San Diego," she wrote. "I hope to start a non-profit organization for impoverished children and first generation college students to help stress the importance of education, and make sure they not only attend a university, but graduate from one, too."

She's the daughter of Alan Polee, Rec and Parks.

Danielle Smith

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Danielle attends Sonoma State University, majoring in environmental studies and French.

At Sonoma State, she is a community services adviser and as a peer leader for its Educational Opportunity Program. She is a member of several campus groups related to the environment, leadership and social causes. In high school, she started her own environmental club.

"I am a declared major in both French and environmental studies and have tailored my academic endeavors to better meet the requirements for those who wish to volunteer through the Peace Corps in Western Africa.

"I would not be where I am with my parents' love and support. I hope to receive this scholarship so that I can continue making an impact on the lives of those in need. This is my lifelong goal. This is my passion."

She's the daughter of Bonita Calloway-Smith, DWP.

Michael Smith

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Michael graduated early from Monrovia High School and now attends Pasadena City College. He plans to attend California State University, San Bernardino, in the fall.

He has been a Monrovia youth commissioner for three years and was associated with the NAACP. In high school, he was involved in the Black Student Union, and played basketball for two years.

"I am a hard-working individual who hopes to have a meaningful future and give back to the community as well as be able to support my future family. I have learned that the things we want in life do not come easy, and I am willing to accept any opportunities that are offered to me to support my family. I believe in me and my future, and I hope that you will believe in me, also."

He's the son of Cheryl Craig, Transportation.

Lindsay Vega

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Lindsay graduated from Glendora High School. She plans to attend California State University, Fullerton, in the fall.

She played basketball at Glendora for four years and tutored young basketball

players; she volunteered at the Japanese Community Center, and she was involved in the U.S. Forestry Service for a year.

"I always had known that I wanted a job that would help those around me," she wrote. "The methods that I saw [my nephew's] teachers use during his [speech] therapy classes, and the one that I found most helpful, was the parents interacting with their child during the session. I knew that if I became a speech therapist, I could help the children who were behind on communicating with others, and especially parents."

She's the daughter of Pierre Vega, Building and Safety.

Andrenique Wilson

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Andrenique just graduated from the King/Drew Magnet School and plans to attend Xavier University of Louisiana in the fall.

She has volunteered her time at City@Peace of Los Angeles; the Ebony Guild Sister to Sister; FYE For Your Environment; and People to People/Study Aboard. In high school, she was on the student honor roll and was a member of the drill team.

"In March, some of my colleagues and I went to Venice Beach and passed out brochures about the awareness of gang violence," she reported. "The project was a great success. [More than 187] people pledged not to become a gang member and to try to keep youths away from gangs, in any possible way. This is my greatest achievement.

"Opening my own [ob-gyn] clinic in the inner city will help pregnant women and malnourished infants get proper care without having to travel far.

"Dr. Wilson.' That sounds nice and inspiring. I feel that if I can help bring a life into the world, then why not help make positive changes for the better of society and those who are living in the inner-city community like myself."

She's the daughter of Andrea Wilson, Public Works.

Andrea Yip

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Andrea just graduated from Walnut High School. She plans to attend the University of California, Los Angeles, in the fall.

Andrea volunteered at the Walnut Chinese Language Center and at Samaritan's Purse. In high school, she was a member of the Tech Club and the MORE Club.

"Not only will obtaining a college degree open doors to the engineering career that I am

aiming towards, it will also demonstrate that I am conscientious about my future and confirm my ability to focus and work hard," she wrote.

"My motivation to graduate from college and become a civil engineer comes from a significant event in my life, a conversation between my grandmother and I during lunch one day. She started discussing her life in Vietnam, where a woman's dream was to marry someone well-off so that she would be taken care of. Although she married a wealthy man, tragedy struck when her husband died at an early age, leaving her lost and alone. My grandmother's story has made me realize that women have suffered an unfortunate history, where their only expectation was being a wife and mother. My grandmother's situation has demonstrated the importance of self-reliance. With all the career opportunities that women have today, I am determined to take advantage of the education that my grandmother did not have so I can accomplish great things in life."

She's the daughter of Daisy Cheung, DWP.

Katrina Yugovich-Wood

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Katrina just graduated from the Port of Los Angeles High School. She plans on attending the University of California, at either the Irvine or Riverside campus, this fall.

Katrina volunteered at Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center; at the Coalition Youth Center; and at the Mary Star of the Sea Parish and Christian Care Program.

In high school, she played volleyball and tennis, and was part of the dance club; she was also in the school choir and performed community service.

"My desire to care for the sick led me to pursue a career in medicine," she wrote. "In the future, my ultimate goal is to contribute my expertise to the healthcare industry.

"I remain an achiever amidst life's challenges. I have not allowed any baggage to obstruct my plans for the future. I hope all my efforts will shine and my contributions will make a difference to our community."

She's the daughter of Miriam Cruz, Harbor.

