



NSRC FUND *NEWSLETTER*

Commemorate the past, educate for the future

Volume 18

Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund - www.nsrcfund.org

Fall 2010



Record \$50,000 in scholarships awarded in Washington, D.C. as NSRC Fund celebrates 30th Anniversary

Marisa J. Rivero

On May 16, 2010, the NSRC Fund celebrated its 30th anniversary by awarding \$50,000 in scholarships, the most ever given, in a wonderfully moving and inspiring awards ceremony. The event took place across the Potomac in Arlington, VA at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). The 39 high school seniors representing 29 high schools (also a record!) from the District, Northern Virginia and Maryland received their scholarships in front of an audience of 160 which included their proud and happy family members, siblings, and friends. Seven present and former NSRC board members also attended the 30th anniversary event: Glenn Kumekawa, May Takayanagi, Joyce Fukami, Stephen Hibino, Phitsamay Uy, Mary Murai, and Jean Hibino. The local NSRC Fund scholarship committee, expertly led by

chair Diane Hibino; organized a fitting tribute to 30 years of the Fund's work.

The event kicked off with an uplifting speech by NSRC past president, Glenn Kumekawa. He spoke of the vision of the Nisei founders 30 years ago to create something that would both honor the National Japanese Student Relocation Council and provide opportunities to the young student scholarship recipients. The DVD presentation of the history of the NSRC fund was well received and noted in the keynote speech given by Hoan Dang, president of the Maryland Vietnamese Mutual Association and candidate for the Maryland State Delegation. Mr. Dang talked about his family's experience fleeing Vietnam in 1975 and the opportunities he had growing up in the U.S. He stressed to the scholarship winners that they should remember as they move forward in life, to vote, volunteer, and be active citizens

in their communities to help those less fortunate.

The presentation of the scholarship awards was the highlight of the afternoon. The Fund was pleased to present its newest Named Scholarship – the Hisaye Hamaoka Mochizuki Scholarship established by her husband Akio Mochizuki of San Francisco. Two recipients were chosen to give prepared remarks [their speeches are reprinted in this newsletter] but all were given the opportunity to speak if they wished. Several students gave from the heart thank yous to their parents, teachers, and the NSRC Fund for helping to fulfill their dreams of attending college. Musical performances by members of the local Lao and Vietnamese communities and a delicious buffet of Vietnamese and Cambodian dishes concluded the ceremony.

Greetings from the Board -

Dear NSRC Fund supporters,

The Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund celebrated its 30th anniversary at the 2010 awards ceremony held in Washington, D.C. in May. Since its founding the NSRC Fund has proudly awarded 609 scholarships totaling \$558,800. It's a pretty sure bet that 30 years ago the Nisei founders did not imagine the Fund would achieve so much, nor foreseen the impact it is making on so many young lives. The success of the Fund stands as a wonderful tribute to those who are no longer with us - the founders, Nobu Hibino, Mayme Noda, Paul Tani, Tama Ishihara, and Kenji Murase - and to the longtime supporters across the country whose contributions and volunteer work have sustained the Fund. The Fund's guiding principles of "lending a helping hand" and paying tribute to those who helped the college Nisei during World War II is a powerful, enduring message.

After 30 years the Fund remains an all volunteer organization. The summer is typically our "slow" time in terms of donations but as of August 15, 2010, contributor support to the Fund reached \$21,000. We are very appreciative that even in today's economy our supporters continue to give generously. Operating expenses as of that same time were \$6,900. This does not include the 2010 scholarships, and the only other major expense this year is the printing and postage of this newsletter. As of August 15, 2010, the total asset of the fund was \$1.1 million. (The NSRC Fund's financial statement is made available upon written request.) The board of directors is determined to keep operating costs to a minimum in order that gifts to the Fund go primarily towards scholarships.

The 2010 scholarship awards ceremony was held in Arlington, VA on May 16. THANK YOU to Chair DIANE HIBINO for making the Fund's 30th anniversary memorable. Special thanks to the Local Awards Committee: Alvin Crawley of Arlington County schools; Kumiko Cross, Hoan Dang of Maryland Vietnamese Mutual Association, Beverly Foster of Prince George's County schools, Kris Ikejiri, Rosetta Lai of AALEAD (Leadership, Empowerment and Development for Youth and Families), Kendra Lee of AALEAD, Gale



Awaya McCallum of Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund, Laura Newton of Montgomery County schools, Genie Nguyen of Voice of Vietnamese Americans, Marisa Rivero, Dan Shea of Montgomery County schools, Xai Souphom of Lao Heritage Foundation, Sovan Tun of Cambodian-Buddhist Society, John

Triplett, and Vannga Vu. We KNOW the chairperson could not do it without you! [See related articles.]

A newly created Named Scholarship, the Hisaye Hamaoka Mochizuki Scholarship, established in her memory by her husband, Akio Mochizuki, resulted in the awarding of a \$2,000 scholarship to a young woman from Maryland who is now attending Stanford University. Board member Joyce Fukami raised the level of the named fund she created in memory of her parents, Hiroko Fujita and Paul Fukami, from a Tribute Fund to a Legacy Fund. A Legacy Fund helps support an annual \$1,000 scholarship. Joyce also wrote this year's appeal letter. [See separate articles.] Thank you so much! If you are interested in learning more about the NSRC Fund's named funds and levels of giving, please contact Jean Hibino at jeanhibino@aol.com.

The 2011 scholarship awards will be given in the "Emerald City" - Seattle, Washington. We are very excited that next year's chair, Ammara Kimso, is already bringing enthusiasm, energy and great organizational skills to the task. Ammara is the Cultural Center Coordinator at South Seattle Community College. Thank you Ammara! We look forward to working with you.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION goes to David Aman of Hanover, NH (database/IT), Maureen Kobayashi of Wellesley, MA (investment), and Don Misumi of San Francisco, CA (newsletter). We measure the Fund's success in large part by their dedication, hard work, and the expertise they willingly give year after year. Our unequivocal thanks and appreciation!

The NSRC Fund board of directors is looking to expand! If you or anyone you know might be interested in checking us out, we would be happy to hear from you. We are looking for folks willing to volunteer their time, energy, commitment and skills - and attend four board meetings a year in Massachusetts. For more information, contact Kesaya Noda at kesayanoda@gmail.com.

And to our longtime supporters of the Fund, your unwavering belief in the Fund's mission and work keeps us going.

In grateful appreciation,

NSRC Board of Directors

Paul Watanabe, *President*

Joyce M. Fukami

Jean Y. Hibino, *Executive Secretary*

Stephen Y. Hibino, *Treasurer*

Yutaka Kobayashi, *Awards Committee Liaison*

Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa

Robert Maeda

F. Robert Naka

Kesaya E. Noda, *Recording Secretary*

Lafayette Noda

May O. Takayanagi

Phitsamay Sychitkokhong Uy

Extending our hands in support

Thoughts on the NSRC Fund's 30th anniversary



R. Glenn Kumekawa

[Ed. note: Glenn is a current NSRC board member and past president]

Those series of events some 68 years ago still reverberate today. The incarceration of all of us, including the prospect of the "duration of the war and six months," would surely be a life sentence of academic loss for some 5,000 students whose college lives were so brutally and abruptly ended.

Immediately recognizing - but refusing to accept - that possibility, the goal of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council was to

obtain our release from the camps so that we could continue our interrupted studies. My sister, Nobu Kumekawa Hibino, was one of the earliest recipients of the helping hand extended to those of us behind barbed wire. I was one of the last to be helped during those four short incredible years of the Council's existence.

To commemorate that effort is to honor those who dared to help students from a populace deemed to be "disloyal" and a "threat." It commemorates the very best values of our society for fair play and justice. But most of all,

it is the affirmation of our worth in an atmosphere of rejection, suspicion and outright hostility that remains the singular legacy of the Council's aid extended to us.

May the mission of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund continue to remain sensitive to those in our society whose stunted opportunities, rejection and turmoil require that same affirmation of self worth and potential. May we continue to extend our hands in support.



Honoring those who helped my parents' generation

[Ed. note: Joyce Fukami joined the NSRC Board of Directors in 2007 and was asked to write this year's appeal letter. As board member and Chair of the Finance Committee, she brings to the Fund her expertise, enthusiasm and a deep commitment to its mission.]

Joyce's parents, Hiroko Fujita and Paul Fukami, were interned during World War II at Jerome, AK and Topaz, UT, respectively. Her aunt, Aki (Fujita) Yanari, applied to nursing school only after the urging of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council (NJASRC). Another aunt, Yas Fujita, worked for American Friends Service

Committee most of her adult life until she retired. When the war ended, Joyce's parents worked to help their families financially. They did not attend college but it was their highest priority and expectation that their children would receive college educations. Joyce attended San Francisco State University and upon graduating, moved to Boston to begin her career at Deloitte, Haskins & Sells. She became a licensed CPA in the state of Massachusetts, and received her Master of Science Taxation from Bentley University in Waltham. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Institute

for Professionals in Taxation, and serves on the USA and New England Regional Councils of the International Fiscal Association, a group of international tax professionals. Currently as Director of International Taxation for Liberty Mutual Group, Inc. Joyce actively participates in many inclusion activities in the local Boston community. Joyce says, "It is an honor for me to serve on the board of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund and I am grateful for the opportunity to help others the same way the NJASRC helped my parents' generation."

2010 Winner's profiles

Named Scholarship Awardees (\$2000 award)



Chan, Vivian,
Annandale HS,
Virginia

Vivian's parents were refugees during the Vietnam War; as a result, she believes "that the young teens of our generation should help empower the world through action." She was an International Baccalaureate diploma candidate with a 4.13 GPA. She got interested in world affairs through Just World Interact Club, as an Ambassador to a World Bank Symposium, Korea Study Abroad and Fair Trade Campaign. She also was involved with Prom Night for Special Education Kids, Winter Drive Donation and as a math tutor. Her goal is to become a doctor.

Vivian received the Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida Scholarship because she firmly believes in the saying "Chase your dreams until they become a reality." She will help others by pursuing her medical degree and working with children as did Bernice with children's activities in the PTA and the community, and Mich with his successful career in ophthalmology. She is attending the University of Virginia.



Bui, Christina
Phuong-chi,
Annandale HS,
Virginia

Christina is Vietnamese American and was an International Baccalaureate diploma candidate with a 4.07 GPA. She successfully juggled coursework with "It's Academic," Key Club, several honor societies and community activities like Girl Scouts and Vietnamese Summer School. Her teacher wrote, "I admire Christina's

commitment to studies and her ability to make learning relevant in her life outside the classroom. I'm excited to see what lies ahead for her." She plans to study pre-law at American University and "make a bigger difference in my community."

Christina received the Nobu Kumekawa Hibino Scholarship because like Nobu, she has the ability to focus on a multitude of activities at the same time - Girl Scouts, politics, interning for Jesse Jackson, Jr. A teacher says, "Buzz, buzz - what's that noise? That's Christina buzzing in for the umpteenth time..." Nobu was a leader in pre-school education, Girl Scouts and civil rights - all causes she took on with curiosity and gusto, an extraordinary "busy bee," always helping others.



Pham, Khanh An,
Oakton HS,
Virginia

Khanh and his family arrived from Vietnam in 2008 to reunite with relatives and to seek a better education. "My parents are teachers and they always emphasize the importance of education in life." His 3.84 GPA and interest in engineering resulted in acceptance to Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He works hard to help support his family as a cashier 15 hours a week and volunteers at his church. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, playing basketball and programming and computer design.

Khanh received the Tama Yoshimura Ishihara Scholarship because Tama was a believer in the value of education, the same as Khanh's family. Tama would have heartily agreed with this



plan as she especially wanted "recent immigrant children" to succeed, and she dedicated many years to this endeavor.



Tran, Davis,
Wakefield HS,
Virginia

Davis is Vietnamese

American and lives with his single mother. He helped care for his grandmother nearly full time when she became bed-ridden with a stroke. He also manages the family finances. Davis earned a 4.2 GPA, and he says that although his family doesn't have the education or language to help him succeed in school, "they channel their help to me through their moral support." He was a well-respected classroom leader in high school, a self-learner and assisted other students. "His character and maturity are beyond that of his peers and many adults," writes his teacher. Davis plans to study biology or history with the goal of a medical degree. He is attending the University of Virginia.

Davis received the Alice Abe Matsumoto Scholarship because like Alice he wants to use his knowledge of medicine to help the less privileged. This honors Alice's career at St. Joseph's Hospital and in the community educating the public on health and well-being. She was admired and respected by others just as Davis is among his peers in the school community.



Truong, Anh Lan,
Sherwood HS,
Maryland

Anh's parents had their educations

cut short in Vietnam causing them to work long hours with rarely every having time for school functions or to help with homework. But Anh was in the Key Club, tutored math, volunteered at a hospital and worked part-time while earning a GPA of 3.98. She received an internship at the National Institute of Health. She pursues education as a means to open doors to greater opportunities. She plans to major in biology or international relations and hopes to join the likes of Doctors Without Borders or Amnesty International. "Anh has a great curiosity about the world around us. I feel she is ready for the intellectual challenges college will offer," writes her teacher. She is attending Stanford University.

Anh received the Hisaye Hamaoka Mochizuki Scholarship to honor Hisaye and her long career in dietary health in Minnesota and California. Anh says that she and her sisters will use education to enhance their lives just as Hisaye, who came from a family of sisters, knew that getting into college was important. Anh might study medicine and enter a career in research or in a hospital setting as Hisaye did.



Huynh, Tuan Minh,
Glen Burnie HS,
Maryland

Tuan arrived with his family from Vietnam in 2006. They had to leave a very sick grandfather behind and having to do that led to his interest in neurology and wanting to "contribute to the medical world [through]



my research contributions and be a humanitarian doctor [to] reach every single social level and economic level." With a 4.16 GPA Tuan excelled in science but also found time to tutor students, play varsity tennis and perform community service. His teacher wrote, "He has a quiet, confident but unassuming personality, knows what is his capable of doing, but isn't arrogant. He is passionate about science." Tuan plans to major in biology at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Tuan received the Koh, Mitsuo and Dr. Kotaro Murai Scholarship because of his interest in scientific research and to honor Dr. Murai's long career in research in biomedicine at Pfizer.



Siphandone, Latsavongsay (Joey), Washington HS, West Virginia

Latsavongsay left his family and hometown in Laos at age 15 in 2006 to seek a better education in the US. He succeeded not only in English but in his math classes earning a 3.9 GPA. He plans on studying accounting and computer programming and "starting a small business at some point in time....to develop my country." He tutors ESOL, volunteers at Harpers Ferry National Park and his teacher writes, "I cannot imagine what Joey has gone through in his 3 years in Jefferson County schools. The courage he displays in being in an unfamiliar land around teachers and students who do not speak his native language..."

Joey received the Kaizo and

Shizue Naka Scholarship because of his interest in business and to honor Mr. Naka's career in the business field, on farms, in trading, and in shipping companies. Just as Mrs. Naka believed in education and "giving back to society" and Joey does too by succeeding in school and helping develop Laos.



Ha, Quynh-Nhu Nguyen, Laurel HS, Maryland

Quynh-Nhu and her family arrived from Vietnam in 2005. Having seen her parents struggle, she knows that by pursuing higher education, she can reach her goal of majoring in biology and then a medical degree "to work with charity organizations to organize [free] health fairs... as well as to help patients in war-torn nations and developing countries." She achieved a 4.2 GPA, was active in several honor societies, and established the Model United Nations at her school. Her International Baccalaureate literature teacher writes, "I believe that teachers have some students who bring out the very best in them. I am happy to say that Quynh is one of those rare students who brought out the best in me."

Quynh received the Lafayette and Mayme Noda Scholarship because she will study biology like Lafayette whose career in biology and health helped make the world a better place. Mayme and Quynh shared a love of the arts, Mayme through music and Quynh through painting which she shared with children in county recreation programs.

She is attending the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.



Do, Van Anh Thuy, Falls Church HS, Virginia

Van Anh and her family arrived from Vietnam in 2005 and she hasn't allowed her difficult family history to keep her from achieving her goal of "not only becoming a pediatrician to help children [in abusive situations] but also to promote child care because every child deserves to be happy." Van has contributed to her school and community through the Executive Council, honor societies, Character Education Leadership Team and tutoring. With a 4.2 GPA "she is a role model for her peers and is respected by faculty," writes her teacher. She plans to major in science at the University of Virginia.

Van Anh received the Gladys Ishida Stone Scholarship because both "endured many personal and social hardships without complaint." Gladys succeeded in academia, possessed strength and brought fun into the home and Van Anh has the strength and confidence to succeed in her future goals to make sure that every child is happy.



Hoang, Colleen, Bethesda-Chevy Chase HS, Maryland

Colleen, a Vietnamese American, lives with her brother and single mother who is currently not working. She maintained a

3.72 GPA while pursuing her ultimate goal of becoming an attorney by interning with the Bar Association of Montgomery County. She was also financial officer of the Global Youth Project, a founder of the Vietnamese Orphans Relief Funds Club, volunteered at Holy Cross Hospital and tutored ESOL. Her teacher said, "Colleen is kind, hard-working, a humanitarian and natural leader and... gives back to the community."

Colleen received the Michi Nishiura Weglyn Scholarship because she demonstrates a similar dedication to the struggle for justice that Michi possessed in her efforts for redress and reparations for all the victims during World War II. Colleen has proven to be a leader to help others in need. She is attending the University of Maryland.



Tan, Suejane Iv, Montgomery Blair HS, Maryland

Suejane's parents lived through the Khmer Rouge regime of Cambodia and they "recognized how far an education can take you and how powerful it can be in terms of deciding your future..." With a 4.71 GPA she combined coursework with being a producer at Blair Network communications, the school's TV station; she volunteered at Adventist Hospital and performs classical Cambodian dance. She plans to study public health or pre-med as the first in her family to go to college. Her counselor said, Suejane "is

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Funding the dreams of our youth

By Van Anh Thuy Do

[Ed. note: Ms. Do is the 2010 Gladys Ishida Stone Scholarship winner. This was the speech that she gave at the 2010 Awards Ceremony]

Thank you for coming here today to celebrate the success of the NSRCF scholars. My name is Van Anh Do, and I am one of the recipients of the NSRCF scholarship. I have never thought that I would be chosen as one of the awardees let alone being asked to speak about my feelings when I receive this scholarship. However, when I held the acceptance letter in my hand, I was excited for the opportunity to not only express my appreciation for my personal scholarship, but also my appreciation for the entire committee. The wonderful concept of the committee is to fund the dreams of our youth and assist all of us on our first step in college. I feel very proud to stand here and be a part of such a great dream, and along with it is my sense of responsibility in doing the best I can to give back to the community.

My plan is to attend the University of Virginia next year and pursue a career in medicine. Thanks to NSRCF Scholarship, I now have enough money for a full ride at UVA. I plan to use the scholarship to fund some opportunities that would not have been achieved such as honors dorms and summer courses. The NSRCF scholarship provides me with opportunities to further my knowledge while at the same time helping me to become a better person.

When I looked at the awardees in this room, I realized many of us will be future leaders, successful businessmen, brilliant mathematicians, and gifted scientists. That is why I would like to offer my most sincere appreciation to the committee, the donors, and the foundation for bringing all of us a step closer to our goal. I hope the committee will continue to thrive and make more opportunities available to students' hard work ethic, strong drive, and great ambitions. I would also like to wish all of my fellow recipients a great future with many more achievements ahead. Thank you for allowing me to be here today and congratulations to everyone.

Winners (cont'd)

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well-equipped to handle the new challenges that college will present."

Suejane received the Kay Yamashita Scholarship because like her family's experience during the Khmer Rouge regime, Kay had faith in overcoming the adversities of war with a vision for change and hopes for success. This honors Kay's conviction that, given the opportunity, any student can make change happen and succeed in life. Suejane is attending the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

General Scholarship Awardees (\$1000)



Daraseng, Feroz Vi,
Mount Vernon HS,
Virginia

From a Laotian American family of four, Feroz describes himself as "a diligent worker who likes to get my work done in a timely manner. I want my family to be proud of me with my educational success as the first college graduate." With a 3.93 GPA while volunteering at an Alexandria Hospital Homeless Shelter and working full-time in the summer and part-time now for the EPA, he plans to further his studies in engineering at Northern Virginia Community College and transfer to George Mason University.



Ho, Thao Thu, JEB
Stuart HS, Virginia

Thao and her family came from Vietnam three years ago. "The lack of ability to communicate with other people was a barrier for me to work and study, but I thought of my mom in Vietnam, and the promise that I would make her proud of me by studying really hard." She attained a 3.6 GPA while volunteering in church activities and working in a dental and a medical office to help out. She has completed a Pharmacy Tech internship and hopes to study pharmacology in college. She is attending Northern Virginia Community College.



Huynh, Kathy,
Washington-Lee
HS, Virginia

Kathy is from a Cambodian Vietnamese American family of five. She maintained a 4.03

GPA and credits her Cambodian mother's experience, "I am very committed to doing my best in and out of school, trying to do what my mother was not able to do. I want to be an example for women, showing them that their family's background should not be a determining factor to their success." After excelling in science and math, playing lacrosse and being captain of the Color Guard, she wishes to pursue a major in chemistry to become a trace evidence analyst. She is attending William & Mary.



Huynh, Thao Le Thanh,
Chantilly HS, Virginia

Thao and her family of four arrived from Vietnam in 2008. She was able to attain a 3.74 GPA with medals in State and Regional Science Olympiads all the while working 15 hours a week in fast food. "I always tell myself to be more independent, confident and optimistic which I believe are the major factors that will lead to success. I hope that I can become a qualified doctor to help the people in my community." She plans to study nursing leading to a medical degree to help her community's health in the future. She is attending Virginia Commonwealth University.



Huynh, Truc Anh Le,
Chantilly HS, Virginia

Truc Anh arrived with her parents from Vietnam in 2006. She worked multiple hours in retail, and was a Pharmacy Technician volunteering in the community at health fairs. She attained a 3.55 GPA, "I believe that I am a lucky person to live in America. I have a chance to challenge myself. I realize how important having a good education is. The more I am challenged, the more I discover the ability of myself." She hopes to major in Information Technology at Northern Virginia Community College and become a computer programmer.



Lay, Nguon Michael,
Washington-Lee HS,
Virginia

Nguon and his parents arrived from Cambodia in 2006. He says, "I had a strong support system including my teachers, counselors, and family, all my aunts and uncles, that helped me to realize how important it is to

study hard and get a good education." He attained a 3.8 GPA while working 15 hours per week in retail to save for college. He volunteered in the community and enjoyed math and engineering club activities. He is considering a major in medicine leading to a dental degree. He is attending Virginia Commonwealth University.



Le, Ashley
Piseiy,
Springbrook HS,
Maryland

Ashley and her parents are Cambodian American. She has attained a 2.79 GPA with a curriculum of primarily advanced and honors courses. "Striving to accomplish personal goals successfully is a process that requires the proper amount of ambition, and confidence." She was active in sports and student government and interned at Washington Adventist Hospital. Ashley describes a traumatic health emergency with a classmate that has pushed her toward a career in helping people. She hopes to study medical technology at Stevenson University in Maryland.



Le, Nhi Priscilla
Thuy, Rockville
HS, Maryland

Nhi and her family of six arrived from Vietnam in the 1970s. "As the first child in my family attending a university, I plan to set the standards high as a role model for my younger siblings and cousins. I am a determined learner motivated to achieve my career goals of being a nurse." She was an International Baccalaureate Diploma candidate with a 3.37 GPA. She tutored students and was active in the Rotary Club and other volunteer activities. She plans a biology-physiology/

medicine major leading to a graduate degree in nursing. She is attending Towson University in Maryland.



Li, Jessica,
Washington-Lee
HS, Virginia

Jessica's Cambodian mother came to America from a Khmer Rouge concentration camp. "My parents' strength, determination, and views on education have inspired and molded me into an academically driven and career oriented person." She has attained a 3.55 GPA while actively participating in the Key Club, Yearbook and literary magazine, and as a camp counselor and tutor in the community. She intends to pursue political science and international relations due to her interests in politics and cultures with a goal of becoming an ambassador. She is attending James Madison University in Virginia.



Luu, Carvery
Ma, McKinley
Technology HS,
Washington,
D.C.

Carvery was born in the US to a Vietnamese father and Chinese mother. She describes language and financial difficulties, "I struggled a lot with my family's financial needs therefore I have been doing my best in school because I really want to go to college and help out my parents in the future." She has attained a 3.74 GPA while tutoring English at the Vietnamese American Community Service Center and office and nail work to help the family. She took pre-engineering classes at McKinley and plans on studying aerospace engineering.



Ly, Ngoc
Chau Lucy,
Gaithersburg
HS, Maryland

Ngoc came to the US with her parents from Vietnam in 2007. "Going to college; this is

one of my most important goals in life. A Chinese proverb once said, 'learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere'."

She has attained a 3.5 GPA while on the swim team and a student assistant at school. She volunteered as a tutor, helped new immigrants in the community, and worked retail 10 hours per week. She hopes to become a psychologist. She is attending Montgomery College, Maryland.



Ngo, Khanh
Phuc, Hampton
HS, Virginia

Khanh arrived in the US with his family from Vietnam in 2006. "I believe it takes hard work and perseverance to achieve success. Growing up in a third world country has taught me a valuable lesson and that is to never take anything for granted." His parents have been directly affected by the slow economy. With his work hard attitude he maintained a 3.63 GPA while participating on the soccer and swim teams. He worked delivering pizza to save money for college. His desire is to become a productive member of society and his goal is to major in nuclear engineering. He is attending Virginia Tech (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University).



Nguyen, Bang
Tam Ngoc,
Quince Orchard
HS, Maryland

Bang Tam came with her mother from Vietnam in 2008. "A new abode brings many new challenges and also much hope. I must work hard to achieve what I want with education as the only path to a bright future for my beloved family and me." She attained a 3.21 GPA while



involved with the International Club at school. She also attended the only interior design program in Montgomery County, MD and has excelled in creativity and artistry achieving a Student of the Quarter Award. She plans to study interior design while at Montgomery College.



Nguyen, Chau
Thi, J.E.B. Stuart
HS, Virginia

Chau came to the US with her family from Vietnam in 2007. "Education is one of the most important things in my life because it can provide me with an opportunity to have a bright future. Thus, I put great effort into my studies so that I can reach my goals and prepare myself for college." She attained a GPA of 3.57 and took IB math and science courses. She was active in math and art honor society activities, and worked 15 hours per week in retail. Chau hopes to study pharmacology to "produce medicines to cure diseases and improve human life expectancy." She is attending Virginia Commonwealth University.



Nguyen, Diana,
Montgomery
Blair HS,
Maryland

Diana is Vietnamese American. "Despite my bashful nature, I try to give back to the community as much as I can by granting favors for others. Because I can do something about my future, continuing my education will provide me a better education and a degree." She had a 3.23

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Scholarship Winners

Continued from p. 7

GPA and was a Horatio Alger National Scholar. She plays violin and piano and was a member of the orchestra at Montgomery College. She plans a science and music double major with a career goal to become a pediatrician. She is attending the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.



Nguyen, Ngoc-Dung Phuoc, Thomas A Edison HS, Virginia

Ngoc-Dung came with her parents from Vietnam in 2006. "I realize that my parents came here for our sake and I should take advantage of the opportunities that are presented to me. I study hard so that I can become someone who will make my parents proud." She maintained a 3.75 GPA while belonging to the Key Club and Math Honor Society, and working 35 hours per week at a pharmacy to help out. She excels in math and physics, assisting other students, and hopes to study Electrical Engineering.



Nguyen, Phuong Ann Thao, Seneca Valley HS, Maryland

Phuong arrived with her family of five from Vietnam in 1993. "My family has taught me the significance of working hard, striving for goals and overcoming obstacles I may face during my journey to success. I am always devoted and meticulous when I am presented an assignment." She had a 4.0 GPA, was on the Track & Field and Field Hockey teams, in honor societies, and on the Student Academy Council. As an Eagle Ambassador, she volunteered as a tutor and in the community. Phuong interned at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital and plans to study pharmacology and become a pharmacist. She is attending the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.



Nguyen, Quy-Minh Phuoc, Thomas A Edison HS, VA

Quy-Minh and his family came from Vietnam in 2006. "Although we face a lot of difficulties, my family still can see peace and freedom that we have never seen in Vietnam. These beautiful things give us a stronger mind and a stronger soul to achieve our goal, getting a better life." He had a 3.67 GPA while working 20 hours each week as a janitor for his family. He helped his sister and parents in many other ways as well. He hopes to study Electrical Engineering.



Nguyen, Thien Thanh, J.E.B. Stuart HS, VA

Thein Thanh arrived with her family from Vietnam in 2007. "Being a recent immigrant in the US, I endeavored to be involved and helpful to my entourage and to the community. I learned that academia is the only path for success and the only way to realize my ambitions." Her GPA was 4.0 and she placed in math and science competitions, was active in school clubs and volunteered in Scouts, INOVA Hospital and ESOL classes. Thien worked 20 hours a week in a dental office and is a Pharmacy Technician. She plans to study biochemistry as pre-med preparation to become a UNICEF doctor to care for children. She is attending Virginia Commonwealth University.



Nguyen, Thanh Van Vu, Reservoir HS, Maryland

Van arrived with her family from Vietnam in 2005. "I want to continue my education after high school because of my parents. They taught me that getting an education is not only useful for myself but is also useful for my community." She had a

3.88 GPA and was active in the Art Club, Culture Club and choir. She did child care nine hours a week and volunteered as well. As her parents did not have the opportunity to complete high school, she says it is important that she succeed in her goal of a marketing degree. She is attending the University of Maryland.



Pham, Thanh Van Jenny, Robert E Lee HS, Virginia

Thanh Van came from Vietnam with her family in 2004. "Inside I struggled to understand and speak English at school and I could sense that I was awkward with my usage of the new language. This paradox carries an enormous weight of upholding the expectations that were placed on me." This did not prevent her from attaining a 3.72 GPA while volunteering in the library, tutoring in science and math, and working 12 hours per week. She belonged to the Japanese Honor Society and Japanese Cultural Exchange Club and interned with a dentist and at an animal hospital. He wants to study biochemistry/bio-medicine to become a pediatrician. She is attending Virginia Commonwealth University.



Pham, Thao May Tina, Mount Vernon HS, Virginia

Thao and her family of four came from Vietnam. "I strive to execute my work to the best of my ability and I seek not to settle for reaching my goals but rather to exceed them. I am the first generation in my family to pursue a college education and I am motivated by my family's past as well as my own personal goals." She attained a 4.3 GPA and was an International Baccalaureate diploma candidate. She belonged to the Business and Science Honor Societies and held several

student government positions. Thao volunteered at INOVA Hospital while working part-time at EPA and in the family business. She wants to study pre-med/biology and enter the health field in medicine. She is attending George Mason University.



Pham, Thao-Vy Thanh, Freedom HS, Virginia

Thao-Vy came with her mother from Vietnam in 2008. "Coming to the US has affected my life tremendously. Because I desire to be successful in the future, I want to continue my education earnestly. I have a dream to go around the world to help poor people." In her two years in high school, she has attained a 3.89 GPA while tutoring others in math, joined the Drama Club and Taiko Drumming Club and worked as a babysitter in her church. She wants to study biotechnology leading to an eventual career in dentistry. She is attending Northern Virginia Community College.



Samel, Rasmeyleina, Springbrook HS, Maryland

Rasmeyleina and his single mother are Cambodian Americans. "Continuing my educational career is critical because I will be the first generation of my family to reach education of the college level to pursue a better future for myself as well as for my family." He attained a 3.5 GPA, played varsity volleyball, was a volleyball assistant, and volunteered in the public library and school counseling office. Wanting to help his mother who has sacrificed for him, he plans to major in Information Technology or in business. He is attending the University of Maryland.



Thean, Chumma,
Centreville HS,
VA

Chumma arrived from Cambodia in 1994. "I believe my greatest strength is my natural ability to lead others. Since I am an only child, I developed a strong sense of independence from a young age. I would always lead the neighborhood kids in a new game and now as a senior in high school, I still lead others into new situations." She had a 4.33 GPA as editor-in-chief of the yearbook, senior class governor, president of Model Judiciary arguing cases in mock court scenarios, and played lacrosse for 4 years. She interned with a local law firm and wants to major in government and international politics as pre-law to become a lawyer or to work abroad in an embassy. She is attending the University of Virginia.



Ton, Nhu-Thuy,
Benjamin Banneker
Academic HS,
Washington, D.C.

Nhu-Thuy came from Vietnam in 2001 to live with her father and two sisters. "I performed well and earned many awards during middle school, I was admitted to one of the top schools in Wash. DC. There are many things that I want to learn and try out in college, one of them is to study abroad." She earned a 2.89 GPA while volunteering in the library, working at the Federal Trade Commission and in school clubs and sports. She wants to study Computer Science leading to a software engineering degree. She is attending Rochester Institute of Technology.



Touch, Timothy,
Annandale HS,
Virginia

Timothy and his family are Cambodian American. After a difficult family situation and many moves, he reached his high school graduation. "Now I have goals set, my mind is focused on achieving them. This was my turning point in life and I believe it shaped me into a young adult. I realized that this was the time to mature and focus on my main priority, being the first person in my family to go to college." He attained a 2.7 GPA while a member of the varsity tennis team and Future Business Leaders of America. He performed community service and worked part-time in retail. He hopes to obtain a business degree. He is attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania



Tran, Viet Hoang,
Cardozo HS,
Washington, D.C.

Viet and his family of six came from Vietnam in 2006. "My mother cared about her children's future. This is why I want to continue my education after high school because I want to have success in my life as my Mom wanted me to. I believe in the future, I may be helpful for my community because wherever I work I can help people with their problems." Viet worked when he was 13 years old in Vietnam where he saw the dangers of gang street activities as a young teen. With a 3.10 GPA, he was involved in science, chess and African American clubs. He also volunteered with Asian American LEAD (Leadership, Empowerment and Development for Youth and Families). He plans to major in international business to give him employment opportunities for his future.

2010 Kaizo and Shizue Naka Scholarship Winner

Thank you for your confidence in me

Latsavongsay (Joey) Siphandone

[Ed. note: This was the speech that Mr. Siphandone gave at the 2010 Awards Ceremony]

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. My name is Latsavongsay Siphandone. It is a pleasure meeting you all today. I am very proud to be here and to be selected as one of the speakers of this scholarship ceremony.

I have been in the United States now for almost four years. My first journey from Laos to America started when I was fifteen years old because my family and I believed that education in the United States was better than the education I could have received in my native country where class size can often range as high as 60 students per single classroom.

Since I first arrived, I have learned a lot from people around me. I learned English as a second language, learned to live without parents, and learned to adapt myself to this new culture. Leaving Laos and coming to America was hard, but living without parents proved even tougher. These

important lessons taught me to stand up for myself, not to give up easily, and provided motivation that kept me going when I doubted myself.

I am now about to accomplish my high school education and am preparing to continue my studies until I reach my destination, a college degree. I am highly honored to be receiving this scholarship. These funds will make it possible for me to begin my second journey, attending a four-year college.

Again thank you for investing your confidence in me. I will not disappoint you. Also, I would like to extend congratulations to all of my peers who are receiving scholarships as well. I absolutely would like to thank my family in Laos and my new family here in the United States, who always support and help me make it to today. Coming to America, for me, is a dream come true. Thank you.





The Hisaye Hamaoka Mochizuki Scholarship (Established by Akio Mochizuki)

Hisaye Hamaoka was born in 1925 in Del Rey, California, the second of three daughters of Kyuhei and Kima Hamaoka, originally of Kumamoto, Japan. The family moved to Delano, CA where the sisters attended segregated schools. In 1942, Hisaye was a student at Delano High School. Hisaye, her mother and sisters were evacuated to Merced Assembly Center and Amache Relocation Center. She graduated from high school in Amache. Hisaye applied to several universities from camp. She was not accepted to any of

the universities to which she applied, but in 1944, with the help of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, she travelled to Minneapolis to see if the University of Minnesota would accept her for the Fall quarter. She matriculated in 1944 and graduated in 1948 with a degree in dietetics. From 1948 to 1950, Hisaye was a dietetic intern at Highland Hospital. In 1950, she accepted a job as dietitian for the University of California, San Francisco's Metabolic Unit where she designed special diets for research

protocols and oversaw the research kitchen for 33 years. She married Akio Mochizuki in 1951. Tara, their only child, was born a year later. Hisaye was always grateful for the help she received from the American Friends Service Committee, "the Quakers" as she called it, without whose help she may never have attended university.

[Ed. note: The Hisaye Hamaoka Mochizuki Scholarship is the NSRC Fund's 11th Named Scholarship, a special category of giving that provides an annual \$2,000 scholarship.]



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Being Hmong American

By Kaozouapa Elizabeth Lee

[Ed. note: Kaozouapa Lee is a 2007 NSRC scholarship winner from Minnesota and is currently a Political Science major at Yale University, Class of 2011]

It was an honor to meet Professor Glenn Kumekawa, former president of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund during this spring's Day of Remembrance events organized by Yale University's Japanese American Student Union. Prof. Kumekawa talked about the NSRCF during his presentation about life during and after his WWII internment. As a recipient of a 2007 scholarship, I already had a basic understanding of the impetus of the Fund, but hearing Prof. Kumekawa enriched my understanding even more. In fact, hearing him speak made me think about what it means to be an Asian American.

After three years in college, an Asian American history course, and briefly living abroad in Asian countries, I have gained a better understanding of what it means to be an Asian American. Having "lived" in Tokyo for a week, New Delhi for 9 weeks, and Vientiane for 10 weeks, I had the unique opportunity to experience being an Asian American in East, South and Southeast Asia. Even in India, people thought I was a local until they realized I could not understand

what they spoke. When I replied to their obvious next questions, "Where are you from? What are you?" many people did not believe that I was from the United States. They asked, "Where are you REALLY from?" because apparently I did not look "American." It would have been more believable if I claimed to be from Japan, Korea, or China.

But it is not just those in seemingly mono-ethnic societies who have trouble accepting that I am an American. Even some Yale alumni whom I expected to be enlightened in some way have asked me where am I "really from" after finding out that I am a proud Minnesotan. Certainly, someone as exotic as I am must have origins other than Maplewood, MN! Some people are more subtle and ask where my parents are from, and that's when they find out that both my parents were born in Laos but that we are Hmong American. My friends and classmates at Yale are more open-minded. Some are more interested than others; some are afraid they might offend me if they ask more questions; some have welcomed using my first name, Kaozouapa; and some are interested in learning more about the Hmong experience.

Being Hmong American doesn't mean much more than being a typical American; though with unique

challenges. I am just like any other American college student—I study in the library when necessary; procrastinate sometimes; go partying when I think I deserve it; enjoy Shakespeare and Plato; enjoy traveling in the summer; worry about what I'm going to do next in life, etc... I get to celebrate the New Year in November AND January! But it also means having my citizenship constantly challenged; my origins constantly questioned. While looking "Asian" helps in certain situations overseas, it is also a curse because others always attach a certain foreignness to me.

It may sound naïve and idealistic, but I think this is just a challenge for our generation – to show the world that Americans have many origins and come in many shades. This past summer I had the honor of interning at the US Embassy in Vientiane, Laos, representing the American people. When I wrote this, I was only partially done with my internship, but it was already an experience of a lifetime! While my citizenship and ethnicity will always be a topic of inquiry to others, I am hopeful that the time I spent representing the United States this summer made a small difference in people's perception and understanding of Americans.



In Memoriam



Harvey Itano

One of the NSRC Fund's staunchest supporters, Harvey Itano, passed away May 8, 2010 in La Jolla, CA. He was 89 years old. Harvey was the first Japanese American college student to leave the internment camps following the Roosevelt administration's decision that the Nisei would be allowed to pursue their college educations away from the West Coast. Harvey was the University Medal winner (top of his class) from the University of California in Berkeley in 1942 and was specifically chosen to be the first to leave. John J. McCloy, the Assistant Secretary of War, personally - and symbolically - signed his release from Tule Lake on July 4, 1942. Harvey was accepted to the St. Louis University School of Medicine and classes started on July 6th. (The vivid description of Harvey's hurried departure from Tule Lake was wonderfully described by Tom Bodine of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council who was ordered to take Harvey to the Klamath Falls, Oregon train station and put him on a train bound for St. Louis. The story is at <http://www.itano.net/history/bodine1.htm>.)

Harvey earned his MD from St. Louis University and received his PhD in Chemistry and Physics from California Institute of Technology. He performed groundbreaking research on sickle cell anemia while a grad student at the Cal Tech laboratory of Nobel Laureate Linus Pauling. His long and distinguished career took him from the US Public Health Service to UC San Diego School of Medicine.

Harvey and his wife Rose made the trip from California to Massachusetts to attend the NSRC Fund's 20th anniversary in 2000. At that event he was reunited with Tom Bodine and told Tom, "I never got a chance to say thank you for your help so many years ago so I'll say it today, thank you." His deeply committed belief in the power of education made him one of the NSRC Fund's earliest supporters.



Nao Takasugi

Another longtime Nisei supporter of the NSRC Fund, Nao Takasugi, passed away in Oxnard, CA on November 19, 2009 at the age of 87. Nao was in his junior year at UCLA when war broke out and he and his family were sent to Gila River in Arizona. As with Harvey Itano, Nao received help from Tom Bodine and the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council to leave Gila to attend Temple University in Philadelphia. He always remembered his days in Philly fondly and enjoyed his friendship with Tom as they worked together at the Student Relocation Council offices there. Nao received his MBA from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business. After the war he returned to Oxnard because, as his son Ron recalled, "no accounting firms in Philadelphia would hire him. He assisted my grandfather in running the family business, the Asahi Market, for 40 years." Nao later entered politics and became the Mayor of Oxnard for ten years, from 1982 to 1992. He then served in the California State Legislature for three terms, and ended his political career after serving two terms on the Oxnard Harbor Commission.

Nao and his wife Judy also attended the NSRC's 20th anniversary celebration in Massachusetts in 2000. Ron remembered, "In conversations and stories that the family has heard countless times over our lifetime, he would always express his gratitude to those who assisted him in completing his education." Nao and Judy were married for 57 years and had five children.

The NSRC Fund board of directors extends our deepest sympathies to the Itano and Takasugi families.

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NSRC Board member Bob Naka receives honorary degree from University of California

NSRC board member, Fumio Robert Naka, ScD PE, received an honorary degree from the University of California at a ceremony held at UCLA on May 15, 2010. Bob was chosen to speak on behalf of his fellow Nisei classmates who were also receiving honorary degrees.

Thanks to the efforts initiated by California State Assemblyman Warren Furutani, Assembly Bill 37 was signed into law last October that granted honorary degrees to Japanese Americans who were students throughout the California state university system and whose

educations were disrupted because of the internment. Bob had nearly completed his sophomore year at UCLA when his family was sent to Manzanar.

With the help of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council Bob left Manzanar for the University of Missouri where he received an electrical engineering degree in 1945. He then went on to receive a master's degree from the University of Minnesota in 1947 and a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1951. Bob will always be particularly grateful to the University

of Minnesota because that's where he met his future wife, Pat.

Bob's address, given 68 years after his internment, focused on "restoring justice" by paying back the opportunity given to him and other college Nisei by the Student Relocation Council. The Council's namesake, the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund, is one specific way that Bob repays the Council's faith in him. Although many people and organizations "lent a helping hand" along his path to success, Bob concluded his speech by saying he accepted the honorary degree in memory of his parents.

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