



NSRCFUND NEWSLETTER

COMMEMORATE THE PAST - EDUCATE FOR THE FUTURE

VOLUME 25

FALL 2017

2017 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS IN LOWELL, MA



\$55,000 Awarded to 35 Students

Even though June 11 was a “Triple H” day (hazy, hot and humid) with the temperature soaring to 91°, inside The Onyx Room in Lowell, Massachusetts 140 people - recipients, parents, siblings, teachers, friends and NSRCF board member and supporters - were in a celebratory mood. The Onyx Room is situated on the banks of the Pawtucket Canal in an old mill building that houses a stunning community of artists. With fans circulating to keep the outside heat at bay, the 37th annual scholarship awards program was MC’d by NSRCF board member, Phitsamay

Uy, Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Education at the University of Massachusetts - Lowell. Dr. Uy also chaired the local awards committee.

The program kicked off with warm greetings from Massachusetts State Representative, Rady Mom, the first Cambodian American elected to a state legislature in the entire United States. NSRCF president, Paul Watanabe, and Nisei board member, Yutaka Kobayashi, 93 years young, brought their messages of hope; gratitude; optimism in the face of racism, discrimination and polarizing

politics; strength to overcome obstacles, and the absolutely critical importance of getting an education.

Two excellent videos were shown, the NSRCF’s story (on the website: <http://www.nsrcfund.org/>) and “Bridges: The Southeast Asian American Journey” produced by SEARAC, the Southeast Asian Action Resource Center in Washington, DC (check it out: <http://library.uml.edu/media/bridges.html>). Overcome with emotion, Phitsamay made it clear how the far-reaching consequences of the

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2017 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS *cont'd*



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Vietnam War continue to impact lives and communities so deeply today.

In a tasty twist, the attendees were treated to a delicious Cambodian lunch from Peephuptmei of Lowell while watching two wonderfully exquisite performances by members



of the Cambodian Angkor Dance Troupe and the Burmese Saydanar Dance Troupe, both based in Lowell. Three scholarship recipients, Nathan Sinuon, Lyhuor Seit and Uksavatey Nuth, were chosen by the local awards committee to say a few words of encouragement, advice, and gratitude on behalf of all the awardees.

The last half of the program was devoted to the scholarship recipients.

As each awardee received his or her recognition, it was obvious from their parents, siblings, relatives, friends, teachers and counselors who joined them in the photos, who cheered for them, who smiled and cried, that all the hard work and sacrifices paid off. Their pride at seeing the students about to embark on their college lives was well deserved.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2017!



GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD

Dear NSRCF supporters and friends,

With the changing leaves of autumn, it is time to reflect on our past accomplishments, and to look forward to next year. 2017 has been quite a year of change for America but we remain focused on the mission and its tangible expression, the celebration of the Fund's 37th anniversary. We extend our thanks to all who support the NSRCF, allowing us to provide educational opportunities for students in Eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

This year's awards ceremony was held on June 11th in Lowell, Massachusetts. CONGRATULATIONS to chair and NSRCF board member, Phitsamay Uy and her local awards committee of 38! We would like to specially single out and thank the three sub-committee chairs, Sue Kim, Virak Uy and Lianna Kushi who oversaw the application process, outreach and awards ceremony respectively. The committee's long hours, deep commitment to the project, and enthusiastic hard work over many months enabled \$55,000 in scholarships to be awarded to 35 high school students. Nine other board members attended the awards ceremony, happy to join parents, siblings, friends, and supporters in celebration.

To date, the NSRCF has awarded 932 scholarships totaling nearly \$965,000. Next year will be a huge milestone for the Fund as we will surpass the \$1million dollar benchmark in scholarship money awarded. The

board of directors remains an all-volunteer group. We are committed to keeping operating costs to a minimum so that gifts to the Fund go primarily towards scholarships. (The NSRC Fund's financial statement is made available upon written request.) As of June 30, 2017 the Fund stands at \$1.78 million dollars.

This year the David Mitsuo Takagi Legacy Fund reached Named Scholarship level, bringing the number of these very special awards to 20. Named Scholarships make it possible to give an annual \$2000 scholarship, the largest amount the Fund awards. They are established in different ways, from a lump sum to yearly donations to bring a Tribute Fund or Legacy Fund up to Named Scholarship Level, or established by the board of directors. If you would like more information on starting a Named Fund or contributing to an already existing one, please contact us.

The board reluctantly accepted the resignation of Phuoc Van Le. Phuoc is the embodiment of everything the NSRCF stands for and hopes to achieve. Born in rural Vietnam in 1976 at the age of five Phuoc fled with his family to a Hong Kong refugee camp. He arrived in the US in 1981, eventually settling in Sacramento, California. He graduated first in

his senior class and received an NSRCF scholarship in 1994. Phuoc graduated from Dartmouth College and Stanford Medical School, also completing a concurrent Master's of Public Health at UC Berkeley with a concentration in International Health. He said, "It has been a true privilege and honor for me to have played a small part in the work of this fantastic organization, and in particular the inspirational people who carry out its important mission. I will continue to support the NSRC Fund to the best of my ability even as a non-board member." He is a role model and inspiration, and we know he will continue to do great things.

SPECIAL THANKS to David Aman of Hanover, NH who "retired" from being in charge of the Fund's database, mailing list and in general, keeper of the information. Dave helped for over 20 years and we could not have done our work without him. *continued on next page*





COMMITMENT TO CARRY ON THE NISEI LEGACY

Board member Laura Misumi wrote this year’s NSRCF appeal letter. She is a Workers’ Rights staff attorney at the Community Development Project of the Urban Justice Center in New York City. Laura is Yonsei, fourth-generation Japanese American, born in San Francisco like her father and grandparents, and grew up in Lexington, Massachusetts, near where her maternal grandparents, Nobu and Yosh Hibino, resettled after getting out of the Topaz, Utah internment camp.

She says, “When I learned about the American Friends Service Committee and the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council helping college-aged Nisei like my grandparents get out of the camps to finish their educations, I thought how brave they were to have stood up for the Japanese Americans during the war, but also how brave the young Japanese Americans were to go to Midwestern and East Coast colleges on their own.

I am the daughter of activists who fought against redevelopment (gentrification by another name...) in San Francisco’s Japantown, and for redress and reparations for the Japanese American internment. I recently spoke on a panel in Oakland, CA about the struggle for redress and reparations as a part of a broader discussion on restorative justice. My dad was there and he recounted how significant getting justice was not only for the victims of the WWII incarceration, but for all groups affected by racism, white supremacy, and the total failure of political leadership.

It is in the spirit of carrying on the work of my grandparents and parents that I became the youngest board member when I joined in 2014. I am honored to follow in their footsteps in service to the NSRCF, and am committed to pass on their legacy and that of the wartime National Japanese American Student Relocation Council through my life and work.”

FROM THE BOARD —

Continued from page 3

Welcome to the newest NSRCF supporters, Felix Jerome Hibino born to Steve and Liz on February 7th and Remy Arun Naughton born to Islanda and Tim on August 27th. CONGRATULATIONS!

The 2018 scholarships will be awarded in Orange County, California. Vattana Peong, Mary Anne Foo and Kenneth Inouye have agreed to spearhead the local awards committee endeavor. They are organizing a committee, and we are always so grateful when folks come forward to help us with such a big undertaking.

And last but not least, thank you to the Fund’s supporters. Our ability to continue to provide the opportunity for Southeast Asian American high school students to obtain a college education hinges in no small part on your

unwavering belief in the Fund’s mission. It has not been easy given the current political climate, but you are what keeps us going, and we look forward to the coming year.

With appreciation, NSRCF Board of Directors

Paul Watanabe, *President*

Stephen Y. Hibino, *Treasurer*

Jean Y. Hibino, *Executive Secretary*

Kesaya E. Noda, *Recording Secretary*

Islanda Khau Naughton

Yutaka Kobayashi, *Awards Committee National Liaison*

James McIlwain

Laura H. Misumi

Keith Schuricht

May O. Takayanagi

Phitsamay Sychitkokhong Uy

2017 NSRCF NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

RYOZO GLENN KUMEKAWA SCHOLARSHIP

Seenaleap Chhan, Providence, RI
Seenaleap is Cambodian, born and



raised in Providence, Rhode Island. Her parents fled the Khmer Rouge during

the Vietnam War. Seenaleap says, "As the oldest child of first generation refugees, I had to learn independence very young because my parents did not know anything about America. They did not come here to achieve the American Dream; they came here to survive." Understanding her Khmer community drives her to offer support to it, to organize and to volunteer. While at Central High, she was active in the Providence Youth Student Movement, Environmental Justice League, women's rights and youth advocacy issues. Seenaleap is attending the University of Massachusetts - Dartmouth to pursue her dream of becoming a lawyer active in social justice issues.

KAY YAMASHITA SCHOLARSHIP

Thaw Htoo, Worcester, MA

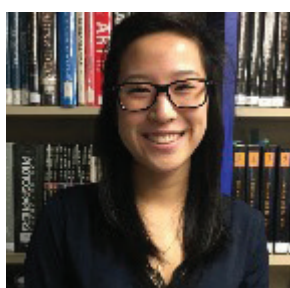


Thaw (Thea) Ray Htoo was born in a Karen village Burma and moved to refugee camps in

Thailand as an infant. Her family arrived in the United States in 2011 and lived in Washington and Texas before moving to Worcester, Massachusetts. She carries with her the memories of life in the refugee camps, coming to America and moving around a lot, learning a new language and culture, and family separation. While at South High Community School Thea was active in the Worcester Refugee Assistance project (WRAP) Youth group, the National Honor Society, band and cross county. She also enjoys mentoring children. She is attending Worcester State University and hopes for a career in criminal justice.

NOBU (KUMEKAWA) AND YOSH HIBINO SCHOLARSHIP

Dalena Huynh, Burlington, MA



Ever since Dalena was a child, her goal in life has been to help others in need. She has

decided to pursue this by attending Northeastern University in Boston and majoring in health science. Dalena was very active at Burlington High School with Student Council, National Honor Society, band, mentoring others, and the French Club. She excelled in varsity volleyball and lacrosse. She also found time to volunteer at the local hospital. She thanks her family for continually pushing her to work hard and challenge herself, "Without

them, I would not have achieved as much as I have or have had the drive and support to continue."

MICHIHIKO AND BERNICE HAYASHIDA SCHOLARSHIP

Marina Nguyen, Boston, MA •



Marina is Vietnamese American. She says she would not be where she is today without

the sacrifices made by her parents, grandparents, and other relatives. She thanks her mom and dad for giving her the chance to pursue whatever makes her the happiest. She has an interest in the power of words, whether journaling, writing chapter books, or understanding that journalism can have a global impact. Marina attended Boston Latin School and was active on The Register literary magazine, the "Wolf Blog," Vietnamese Student Society, and was a peer tutor. She worked at the Museum of Fine Arts, spent a summer on the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico, and traveled to Chile with the Student Diplomacy Corps. Marina is attending Boston University, planning to major in psychology or neurobiology. She hopes to use her education with an organization such as Doctors Without Borders to help innocent civilians affected by war, or to provide healthcare and healthcare education opportunities in under developed countries.

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2017 NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS *cont'd*

Continued from page 3

ALICE ABE MATSUMOTO SCHOLARSHIP

Sivheng Kim, Lowell, MA



Sivheng was born in Battambang, Cambodia. It was financially difficult for families to send their

children to school, but Sivheng remembered her aunt's advice, "No matter the circumstances, education will always be your best gift in life." When her family arrived in America, she read books every day to learn English. She excelled at Lowell High School and was active in volunteer community work and her church, and the National Honor Society. She is attending the University of Massachusetts - Lowell planning to become a nurse practitioner.

GLADYS ISHIDA STONE SCHOLARSHIP

Emai Lai, Andover, MA



Emai was born in the U.S. to a Chinese father and Cambodian mother. Her mother lost many family members

under the Khmer Rouge regime. Her mother escaped with her surviving siblings to a refugee camp

in Thailand and then to America. Emai graduated from Andover High School where she was active in art club, orchestra, science team, Amnesty International and PALS tutoring. She helped to form a photo and video production group with two friends. Their documentaries, interviews and short sketches tell the stories of young people in their high school and the town's youth center. Emai is attending Tufts University in Medford, MA planning to double major in film and engineering, and using digital art and design to better her community.

DAVID MITSUO TAKAGI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Sivly Lay, Lowell, MA



Sivly was born in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, the daughter of immigrants who came to the U.S. in search of a

better life, leaving Sivly with family members until she was able to come to America at age 9. She understands that her family history and the challenges she faced in a new country have shaped who she is today. Sivly attended Lowell High School and was active in Upward Bound, tutored middle schoolers in math, indoor track, several clubs, and the National Honor Society. She also volunteered at the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association and worked part time. Sivly is attending the University of Massachusetts - Lowell majoring in computer science with the hopes that

"I can play a role in creating many advances in current technology."

SHIM AND CHIYO HIRAOKA SCHOLARSHIP

Thomas Muise, Boxford, MA



Tommy is Vietnamese American, his biological parents are from Vietnam. He was placed in

foster care after parental rights were revoked. He was eventually placed with a family that adopted him. He says, "As a child I went through the foster care system and DCF (Department of Children & Families) was a big part of my childhood. ... I know what little caring can do for a child and there is nothing more I want to do than let a child know that they're not alone." While at Masconomet Regional High School in Boxford, MA, Tommy had many family responsibilities, especially caring for his younger siblings, but found time to be active in Student Council, Best Buddies, Peer Leading, and played football. He volunteered in the community with Relay for Life, "Dancing with Our Stars," and the Youth Football Clinic among others, while also working part time. Thomas is attending Westfield State University (MA), taking the five-year master program in Social Work because, "All I want is the best for the kids."

2017 NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS *cont'd*

AUDREY LOGAN SCHOLARSHIP

Neh Meh, Lowell, MA



Neh is Karenni, a minority ethnic group in Burma. She and her family escaped to Thailand where they

spent ten long and difficult years in a refugee camp. Her family came to the U.S. in 2010 as refugees from Burma. Neh attended Lowell High School and believes that education is very important to her personal life and community. She was a member of the National Honor Society and played varsity volleyball. She is also very active in her church and in the community, all the while helping her parents and sister. She is attending Middlesex Community College and says, "My new country has given me a new view of education."

HIROKO FUJITA AND PAUL FUKAMI SCHOLARSHIP

Patrick Pang, Peabody, MA



Patrick was born in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. At a young age, his family moved to

the U.S. in hopes of a better future and health for him and his sister. Overcoming many obstacles such as learning English and adapting to American culture, Patrick applied himself to his studies, and while

at Peabody Veterans Memorial High School he also excelled in both indoor and outdoor track, participated in the Wind Ensemble, Best Buddies program, and LEAP while working part time. A bad sports injury led Patrick to physical therapy and opened his eyes to the possibility of becoming a physical therapist. He is attending the University of Massachusetts - Lowell majoring in exercise physiology and then physical therapy. He aspires to volunteer as a PT with Doctors Without Borders or another organization where he can volunteer his time and expertise to people who cannot afford PT services.

COLONEL JOSEPH Y. KURATA SCHOLARSHIP

Cristina Mol, Lowell, MA



Cristina's parents are from Cambodia and they always remind her of how difficult

life was there. Her father grew up under the Khmer Rouge. She wants to work hard for them so they do not have to struggle or worry. She attended Lowell High School, was Cadet 2nd Lt. in the Air Force Junior ROTC, a member of the National Honor Society, and active in several school clubs. She volunteered at the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association and helped take care of a toddler nephew. Cristina is attending the University of

Massachusetts - Lowell and plans to become a pediatric nurse because "I want a career that makes me feel good because I know I'm helping someone's health."

LAFAYETTE AND MAYME NODA SCHOLARSHIP

Kim Phan, Boston, MA



Kim attended Boston Latin School where she honed her leadership skills as

a tutor and youth volunteer, in the Recycling Committee & Volunteer Club, Asian Arts and Culture Club, and founding a dance club. She volunteered as a public service fellow at the Massachusetts State House, interned at a property management company, and was active with the Babson College Entrepreneurial leadership Program. Kim is attending Harvard University with an interest in social science. She says of the State House fellowship, "My two short months in office opened my eyes to the fact that public service, like volunteering, is defined by a personal commitment to helping others. It requires devotion. It requires leadership. It requires selflessness." And adds, "I know that no matter the occupation I pursue, it will always be my ultimate goal to use the knowledge and opportunities with which I've been blessed to give back to the community that has given me so much."

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2017 NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS *cont'd*

MICHI NISHIURA WEGLYN SCHOLARSHIP

Jennifer Poth, Lowell, MA

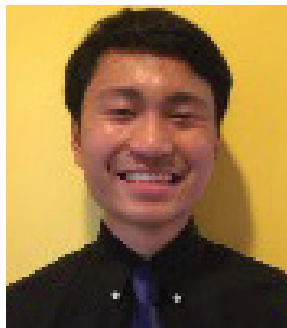


Jennifer is Cambodian American, her parents are from Phnom Penh. She has dealt with many

challenges throughout her life. She had to overcome vicious bullying, racism, depression, anxiety, and domestic violence at home. She says, "High school has helped me find my passion through music, photography, acting, and volunteering. ... I want everyone to hear my voice, my stories, and to hopefully help people through their struggles." Jennifer attended Lowell High School and was President of the Khmer Chapter of the International Language Club, was active on the Yearbook Committee, Knitting Club, Environmental Club and the PALS program. She enjoys volunteering in the community especially with children's activities. She worked as a translator at local Lowell city elections, in sales, and babysat. She is attending the University of Massachusetts - Lowell planning to major in criminal justice and forensic science. She hopes to use her major to help her community and to protect the people she loves.

KAIZO AND SHIZUE NAKA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Tyler Pres, Lynn, MA



Tyler is Cambodian American. His parents fled from the Khmer Rouge to America, driven by

hope that "their children could just experience the promised 'better' life through an American citizen's right to education." Tyler speaks about the difficulties of bridging the cultural and language gap with his parents, "The traditions and culture of my parents became an oddity to me as I sided with more the American side of my identity. I assimilated so well to a culture that beat out the accents of heritage; I was for one disconnected from my origins." Tyler attended Lynn Classical High School and in joining the Asian American Club, "the opportunity to bridge my gap of my assimilation to my parents had appeared." He was also a member of the National Honor Society, "Let's Get Ready" college prep, and Global Embassy of Activists for Peace. He had sibling responsibilities at home but also found time to do volunteer tutoring and serving the homeless. Tyler is attending Northeastern University planning to major in biochemistry.

DR. KENJI MURASE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Kennis Mor, Lowell, MA



Kennis is a Cambodian, born and raised in Lowell, MA. While attending Lowell High School he

participated in Upward Bound, Young Professionals, Show Choir and several other clubs, while also working. He has a talent for crafting, painting, design and decorating. His volunteer commitment to his community includes the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association and the Wat Khmer Samaki Santikaram Temple. He is committed to making his community a better place, and in the process he hopes to keep and revive its cultural roots. Kennis is attending the University of Massachusetts - Lowell planning to major in business.

HISAYE HAMAOKA MOCHIZUKI SCHOLARSHIP

Sumavatey Sarin, Lowell, MA



Sumavatey is Cambodian American from Lowell, MA. Her parents are from Cambodia and her

family's trips to Takeo province to provide aid to the people there

2017 NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS *cont'd*

inspired her to become a nurse. She says, "My travels to Cambodia are something important and outstanding to me and have shaped the person I am today and will help me become a better person in the future." Sumavatey attended Lowell High School and volunteered at the Senior Center, Khmer community celebrations, track and swim meets, was a member of the National Honor Society, and a varsity sprinter in both indoor and outdoor track. She is attending Worcester State University in nursing, "I know experiences in my travels will play a fundamental role in the compassion and dedication that I will be able to offer my patients."

TAMA (YOSHIMURA) AND JIRO ISHIHARA

Junie Sok, Lawrence, MA



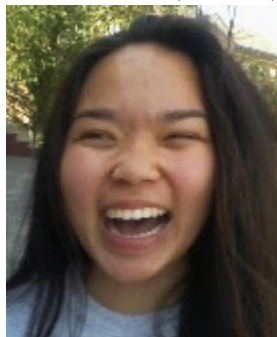
Junie is Cambodian, born in Hampton, Virginia, grew up in Lawrence, MA, youngest

daughter. Her parents escaped the Khmer Rouge to give their family a better life. While she is proud of her culture and heritage, she had to face obstacles from her own community such as gender stereotypes. She is determined to push past those adversities and hopes to become self-sufficient, and a role model. Junie attended Lawrence High School and was active in Student Council, Girl Scouts, Robotics,

and the Youth Development Organization. Her love of science brought her to the Science Club for Girls, a STEM program, as both an active participant and volunteer. She is attending Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania, majoring in biochemistry, and planning to become a pharmacist.

YUTAKA AND MAUREEN KOBAYASHI SCHOLARSHIP

Melinda Tran, Lowell, MA



Melinda Tran is Vietnamese American. Although she has dealt with obstacles in her personal life she thrived

academically and in school activities. She attended Lowell High School and was active in the National Honor Society, Student Council, varsity track and field team and Trio to prepare for the college application process. She also worked part time and volunteered at her middle school where she says, "Even amongst children, being able to witness multiple opinions on one single topic opened my eyes to the new innovative, imaginative, and far reaching ideas that may take hold when a vision is developed through many different eyes." Melinda is attending the University of Massachusetts - Lowell, planning to major in biochemistry or biomedical engineering.

KOH, MITSU AND DR. KOTARO MURAI SCHOLARSHIP



Tu Tran, Worcester, MA
Tu is from Worcester, MA, coming from Vietnam when she was in

kindergarten. From an early age she had to become her parents' translator, making phone calls for appointments, assisting them at cash registers, and learning how to fill out her own health forms, Tu attended South High Community School and showed leadership skills on the math team, National Honor Society, band, Students and Teachers Assisting Refugees Club, and the Goddard Club. She was accepted into the Goddard Scholars Program, a rigorous six year program focused on music and foreign language, and she took several college courses. Tu also played tennis, field hockey and indoor track, and volunteered in her temple's youth group, the YWCA, community festivals and causes. Tu is attending Boston College planning to major in biology with a pre-med track. Her goal is to be a neurosurgeon.

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2017 NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS *cont'd*

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE SCHOLARSHIP

Edward Uong, Groton, MA •

Eddie describes himself as “Grandson of an Irish union leader/meatpacker, Portuguese immigrant/factory worker and Cambodian Buddhist clerics; and son of 1st generation college/refugee social activists.” Eddie’s father fled the Khmer Rouge to America and met his mother who was volunteering at a refugee resettlement group in Texas. They eventually settled in Lowell, Massachusetts. Through many ups and downs, Eddie was determined to do well in and out of school. He attended Groton School, played varsity baseball and basketball, was a peer counselor, and talented saxophonist and pianist, receiving many honors and awards. Eddie participated in city politics but also spent much of his high school years taking care of ailing family members. He is attending Brown University in Providence and hopes to become a “research economist with the goal of contributing to a new organized voice and pathways for economic mobility and empowerment for workers everywhere.”

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2017 NSRCF \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Ayshing Eng, Lowell, MA
UMASS - Lowell

Alyssia Neak, Lowell, MA
Bridgewater State University

Lyhuor Seit, Dracut, MA
UMASS - Lowell

Ratana Heng, Lowell, MA
UMASS - Lowell

Phuong Nguyen, Malden, MA
Emory University

Nathan Sinuon, Lowell, MA
Middlesex Community College

Ngan Le, Woonsocket, RI
Columbia University

Uksavatey Nuth, Lowell, MA
UMASS - Lowell

Sara Soedomo, Lynn, MA •

Alexandra Mai, Lowell, MA
UMASS - Lowell

Tuyet Pham, Lowell, MA
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology

Nina Touch, Londonderry, NH
Boston University

Celena Mai, Lowell, MA
UMASS - Lowell

Shabika Rai, Providence, RI
Rhode Island College

Myo Way, Lowell, MA
Middlesex Community College





“We have faith in you and what you will accomplish”

Letter from 2017 Scholarship Chair, Phitsamay S. Uy

Between 1975 and 1994, approximately 1.5 million refugees resettled into the United States from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. In the middle of this mass refugee resettlement, a small group of kind-hearted, compassionate Nisei took it upon themselves to pay forward the generosity they received when they were high school seniors and college students by establishing the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund (NSRCF).

37 years since the inception in 1980, the plight of many of the Southeast Asian (SEA) American high school students remains the same. These students are still living within the poverty line and only a handful of them graduate from colleges and universities. In fact, according to the 2010 U.S. Census, well over half of the Southeast Asian population over

25 years of age has not attended college (51% of Vietnamese, 63% of Hmong, 65% of Khmer (Cambodian) and Laotian). When you ask many community members, two of the main reasons they give are the financial burden and cost of higher education.

This is why the NSRCF scholarship program is so very important for our SEA community. To date, the NSRCF board has given scholarships to over 900 Southeast Asian students across the United States. They could not have accomplished this remarkable feat without the assistance of many volunteers across the country from the Nisei and their families and friends to Southeast Asian community leaders, teachers, civic leaders, and other community members. Likewise, the 2017 local committee is comprised of over 30 people who are academics, college students, teachers, artists, parents, youth workers, community leaders,

lawyers, and friends. They worked tirelessly on nights and weekends to conduct outreach to the schools, delivering workshops, mentoring students through the application, reading and selecting scholarship winners, and planning the award day. We would like to recognize the leadership of Sue Kim, Lianna Kushi, and Virak Uy who spearheaded the three sub-committees and express our heartfelt appreciation to all the members and volunteers of this year’s local committee.

We also want to acknowledge the families and congratulate the students and for all their hard work. Thank you for sharing your stories and visions for the future. We have faith in you and what you will accomplish. We also hope that you too will “pay it forward” someday and give to the next generation of students who will need your help. Welcome to the NSRCF family and please stay in touch.



NISEI STUDENT RELOCATION COMMEMORATIVE FUND, INC.
19 Scenic Drive, Portland, Connecticut 06480
www.nsrcfund.org info@nsrcfund.org

I/we would like to “extend a helping hand.” Enclosed is my/our tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____
(Please make check payable to NSRC Fund. You may also use PayPay at www.nsrcfund.org)

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Add to an existing Tribute, Legacy or Named Scholarship Fund called: _____

Send information about the NSRC Fund and how to establish Tribute, Legacy and Named Scholarship Funds

I would like to receive the annual NSRC Fund newsletter by email: _____

NSRCF NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS, LEGACY AND TRIBUTE FUNDS

The Nisei Student Relocation Commemoration Fund's annual awards are made possible by contributions from individuals and organizations. Named Scholarships, Legacy Funds and Tribute Funds enable anyone, including organizations, to honor, commemorate or pay tribute to individuals, groups or events. If you would like information about establishing a Named Scholarship Fund (minimum \$20,000), a Legacy Fund (minimum \$10,000) or a Tribute Fund (minimum \$2,000), please contact the NSRCF: 19 Scenic Drive, Portland, CT 06480.

The following funds have been established, and are designated by who created them, * and (). The Board of Directors is grateful for the generous support these funds have received, as noted, during the period from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017.

NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS

American Friends Service Committee*

Judy Nakadegawa

Hiroko Fujita and Paul Fukami (Joyce M. Fukami)

Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida*

Frances Hayashida
Paul Hayashida
Susan Hayashida

Nobu (Kumekawa) and Yosh Hibino

(Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida, family and friends)
Mary Hanamura
Diana Haskell "In honor of Ann Nobu Hibino"
Frances Hayashida
Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida
Diane Hibino & John Triplett
Jean Hibino "In memory of Bob Maeda"
June Hibino
Shirley Hibino
Stephen, Liz, Max & Felix Hibino
Cathy Inamasu & Jay Wong
Jim & Toby Kubota
Yoshio Matsumoto
Lorraine & Forrest Minor
Don Misumi
Laura Misumi
Michio Nakajima
Chandra & Gil Rosenthal
Jack & Nancy Sneider

Shim and Chiyo Hiraoka

(Ann Graybill Cook and Michael Hoshiko)
Shelley Kurata & Family "In memory of Elly Dronkers, Tom Matsunaga, Fred Hahn and Alice Nakajima"
Bruce & Sue Matsunaga
Glen Nakano

Tama (Yoshimura) and Jiro Ishihara

(Jiro Ishihara, NSRCF board of directors, family and friends)
Margaret Ishihara
Nancy Ishihara
Louise Sullivan

Yutaka and Maureen Kobayashi

(Maureen Kobayashi)
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* The NSRCF Board of Directors established these and the following funds in the hope that what happened during World War II will never be forgotten, and that future generations will have the opportunity to receive a higher education:

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DAVID MITSUO TAKAGI

(Established by NSRCF Board of Directors, Family and Friends)

David, the second of five children, was born in Sacramento, CA in 1938 to Sachiye and Taichi Takagi. At the time of Pearl Harbor, David was just three years old when his family was interned at the Tule Lake (CA) Segregation Center. The Takagis' neighbors cared for their house during their internment, ensuring the family had a home to return to upon their release from Tule Lake.

David graduated from C.K. McClatchy High School in Sacramento and served in the U.S. Air Force before graduating from Sacramento State College in 1967 with a degree in civil engineering and a background in construction management. Shortly thereafter in San Francisco, David met the love of his life, Barbara. They were married a year later and moved to Elk Grove,

California, living on 10 acres of land where David, the expert carpenter, built their house after work and on weekends. They even raised most of their own food. Over the next 37 years their lives and work took them many places including Iran and Saudi Arabia in the 1970s and 1980s, where they raised their daughters, Jennifer and Lisa, now both petroleum engineers. They moved to Sharon, Massachusetts in 1986 where David was the project manager of the Boston Harbor cleanup project for 13 years. He was proud of his involvement because not only did it end on time and under budget, but the environmental remediation greatly improved his favorite hobby - fishing! David also particularly enjoyed traveling especially if it meant visiting his daughters and



helping them with home repair projects.

Throughout his life, David had a strong commitment to youth and to the importance of education. Prior to his death in 2007, David served on the board of the NSRC Fund, actively supporting this commitment. David enriched the lives of many, particularly young people to whom he was a mentor, impressing upon them the value of education and hard work.

His family is pleased that students will continue to be helped through this scholarship that bears his name.



NOTE FROM A FORMER RECIPIENT

[Ed note: Vy Than received an NSRCF scholarship in Michigan in 2004. Her family came to

the U.S. from Vietnam in 2000, joining her grandparents in Michigan. Thanks to the efforts of board member, Jim McIlwain, we get to hear how former recipients are doing.]

My name is Vy Thuy Than. I received the scholarship from the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund in 2004. The scholarship helped me with expenses toward college. I graduated from Lansing Community College with an associate degree in nursing. I attended the University of Michigan-Flint and received my Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2013. I have been working as a nurse for 7 years and have decided to advance my education. I am currently in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at UM-Flint. I anticipate

graduating next year and will practice as an Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner.

Taking care of two children who are 17 months and 4 years old while going to school can be exhausting. Sometimes I am discouraged to continue my educational journey. Scholarships from the NSRCF and other organizations not only assisted with college tuition but also boosted my confidence. I cannot express enough my deepest appreciation. I am proud that I have gone this far in my educational journey. I plan to keep going until I am unable to.

I was happy to find your newsletter from 2004 on your website. I still remember that my friends and I performed two traditional Vietnamese dances during the award ceremony at Michigan State. Thank you for reaching out to me again.

NISEI STUDENT RELOCATION COMMEMORATIVE FUND 2017 NEWSLETTER



NISEI STUDENT RELOCATION COMMEMORATIVE FUND, INC.

19 Scenic Drive

Portland, Connecticut 06480

NSRCF MISSION STATEMENT

The Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund (NSRCF) is a nonprofit charitable organization founded in New England that annually awards scholarships to students from underserved communities pursuing higher education. The NSRCF was established in 1980 by second generation Japanese Americans, Nisei, in gratitude to the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council. The Council made it possible for the Nisei to leave the World War II internment camps for colleges and universities across the United States. The NSRCF encourages inter-ethnic collaboration and promotes public awareness and understanding of the forced removal and unjust imprisonment of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II.