

Club Honors 15 With

The Club's Joannie Mukai Scholarship Program for 2011

Congratulations!

Here are brief profiles of the awardees:

RAVEN BURRELL

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Raven attends the University of California, Irvine.

At UCI, she's involved in the school's 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, and is a student coordinator for the Student Outreach and Retention program.

"My college experiences have made me realize that I enjoy being in direct contact with people, which has further influenced me to become a physician assistant, specializing in obstetrics... As an active [student] leader, I have and will continue to influence the youths about the importance of achieving one's aspirations."

She's the daughter of Adriane Buchanan, Building and Safety.

KARINA SIMPSON

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Karina graduated from the California Academy of Math and Science, and plans to attend Bucknell University this fall.

She is an active gymnast, interned at Northrup-Grumman, was the campus founder/president of National Society of Black Engineers, worked at the Love Kitchen, tutored at the Tomorrow Aeronautical Museum, and was a member of the Compton Commission of Young Women.

"Falling off the balance beam is just like not passing a test for an engineer," she writes. "As a gymnast, I get up and continue practicing. And as an engineering student, I will get up and head off to continue my work until I accomplish my goal. I look forward to future challenges in college."

She's the daughter of Michael Simpson, Public Works.

DESIREE KHAN

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Desiree graduated from La Puente High School and plans to attend Cal State San Bernardino this fall.

In high school, Desiree was part of the University Academy, studied journalism, and

worked as part of the City's Election Division.

"I want to make something of my life, and I want to be the first in my family to able to say, 'I have a college degree,'" she writes. "Ten years from now I want to look back at the most important choices of my life and not regret them, but glad I made them."

"The rest of our life relies on the choices we make at this time. I am determined to finish college and have no fear left because the scariest period of our life is determining our future."

She's the daughter of Musa Khan, City Clerk's Office.

SABRENA EDWARDS

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Sabrena graduated from King Drew Medical Magnet High School, and plans to attend Whittier College this fall.

At King Drew, she was involved in the Bible and Book clubs, the Magnetic Mentors, and the Kids Judge L.A.

"Education is the most empowering experience in a person's life," she writes. "It is the life-long process of gathering and processing information which shapes our perception of the world."

"My ultimate goal is to become a successful physical therapist, where I can assist others in rebuilding, restoring and educating people in the community about the importance of physical therapy and pursuing their goals. I plan to be the best physical therapist there is. I will stay focused and study hard. It is just a matter of time before my dreams become a reality."

She's the daughter of Brenda Edwards, Public Works.

KELLY YIN

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Kelly graduated from John A. Rowland High School in Rowland Heights, and plans to attend UCLA this fall.

In high school, she was involved in a number of activities, including tennis and student government. She was also involved in Invisible Children, which supports students in Uganda affected by war, in veterinary activities, and was a tutor for underprivileged students.

"We may think that high school is just one chapter of our lives," she says, "but the influence we have on others resonates for much longer. I am proud to say that my legacy leaves 100 tennis players with a new friend; 500 new students who know teens with mental disabili-

Here are the recipients of the 15 scholarships:

- Raven Burrell, daughter of Adriane Buchanan, Building and Safety;
- Karina Simpson, daughter of Michael Simpson, Public Works;
- Desiree Khan, daughter of Musa Khan, City Clerk's Office;
- Sabrena Edwards, daughter of Brenda Edwards, Public Works;

ties can become their friends; 200 more who know about the Invisible Children group and are aware of the war effort in Northern Uganda.

"I know that as long as I stay ambitious and put in the effort, I'll finish my sets and win the game."

She's the daughter of Roger Yin, Airports.

MIA-VICTORIA GARCIA

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Mia-Victoria graduated from South Hills High School and plans to attend the University of California, Riverside this fall.

In high school, she played soccer, was a member of the student council and worked at the school newspaper.

"I have been a determined and driven person all my life, and as I enter the real world I will continue to follow these dreams of mine," she writes. "I realize that life is not easy, but I will continue to fight for the dreams I know I can accomplish. As a great coach once said, 'If you're not making mistakes, then you're not doing anything.' I'm positive that a doer makes mistakes. I will continue to be a doer throughout my life."

She's the daughter of Joseph Garcia, DWP.

AMETHYST JEFFERSON-ROBERTS

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Amethyst graduated from Manuel Dominguez High School and plans to attend Cal State Long Beach this fall.

At Dominguez she was in the marching band, student government, the Black Student Union and the Parent-Teacher Student Assn.

THE CLUB

Mukai Scholarships

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

- Kelly Yin, daughter of Roger Yin, Airports;
- Mia-Victoria Garcia, daughter of Joseph Garcia, DWP;
- Amethyst Jefferson-Roberts, daughter of Denise Jefferson, DWP;
- Megan Di Tucci, daughter of Anthony and Julie Di Tucci, Harbor;
- Chirantha Kaluthanthri, son of Ajith Kaluthanthri, DWP;
- Alyssia Diaz, daughter of Jose Diaz, CDD;
- Dean Taylor, son of Dean Taylor, Public Works;

- James Morgutia, son of Jaime Morgutia, Public Works;
- Cyrus Nguyen, son of Long Nguyen, Airports;
- Chelsea Cammarata, daughter of Nancy Cammarata, LAPD; and
- Kathy Mariscal, daughter of Jorge Alvarez, Harbor.

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

She was active in Meals on Wheels, and she worked in Children and Youth Leadership, and a homeless shelter downtown.

"Through community service, I have learned to humble myself and thank God for the blessings he has given me. Because of the things I've seen and people I've met, I know that my cup has run over."

She's the daughter of Denise Jefferson, DWP.

MEGAN DI TUCCI

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Megan graduated from San Pedro High School and plans to attend Cal Poly Pomona in the fall.

At San Pedro, she was involved in student council, the Croatian Club and the BFF Club. She was also an intern for former Councilwoman Janice Hahn.

"Volunteering is a large part of my life," she writes. "It gives me a sense of existence, knowing that my small actions are making a large difference in my local community. I am very fortunate that both my parents work for the Port of Los Angeles, which provides many volunteering opportunities. They have introduced me to the joy of volunteering."

"The love and nurturing of my family, the experiences I've gained through leadership, and the interaction of my part-time job all have contributed to my better understanding of who I am, where I want to go and what I want to be."

She's the daughter of Anthony and Julie Di Tucci, Harbor.

CHIRANTHA KALUTHANTHRI

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Chirantha graduated from Middle College High School and plans to attend the University of California, Irvine, this fall.

In high school, he was involved in student government and the Environmental Club. He participated in beach cleanups, AIDS Walk LA, the L.A. County Science Fair Committee, and the Mark Twain Library.

"[In elementary school,] I grew to understand that the path before me isn't just about myself," he writes. "I wanted to change the world, and make it better for future generations."

"I believe that if I keep persevering, as I've done all throughout my life, I can make this future real. I feel I'm getting closer to my dreams."

He's the son of Ajith Kaluthanthri, DWP.

ALYSSIA DIAZ

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Alyssia graduated from Oscar De La Hoya Animo Charter High School, and plans to attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo this fall.

In high school, she studied journalism, was a cheerleader, was involved in student government, and tutored other students.

"My academic and personal experiences have helped me realize that I can be successful in life," she writes. "I want to pursue something I love. I want to study journalism and continue writing. I want to have a career I am passionate about and that can contribute to society. I want to share this passion with people because writing is the key to education, and education should be a top priority because there are so many things we can learn."

She's the daughter of Jose Diaz, CDD.

DEAN TAYLOR

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Dean graduated from Cerritos College and plans to attend the University of California, Berkeley, this fall.

At Cerritos, he was involved in the Cerritos College Lit Club, the Inter-Club Council and the Key Club.

"Often we limit ourselves to occupations based on our major, and in the process, sell ourselves short," he writes. "It would be premature

to tell you exactly where I envision myself in the future because I honestly do not know, none of us can. The world is always in need of thinkers, and school – especially in the English major, where you are constantly analyzing, defining, deconstructing, and critiquing – prepares us for this. This being said, I know many doors will open for me personally, and some others may close in the process. In a constantly expanding universe, the sky isn't even the limit."

He's the son of Dean Taylor Sr., Public Works.

JAMES MORGUTIA

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



James graduated from Cantwell Sacred Heart Academy and plans to attend UCLA this fall.

In high school, he played baseball, basketball and football, and was a member of the computer club. He volunteered as a

tutor and in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

"I have always been motivated by my community, my parents and the desire to succeed and fulfill my dreams and aspirations," he writes. "My parents, who are my role models because of their hard work and dedication to our family, have always encouraged me to give back to my community in whichever ways possible. Participating in Relay for Life, and getting to know the stories of those cancer survivors, has irreversibly changed my life. I have a new outlook on life in which I now try to make the best of every situation that is thrown at me."

He's the son of Jaime Morgutia, Public Works.

CYRUS NGUYEN

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Cyrus graduated from the Oakwood School and plans to attend Yale University in the fall.

During high school, Cyrus sang in the school choir, was involved in student government and played basketball. He was also a background singer for American Idol, and he volunteered at Valley Presbyterian Hospital.

"My loyalty and commitment towards music, academics, sports and volunteer work not only helped me live life with discipline, but it also aided me in building self-confidence," he wrote. "With an open mind, I am able to let my heart grow. And in turn, I can reach out to others and share the happiness that I have gained from knowledge and learning."

He's the son of Long Nguyen, Airports.

CHELSEA CAMMARATA

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Chelsea graduated from Chaminade College Prep High School and plans to attend Woodbury University in Burbank in the fall.

While in high school, Chelsea was on the National Honor Art Society, and the track team, and was a volunteer for the March of Dimes. She was a Girl Scout for 13 years.

"My plans for the future are to attend Woodbury University and receive my bachelor's degree in interior architecture," she says. "This way, I can design homes that are more environmentally friendly and health-promoting."

She's the daughter of Nancy Cammarata, LAPD.

KATHY MARISCAL

Recipient of \$1,000 stipend



Kathy graduated from the North Hollywood Zoo Magnet High School in Griffith Park and plans to attend UCLA in the fall.

During high school, she tutored youths at the Los Angeles Public Library, worked with the Community Rights Campaign with the Bus Riders Union, and sang in her parish choir. She was also a cheerleader, founded the KEYS Club, and is a first-generation college student.

"Knowing that I can decide my future and I can control what I do gives me options on how I can give back to my community," she says. "My dreams are no longer dreams because they are slowly becoming true, and soon I will obtain all the knowledge I can and all the resources I need to help others."

"I know that, in order to help my community, I need to unite them, so that together we can tackle issues affecting us as a group. I don't want to miss out or be short on the education that will help me fight injustices in our world today."

She's the daughter of Jorge Alvarez, Harbor.

