



## *I am very fortunate to have your support*

By Katherine Ly

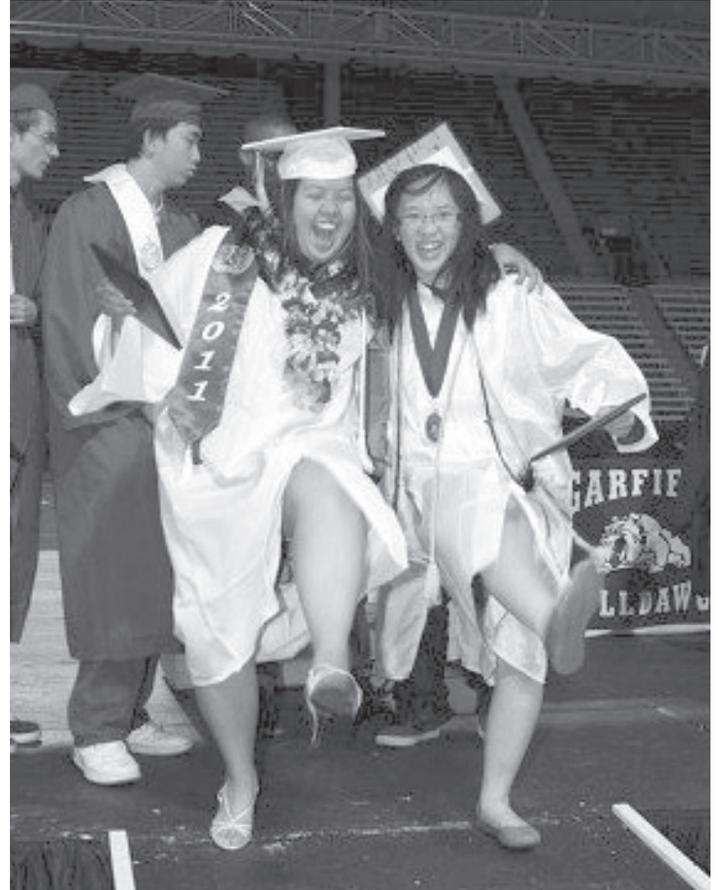
[Ed. note: Katherine is from Seattle and was the 2011 recipient of the Koh, Mitsu and Dr. Kotaro Murai Scholarship. She also received a 2012 "second year" stipend. She is attending Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT.]

Dear NSRC Fund:

I received your check today and wanted to say thank you so much for the generous gift from NSRC. I am ecstatic for this honor and want to express my deep gratitude for your support. Growing up in a low income family of immigrants that increasingly drifts apart to make ends meet has taught me the value of an education. Because of you, I am able to pursue my goal of going to college.

My family and I are deeply appreciative of your generosity and support. With your award, our financial burden was reduced, allowing me to focus more on my studies and explore my passions. I had an amazing first year at Wesleyan where I made great new friends and gained new insight from classes

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## **2012 Scholarship Awards in Philadelphia**



### **Fund Celebrates 30 Years Since Making Its First Gift**

Thirty years after the NSRC Fund made its first gift and 22 years after it awarded scholarships there, the Fund returned to Philadelphia. On May 4, over 60 people including the 32 recipients, their families and friends gathered to celebrate. The ceremony was hosted by the American Friends Service Committee and took place at their beautiful Friends Center in central Philadelphia. \$53,000 in scholarships was awarded.

The awards ceremony began with Mary

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## Greetings from the Board -

*Dear NSRC Fund supporters and friends,*

The NSRC Fund's 32nd year is nearly over and as is the case every year, we look back with appreciation to all who continue to support the Fund's mission and work, and to continue to provide opportunities for students to further their educations. We look forward to the coming year with renewed energy and commitment.

This year's scholarship awards ceremony was held in Philadelphia in May. THANKS to Chair Chiyo Moriuchi and her hard-working local awards committee. In addition to the \$50,000 in scholarship money available this year, Philadelphia raised an additional \$3,000. Since its founding the NSRC Fund has awarded over \$707,000 in scholarships to 738 Southeast Asian American high school seniors across the country. As an all volunteer group, the board of directors strives to keep operating costs to a minimum in order that gifts to the Fund go primarily towards scholarships. (The NSRC Fund's financial statement is made available upon written request.) We are pleased to report that as of September 15, 2012 the Fund stands at just over \$1 million.

This year the board welcomed three new members - Islanda Khau, Jim McIlwain and Phuoc Le. Islanda worked on the 2011 Seattle local scholarship committee and it is our good fortune that she moved with her husband to Massachusetts. She is a graphic designer with a Master's in Museum Communication from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Her considerable skills and talent are already on display in her design of the 2011 and 2012 awards ceremony program booklets. She is currently

Assistant Director for Membership and Events at The Cambridge (MA) Historical Society. Jim is a Professor Emeritus of Neuroscience at the Brown University Alpert Medical School. His interest in WWII led him to the 442nd RCT and thence to serious study of the camps. He visited each of the ten internment camps which deepened his interest in the military service of the Japanese American men and women who were interned. His database "Soldiers and the Camps" is the fruit of his labor ([www.soldiersandthecamps.com](http://www.soldiersandthecamps.com)). Phuoc is no stranger to the NSRC Fund. He originally came to us as a 1994 scholarship recipient from Sacramento on his way to Dartmouth. Today Phuoc is a Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor at UCSF School of Medicine in San Francisco. He and his wife Erin are the totally happy parents of their first child, Anya Grace, born in May. WELCOME ALL!

The 2013 scholarship awards will be given in Houston, 25 years since the last time we were there. The chair is Andy Le, a Vietnamese-American living in the Houston area. He is a board member and program facilitator of the school at his church and is also a member of the Coalition to Abolish Modern-Day Slavery in Asia (CAMSA of South Houston). Andy is working with Dr. Dung Ngo (University of Texas at Tyler, Department of Psychology and Counseling), and Gary Nakamura of the Houston JAACL to organize the local awards committee and begin planning for 2013. We look forward to a successful endeavor!

GRATEFUL APPRECIATION to three very special folks: David Aman of Hanover, NH (database/IT),

Maureen Kobayashi of Wellesley, MA (investment), and Don Misumi of San Francisco, CA (newsletter). Your dedication, hard work, and support of the Fund are immeasurable. We cannot do our work without you. THANK YOU.

CONGRATULATIONS to our treasurer, Steve Hibino, on his marriage June 16, 2012 to Liz Sequenzia of Portland, CT. In thanks to the wedding attendees, Steve and Liz made a donation to the NSRC Fund. It should be noted that as soon as she learned of the Fund, Liz became an ardent supporter and volunteer.

And last but not least, thank you to the Fund's longtime supporters. Your unwavering belief in the Fund's mission and work keeps us going.

With thanks,  
 NSRC Board of Directors  
 Paul Watanabe, President  
 Jean Y. Hibino, Executive Secretary  
 Stephen Y. Hibino, Treasurer  
 Islanda Khau  
 Yutaka Kobayashi, Awards Committee Liaison  
 Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa  
 Phuoc Van Le  
 Robert Maeda  
 James McIlwain  
 F. Robert Naka  
 Kesaya E. Noda, Recording Secretary  
 May O. Takayanagi  
 Phitsamay Sychitkokhong Uy  
 Margie Yamamoto  
 Lafayette Noda, Emeritus

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## 2012 NSRC awards ceremony

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Yee welcoming all to the event. Arlene Kelly, Presiding Clerk of the AFSC board of directors, reminded everyone of the historic bonds to the Nisei who settled in the Philadelphia area after WW II and the efforts of the AFSC. Phitsamay Uy and Islanda Khau represented the Fund's board of directors. Phitsamay urged the recipients to study hard and give back to their communities. She also shared the big announcement that because of the significant role played by the AFSC during WWII with respect to the aid given to the Nisei college students still behind barbed wire, the board voted to elevate the American Friends Service Committee Legacy Fund to a Named Scholarship. This establishes an annual award of \$2,000 given to a student who would be named the "American Friends Service Committee Scholar." Islanda Khau and committee member Minh Thanh Nguyen presented the scholarship awards. The scholars also received a citation from Michael A. Nutter, mayor of Philadelphia. The ceremony was followed by a reception that included delicious Vietnamese hoagies, spring rolls, summer rolls, shrimp platter, fried rice and soy mang. Minh Thanh did a quick change and showed the versatility of this new Temple University business administration graduate by performing two exciting hip-hop dance routines.

This year's committee was led by chair Chiyo Moriuchi, former treasurer of the NSRC Fund, and included Miiko Horikawa, Herb Horikawa, Chiny Ky, Teresa Maebori, Miyo Moriuchi, Minh Thanh Nguyen, Michi Tashjian, and Mary Yee. Michi and the Horikawas worked on the 1990 committee along with Chiyo and Miyo's father, Tak Moriuchi. Herb, Mary and Chiny's long experience within the Philadelphia school system coupled with Mary, Minh and Chiny's contacts within the Southeast Asian community were critical to outreach efforts. Having a committee made up largely of educators proved helpful in the selection process as well. Miyo is an ESL teacher at Arcadia University, Michi spent 30 years at Friends Central School, and Teresa was in her final year at Germantown Friends School where she was a lower school teacher for many years.

The Philadelphia Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League and the American Friends Service Committee were key in their support. The JAACL made a large donation and hosted a fundraising event in February which allowed the local committee to increase the size of two awards to \$2,000. The early and enthusiastic support of the AFSC allowed the committee to quickly determine the venue. Special thanks and recognition go to Sallie



Jackal who wrote the recipients' profiles for the program booklet and to Islanda Khau who designed and arranged for the production of the awards ceremony program booklet.

This year's awards were particularly significant because of the historical connections between the AFSC's work aiding and supporting the young college Nisei during a very dark uncertain time and the NSRC Fund's desire to pay it forward. In establishing the American Friends Service Committee named scholarship, the Board "hopes that the AFSC's example will forever encourage each of us to reach across divisions and prejudice to address injustice and to affirm our need for one another. When any among us, particularly our young people, are prevented from reaching their full potential, we are all diminished."



## Scholarship recipient Katherine Ly

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that I never thought I could ever take like Buddhism, Korean Drumming, Fencing, Japanese Culture through Food, and Fencing.

It was difficult to move to a new area so far away without knowing anyone, but through classes and student groups like QuestBridge, Wesleyan Women in Science, the Vietnamese Student Association and volunteering as a Peer Health Advocate, I've formed a great support group. I love being at Wesleyan because I really feel like I am a part of an incredible community that is warm, accepting, and extremely talented. I feel so lucky to be around the caring and amazing people on campus.

## *Never give up on your dreams*

### **Lysie Tang**

*[Ed. Note: Lysie Tang is the 2011 Nobu Kumekawa Hibino Scholar from Seattle. She is currently attending Wellesley College in Massachusetts.]*

I cannot believe that my first year of college is over. For the majority of my life, I was preparing myself for these college days by listening to stories from those who have gone to college, watching movies about college life, and talking with my high school friends about their impression of college. There was just so much hype, so much excitement. Now that I have finished my first year of college, I have to admit that my college experience is a little different than what I had expected.

I came from an impoverished inner-city community where garbage and broken glass litter the streets. Imagine the adjustment I experienced when I arrived to a gorgeous 500-acre college campus with man-made hills and nicely-cut green grass, though it wasn't the scenic walk to class that threw me off guard. Growing up, I was the oldest member in my family who spoke English, which compelled me to assist my parents with certain tasks. Throughout high school, I was responsible for making sure that the bills were paid on time, that my mother knew how to get to work, and that my younger brother was taken care of -- all while balancing challenging AP courses and many leadership roles in my extracurricular activities. But while I am away for college, who's going to file paperwork, run errands, or speak to people on my mother's behalf? Who's going to search for help if something is wrong, if not I? I could not be more worried.

As the eldest female child in a traditional Vietnamese family, I was taught to place my family above everything else, to honor and obey my parents, and to care for my family members when they can no longer do so

themselves. These values have molded me into the family-oriented person that I am today and made it very difficult for me to accept the fact that I will be leaving my family to attend college.

I must admit that I felt selfish at first for choosing the path that would improve my life but hinder my family's temporarily. Most of my high school friends who share this similar struggle decided to attend an institution in their home town. In fact, I seriously considered this option as well. But after hour-long talks with my inspiring mentors and numerous debates in my head, I realized that college is an opportunity to develop my own identity and long-term goals; I would need to relinquish some of my family responsibilities in order to create the essential space for me to do just that. As difficult as it was, I forced myself to trust that my parents were fine without me. No more choosing between my family and me.

Fortunately, there were many things that kept me busy and distracted from worrying about my family. I participated in a plethora of student organizations, such as college government and Chinese Student Association, which allowed me to build a support system of like-minded individuals with whom I am close enough to call my second family. I adjusted smoothly to dorm life with a roommate of a completely different background, managed my own schedule with courses that I actually enjoyed and activities that made me happy, and engaged in enriching service opportunities off-campus. During winter break, I travelled to New Orleans with a group of students from my college and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, constructing homes for victims of the Hurricane Katrina disaster. I also received a grant to volunteer with Global Learning in a rural village of Costa Rica, where I will spend four weeks in the summer leading classroom activities and lessons



about human rights and global cultures for elementary school students. These extracurricular activities, in addition to my course work in economics, require my full dedication, leaving little time and energy for unproductive obsessions, such as worrying about my family members who live on the opposite side of the country.

By accepting the fact that I still care about my family members but cannot commit as much time to them as I had before college, I allow myself to experience the rewarding benefits of college, mainly the freedom to direct my own life. And when I finally succeed, I can give back to my family and community in ways that are exponentially more influential than I could have had I confined myself to my comfort zone and squandered this opportunity.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the donors and supporters of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund who help instill faith in the American Dream and ensure that well-deserving students have access to higher education to improve not only their own lives but also their communities. To my fellow scholarship recipients, I challenge you to continue to defy the odds and empower those around you, and though the journey may be difficult, never give up on your dreams.

## Providing students the resources to continue their education

This year's appeal letter is written by new board member Islanda Khau. Islanda was born in a refugee camp in Kao-I-Dang, Thailand after her parents escaped the Killing Fields in Cambodia. With her family, she immigrated to the United States in 1980. She graduated from the University of Washington with a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Arts focusing on culture, literature and the arts. With her passion for art and design, she worked as a graphic designer before she took a position in the education department at the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience, the only pan-Asian American Museum in the country.

However, after seeing how faceless Southeast Asians have perpetually been in the art world, Islanda decided to further her education and she graduated from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia with a Master's of Arts in Museum Communication. Islanda has worked with several cultural institutions including Legacies of War, a nonprofit organization that raises awareness of the Vietnam-era bombing of Laos. She is currently the Assistant Director for Membership and Events at The Cambridge Historical Society and lives in Boston, MA with her husband, Timothy Naughton.



Photo by Diane Clark

## You're never too old to fly

On June 10, 2012 Lafayette Noda at age 96 took his first glider ride.

The pilot, Rick Sheppe, emailed Kesa Noda: What a pleasure it was to take your father flying yesterday! He is a good sport and a great passenger. I did not learn until last night that he is such a distinguished member of our community, and the world. I remember being impressed by his curiosity and sense of adventure during our flight. Now I realize that he's been observing and analyzing the world around him for a very long time. It was an honor to meet such a person, and I thank you for introducing me to him.

To read the amazing story, check out the online Post Mills Soaring Club's newsletter at <http://flypmsc.blogspot.com/2012/06/thrill-ride.html>

## 2012 Winner's profiles



**Vi T. Banh is the Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida Scholarship recipient.**

Vi is Vietnamese and an HonorRoll student while attending Central High School in Philadelphia.

She plans to study pre-medicine and/or pharmacology. Vi served as Treasurer of the Korean Student Association, participated in many community service projects, and held full and part time summer jobs. She credits her hard-working mother for her own strong work ethic. Vi wants to give her mother "the life she deserves" because of all the sacrifices she has made. Vi's teachers describe her as "outstanding student, with a radiant personality. Her determination to succeed has no rest." Vi has a strong desire to become a pediatrician and wants to serve children in the Vietnamese community. Vi is attending Drexel University in Philadelphia.



**Nhat V. Cao is the Kaizo and Shizue Naka Scholarship Fund recipient.**

Nhat is Vietnamese and attended Cherry Hill (NJ) High School West. Nhat and his

family arrived in the US in 2010. Nhat placed in several state and corporate science competitions, participated in his high school's National Honor Society, science club, Ultimate Frisbee Club, and served as a physics tutor. He worked in service learning, and serves as a pianist for his church choir. Nhat believes that his difficult transition to his new culture has given him a clear purpose to "be the best." He balances family responsibilities with hard work, intellectual curiosity, and a passion for learning. Nhat's teachers described him as a "truly exceptional young man." He plans to become an aerospace or a mechanical engineer, and is attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



**Van Bich Huynh is the Alice Abe Matsumoto Scholarship recipient.**

Van is Vietnamese and attended Central High School in Philadelphia. Van volunteered

in a wide variety of literacy initiatives with The Free Library of Philadelphia and a school publication. Her interest in studying nutrition comes from personal and family health challenges, and she wants to return to her childhood Vietnamese community to educate and support better health. Her teachers described her ability to thrive in a rigorous academic environment, and her dedication to becoming a diversified global citizen. She is attending Drexel University.



**Hao Lam is the Hiroko Fujita and Paul Fukami Scholarship recipient.**

Hao is Vietnamese and attended Edward Bok Technical School in Philadelphia. He

ranked first in his class and graduated as the valedictorian. He was an honors student and received the Superintendent's award for Excellence. He volunteered, tutored and interned in several organizations, and plans to study computer science in college. Hao lists his goals as honoring his family's hard work and their expectations for him to succeed, as well as to give back to adults and children in his community. Hao's teachers described him as "a young talent that defies all expectations," having a remarkable thirst for knowledge. He balances this with an "easy-going and generous nature." He is attending La Salle University in Philadelphia.



**Kane Saou Lee is the Kay Yamashita Scholarship recipient.**

Kane is Cambodian and attended Central High School in Philadelphia.

Kane was an honors student and a member of the National Honor Society. She volunteered



**Trang Dang is the Gladys Ishida Stone Scholarship recipient.**

Trang is Vietnamese and attended South Philadelphia High School. She and her

family arrived in the US in 2010. She is a member of the National Honor Society, participated in badminton, and was involved in a wide array of Asian American associations. Trang cites her assimilation into a new culture and language as being profoundly challenging and transforming. Her teachers described her as "One of our strongest youth leaders, deeply committed to social justice, community building and youth leadership development. She is compassionate and courageous with an ability to lead others in a collaborative manner. Her experiences have led her to travel and to study other cultures." Trang's goal is to continue to fight and challenge herself to become better and build a better community for all immigrants in the United States. She is attending Penn State Brandywine.



and worked in a wide array of school and community initiatives. Kane also managed significant family responsibilities while also focusing on her goals and academics. Her teachers described her as “more than the ideal student,” often reaching out to help others, and that her sense of “intercultural awareness” is powerful. Kane plans to study mathematics and psychology in college, and she is attending the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.



**Elizabeth Diem Pham is the Koh, Mitsu and Dr. Kotaro Murai Scholarship recipient.**

Elizabeth is Vietnamese and attended Cherry Hill (NJ) High School West. She was a member of the National Honor Society and held other school honors. She was involved in track and field, cheerleading, and the Asian Culture Club. She volunteered in community initiatives and held several paid positions from a young age. Elizabeth credits her parents for their support, hard work and instilling the value of education. Her goal is to help the Vietnamese community by “focusing on the youth because that’s where all the power is coming from.” She values her work with her church and her community, and her teachers described her as a “live wire,” a multi-dimensional student, and one with “profound leadership skills.” Elizabeth plans to study pharmacology in college, and she is attending Temple University.



**Bach Tong is the Nobu Kumekawa Hibino Scholarship recipient.**

Bach is Vietnamese and attended Science Leadership Academy in Philadelphia. He and his family arrived in the US in 2008. He was an honors student and received many awards for achievement. Bach was actively involved in school and community volunteer and intern experiences. He is passionate about efforts focusing on fellow Asian immigrant students. Bach’s teachers described him as being “at the forefront of several important movements



to end violence and advocate for the rights of immigrants.” Bach help to found the Asian Student Association, gathering Asian students with others to proactively work on issues of anti-Asian and anti-immigrant violence in schools. He is “singularly one of the most articulate and theoretically minded students I have taught” and “continues to “inspire me and his peers with his work.” wrote his teacher. He plans to study geography, urban studies, architecture and sociology in college and is attending Deep Springs College in Nevada.



**Andrew Hoang Tran is the Michi Nishiura Weglyn Scholarship recipient.**

Andrew is Vietnamese and attended Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia. He and his family worked hard to afford an independent school education. He especially enjoyed writing for and contributing photographs to the school literary magazine and newspaper. Andrew is also committed to giving back. He tutored 8th graders to help prepare for high school and enjoyed his role of being their friend as well as their teacher. Andrew’s teachers described him as “brilliant, a powerhouse, one who sets the bar for excellence in the classroom and a creative tinkerer.” His fellow students selected him to be the student speaker at their high school graduation. He plans to study English and journalism in college, and he is attending Ursinus College in Pennsylvania.



**Tien Vinh Tran is the Tama Yoshimura Ishihara Scholarship recipient.**

Tien is Vietnamese and attended Northeast Magnet High School in Philadelphia. He and his family have lived in the U.S for six years. Tien was a member of the tennis and wrestling teams, the National Honor Society, and served as a tutor, conducted research, been a member of an editorial board, and worked as an intern with the Philadelphia Water Department. In his essay, he wrote about his struggles as he adjusted to a new home, new culture, new language, and how his curiosity, commitment and rigorous work ethic, along with the support of his family and teachers, helped him succeed. His goal is to go to college and reach out to fellow Vietnamese American students by establishing scholarships to support them. His teachers called him an inspiration, and they cited his ambition and dedication, knowing he will take advantage of every opportunity available as he continues to grow as a student and a leader. He plans to study engineering in college and Tien is attending Lafayette College in Pennsylvania.



**Minh Thu Truong is the Lafayette and Mayme Noda Scholarship recipient.**

Minh is Vietnamese and was an Honor Roll student who attended Central High School in Philadelphia. She and her mother and three siblings arrived in the US in 2004. They struggled to overcome poverty and to recover from dengue fever, and worked to earn

**Continued on next page**

## Scholarship Recipients

### Continued from p. 7

tuition monies. She spent hours caring for her siblings so that her mother could earn money. Minh was active in the Korean and Asian Student Association, was a member of the JV volleyball and track teams, and volunteered in church, hospital and community service and fundraising activities. Her dream is to gain medical skills in order to serve as a missionary in Asia. One of her teachers wrote, "In this competitive environment, Minh is a wonderful member, contributing her academic motivation, distinctive personality, and social consciousness to the Central community." Minh plans to study biology and medicine in college, and she is attending Temple University.



**Tuyen Ngoc Truong is the Hisaye Hamaoka Mochizuki Scholarship recipient.**

Tuyen is Vietnamese and attended Haverford High School in Havertown, PA. She aspires to obtain degrees in pharmacy and Spanish. Tuyen was an honors student, a student leader and volunteered in an array of school and community organizations. Her and her family's challenges to adjust to a new culture and language have given her many growth opportunities, as well as the chance to give to others. Her teachers cite her exceptionally "mature and positive attitude," thriving with personal and academic challenges. She has shouldered significant responsibilities for her family. Tuyen plans to give back to her community especially in the areas of translation and sharing her medical skills. She is attending Temple University.

### Philadelphia Scholarships

*[This year two "Philadelphia Scholarships" were also awarded. They are special \$2,000 awards funded by the generous support of NSRC Fund donors in the Philadelphia area. The Philadelphia Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League and Yuriko Moriuchi provided major gifts for these awards. Others who helped make these awards possible were: Dr. William K. and Theresa Yoshida Sherwin, James and Shigeko Kawano, Arnold and Sandra Kawano, Jamie Kawano, Hirotoishi and Sumie Nishikawa, Herbert and Miiko Horikawa, Teresa Maebori, Kaz Uyehara, Karen Horikawa, Tsuneo and June Fujita, Magdalena Tamura Reid, Vicki Marutani, Mary Toda, and Noriko Shin.]*



**Lisa Cheung**

Lisa is Vietnamese and attended Academy at Palumbo in Philadelphia as an honors student. She held a wide variety of school honors including membership in the National Honor Society. Lisa was active with the varsity volleyball and badminton teams, student government, fundraising activities, and a literary magazine. She also served as a tutor and in several service projects. Lisa experienced challenges of assimilation and believes she has grown because of them. She aspires to "improve educational and political opportunities for the underprivileged in the US and abroad." Lisa's teachers described her as "working tirelessly, with gusto, and is a positive role model among her peers. She is a model of scholarship and citizenship for her peers." Lisa wants to study political science in college, and she is attending the University of Pennsylvania.



**Amy Ly**

Amy is Cambodian and attended Archbishop Prendergast High School in Chester, PA. Amy is a member of the National Honor Society and held other school honors. She also worked on the school yearbook and newspaper, volunteered at a local hospital, and held several jobs. Amy has grown with her parents' "strict" expectations. She has her own sense of desire to succeed and to give back to the Asian community, specifically in the area of pediatrics. Her teachers call her "an exceptional and wonderful student and young woman, with a great ability and generous spirit." She plans to become a physician assistant, and she is attending King's College in Pennsylvania.

### \$1,500 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**Phuc Hong Cao, Vietnamese, South Philadelphia High School, attending the Community College of Philadelphia.**

**Hai Nhat Dang, Vietnamese, NorthEast High School, Philadelphia, attending the University of Pennsylvania.**



**Ngan Hai Dinh, Vietnamese, South Philadelphia High School, attending Community College of Philadelphia.**



**Ngan Kim Dinh, Vietnamese, South Philadelphia High School, attending Community College of Philadelphia.**

**Sreyroeth Hun, Cambodian, Samuel S Fels High School, Philadelphia, attending Penn State University.**



**Darlene In, Cambodian, NorthEast High School, Philadelphia, attending Penn State University.**



**Judy Pham Le, Vietnamese, Central Bucks West High School, Doylestown, PA, attending Penn State University.**

**Annie Nguyen, Vietnamese, Mastery Charter Thomas Campus, Philadelphia, attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania.**



**Dalena Nguyen, Vietnamese, Masterman School, Philadelphia, attending Temple University.**

Hao Anh Phung, Vietnamese, Upper Darby High School, Upper Darby, PA, attending Penn State Brandywine.

Daniel Raymond Quach, Vietnamese, Science Leadership Academy, Philadelphia, attending Drexel University.



Duyen Quach, Vietnamese, Central Philadelphia High School, attending the University of Pennsylvania.

Thien Kim To, Vietnamese, South Philadelphia High School, attending Drexel University.

Ngoan Ngoc Truong, Vietnamese, NorthEast High School, Philadelphia, attending Penn State University.

## \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Kathy Ngoc Do, Vietnamese, Central High School, Philadelphia, attending Drexel University

Pauline Lao, Cambodian, Central High School, Philadelphia, attending Temple University.

Marlena Monori Lim, Cambodian, Conestoga High School, Berwyn, attending Washington University, St. Louis.

Jason Nguyen, Vietnamese, Bensalem High School, Trevose, attending Bucks County Community College, Newtown, PA.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

## *College teaches a person to reach his or her full potential*

### Timothy Touch

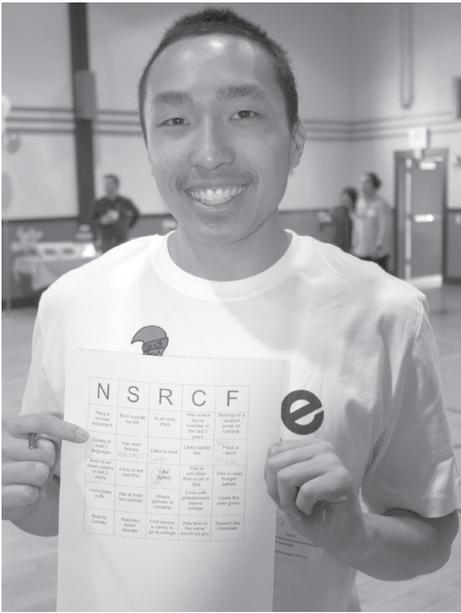
[Ed. note: Tim Touch is a 2010 NSRC Fund recipient from Annandale, VA. He is attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania.]

After I graduated from Annandale High School, I pursued my dream of going to college. The NISEI scholarship program was the best thing that happened to me. The scholarship committee read my essay and understood what was happening in my life at the time. With the offer of their scholarship, it was apparent that attending college was my next step. The scholarship allowed my dream to become a reality. The college I chose to attend was Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). I decided to major in finance and economics with a goal to pursue an MBA. My first year of college will always be an invaluable memory. My daily schedule consisted of going to classes and a work-study position. I worked in the housing office. My work-study duties included answering the phone and helping other students who were in need of assistance.



My freshman year of college was quite overwhelming. Being far away from home and my family was difficult. I called my family almost twice daily to get their support and comfort. After the first semester of freshman year, I transitioned more smoothly into the college lifestyle. I made genuine friendships with fellow students and professors. I had experiences with great people that will surely stay with me for a lifetime. College is the time and place to acquire a variety of skills and knowledge, but most importantly, it teaches a person to truly reach his or her full potential. I want to advise incoming college students to be their own person and to realize that they can achieve anything with an ambitious mind.

I want to express my gratitude to the NISEI scholarship program for making the dream of attending college a reality. The program has a special place in my heart and will always be a part of my college success.



## 2011 Seattle recipients look back at freshman year

**The 2011 Seattle local awards committee led by Ammara Kimso, held a lively “Second Year” celebration on April 7, 2012 at the Nisei Veterans Committee Community Center in the International District.**

The occasion was to congratulate and recognize 21 (out of 60) recipients who received an NSRC scholarship last year and who were selected to receive a \$250 stipend for their sophomore year. 50 people - recipients, their families, friends and the local committee - spent the afternoon swapping stories and freshman year experiences.

There was an NSRCF Bingo game, delicious food including homemade cupcakes, fun and funny door prizes, a guitar performance, and keynote from Dr. Connie So, Senior Lecturer in the Department of American Ethnic Studies at the University of Washington. The local committee has made a conscious effort to “extend a helping hand” to the recipients beyond the single act of awarding a scholarship. They have kept in communication, answered questions, offered suggestions, advice and lots of support, and served as facilitators encouraging the awardees to keep in touch with each other. In doing so, they hope to build a strong support network and lifelong friendships.

CONGRATULATIONS TO Tony Au, Anny Bui, Sokunroath Chhouy, Jamie N. Dao, Dong M. Dinh, Fiona Hines, Anna T. Le, Jullie Le, Kevin H. Lee, Katherine Ly, Cynthia Pham, Nhu-ngoc T. Nguyen, Tiffany A. Nguyen, Tuyet A. Nguyen, Vi T. Nguyen, Kae C. Saeteurn, Rachel A. Sisavath, Thuy Thach, Laurie D. Tran, Maryyah Trodep, and Vietkhanh T. Vu.

Following are excerpts of some of the handwritten notes received from the recipients:

*My first year at college was really tough! My first quarter made me want to drop out of college because the environment was so different and ENORMOUS! I was highly intimidated. But eventually I found some great supporters and an amazing community that I could call home. I didn't feel so all alone and I had guidance and advice about college. I finally feel like I belong. Huskies all the way!*

*My first year of college was interesting. I was somewhat scared of how college was going to be like. After 5 months, I'm used to everything now. College work is very challenging. I learned how to manage my time and having a planner really helps!*

*I've made such great friendships throughout this year. College is such a great place to get connected and meet a whole variety of people. Academics have been a struggle but I have learned how to organize my time and work hard. I thank the Nisei organization to help me in college! This year has been full of growth and experiences. I am ever grateful!*

*My first year of college has been great. I've met so many people and made connections through friends and professors. The scholarship has shown to me that people and my community are willing to invest in my future.*

*This is my first year at Seattle Central Community College. Everything is new to*

*me. It's challenged me a lot. I need to keep track of my responsibilities and finish work on time. The scholarship fund helped me a lot. College textbooks are really expensive so with this money I can buy the required books. Thanks to all who gave me this opportunity.*

*My first year of college has been very stressful and there were many obstacles that made it very difficult. With the help of the scholarship I have been able to work hard. A lot has happened to my family and to myself these past seven months but I have learned to be responsive, kind and to persevere.*

*Thank you so much for awarding me the scholarship! It gave me the opportunity to live on campus, allowing me to use the resources available to network, study efficiently, and enjoy college life! The Nisei scholarship committee members have invited me into a tight-knit community of supporters, and I am grateful.*





## *The Hiroko Fujita and Paul Fukami Scholarship*

# **New NSRC Fund Named Scholarship**

*[Joyce Fukami established a named scholarship to honor the memory of her parents and to help other parents fulfill their dreams of seeing their children graduate from college. Joyce served on the NSRC Fund board of directors from 2007 to 2011.]*

Hiroko Fujita and Paul Fukami were of college age when they were interned during World War II. Hiroko, born in Hanford, California, was the fourth of eight children of Yoshiro and Toku Fujita. In 1942, Hiroko and her family boarded a train for the Jerome, Arkansas internment camp where she remained until July 1943. Hiroko and her sister, Yasuko, left camp for Detroit to work at a dairy, while their sister, Aki, moved to Philadelphia to attend nursing school. Hiroko and Yasuko

moved to Philadelphia to be near Aki and the rest of the family joined them in the summer of 1945. Paul Fukami was born in San Francisco, California, the first of four children of Teizo and Yojuku Fukami. Paul attended Lowell High School before he and his family were interned at the Tanforan Assembly Center and then removed to Topaz, Utah. He served in the U.S. Army from 1949 to 1950. When the war was over, Hiroko moved to San Francisco, and Paul and his family returned there too. When he wasn't working, Paul played tennis and met his future bride on the tennis court. They married in 1952 and moved to Pacifica, California in 1957. Paul became part owner of Linda Mar Hardware and Hiroko raised their three daughters.

Hiroko eventually returned to work as an executive administrative assistant at the Western Region Headquarters of the U.S. Postal Service. Paul and Hiroko enjoyed playing tennis, golf and bowling together. They loved to entertain family and friends and lived in Pacifica until Paul passed away in 1986. Hiroko passed away in 1993.

Although Hiroko and Paul did not benefit directly from the wartime National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, they believed deeply in the importance of a college education. It was their highest priority and expectation that their three daughters would graduate from college and their dream was proudly fulfilled.



## NSRC NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS, LEGACY AND TRIBUTE FUNDS

The NSRC 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 NSRC Fund at 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 15, 2011 to October 15, 2012.

### NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS

#### American Friends Service Committee\*

Michael Furuta & Diane Sakai-Furuta  
Paul & Atsuko Kusuda

#### Hiroko Fujita and Paul Fukami

(Joyce M. Fukami)  
Anonymous  
June & Tsuneo Fujita  
Joyce Fukami  
Tom & Nanae Miles

#### Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida\*

David & Catherine Hayashida  
Frances Hayashida  
Paul Hayashida

#### Nobu Kumekawa Hibino

(Family and Friends of Nobu Kumekawa Hibino)  
Sam & Teri Fujikawa  
Shirley Hibino  
Jim & Toby Kubota in memory of Yosh, Yukio & Janice Hibino  
Glenn & Yoshiko Kumekawa  
Erin & Phuoc Le  
Michio Nakajima  
Mark Rivero  
Nancy & Jack Sneider

#### Tama Yoshimura Ishihara

(\* and Jiro Ishihara)  
Bill & Sumie Murakami  
Kiyo Yoshimura  
In memory of Jiro Ishihara:  
Karen Ahearn  
John Arand  
Dorothy Bean  
Robert & Ann Everett  
Joyce Fukami  
Mr. & Mrs. Haig Hedison  
Gail Kearns  
Glenn & Yoshiko Kumekawa  
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Lois Macy  
Robert & Nobuko Maeda  
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Mr. & Mrs. William Reed

Sarah Satterthwaite  
Louise Sullivan  
Eleanor Stengel  
Grace Tsuru  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wilson  
Dr. & Mrs. Francis Van Houten  
Kiyo Yoshimura  
Alice Zinky

#### Alice Abe Matsumoto

(Family and friends of Alice Abe Matsumoto)  
Hannah Tani Hogan  
Michio Nakajima

#### Hisaye Hamaoka Mochizuki

(Akio Mochizuki)  
Harley & Judy Inaba  
Misao Inaba  
Sharonlee Kotabe  
Akio Mochizuki

#### Koh, Mitsu, and Dr. Kotaro Murai

(The Murai Family)  
Koh Murai in memory of Bob West  
Mary Murai  
Takuro Nakae

#### Kaizo and Shizue Naka

(E. Robert and Patricia Naka)

#### Lafayette and Mayme Noda

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Gary & Evelyn Glenn  
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(Gladys Ishida Stone)

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#### Kay Yamashita

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Kenji Tomita  
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Ted & Fran Wada

### LEGACY FUNDS

#### Thomas R. Bodine\*

**Joseph R. Goodman**  
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Kerry King & John Goodman  
on behalf of the Goodman Family

#### Suezo and Kikuyo Hayashida

(Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida)  
Bernice & Michihiko Hayashida  
Frances Hayashida

#### Nobu and Yosh Hibino

(Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida)  
In Memory of Yosh Hibino:  
Jane Beckwith  
Elwin Guild & Joan Giesemann  
Haruo & Mary Hanamura  
Frances Hayashida  
Michihiko & Bernice Hayashida  
Cathy Inamasu  
Gretchen & Michael King  
Glenn & Yoshiko Kumekawa  
Diane Hibino & John Triplett  
Don Misumi  
Kesaya Noda  
Lafayette Noda  
Virginia Suyama  
Hazel Triplett  
Jean Y. Hibino in memory of my parents  
Stephen & Elizabeth Hibino "on the occasion of our marriage, June 16, 2012"  
Lorraine & Forrest Minor in memory of Don & Ann Hibino

#### Dr. Chosaburo Kato

(Kane and Rose Senda)  
Kane Senda  
Henry Sugeno

#### Livingston Yamato Colony Pioneers

(Lafayette and Mayme Noda)  
Susan Kishi & David Schuricht

Audrey Logan (Kesaya Noda)  
Kay Nishiyama & David Noda  
Kesaya Noda  
Lafayette Noda

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Bernice & Michihiko Hayashida  
Frances Hayashida  
Susan Kishi & David Schuricht

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Ken Nomura  
Barbara Takagi  
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Bobby and Lily Takatsuka  
(Bobby and Lily Takatsuka)  
Bobby & Lily Takatsuka

#### Trudy King Toll\*

Warren Uchimoto

### TRIBUTE FUNDS

#### David Aman

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#### Monroe E. Deutsch\*

#### Woody and Betty Emlen\*

Warren Uchimoto

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Sono Fujii & Claudio Katz

#### Yasuko Fujita (Joyce M. Fukami)

#### Junzo and Ito Hibino

(Yosh and Nobu Hibino)

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(Mrs. Tom Imagawa and Family)

**James Zenichi Imamoto**  
(Grace Imamoto Noda)

**Julius Ishida**  
(Calvin Ishida)  
Calvin Ishida

**Frank and Hisako Ishikawa Family**  
(Michi I. Tashjian)  
Michi I. Tashjian

**The Issei Generation**  
(Lillian Ota Dotson)

**Elinor Umezawa Kajiwara**  
(Elinor U. Kajiwara)

**Jin and Kay Kinoshita**  
(Jin and Kay Kinoshita)  
Fred Kishi (Susan M. Kishi)  
Susan Kishi & David Schuricht

**Harutoyo and Haru Kobayashi**  
(Yutaka and Maureen Kobayashi)  
John Dubeck & Susan Hotine  
Fred Sarkis

**Yuri and William Kochiyama**  
(Michi and Walter Weglyn)

**Haru and Keiroku Kumekawa**  
(Nobu and Yosh Hibino)  
Glenn & Yoshiko Kumekawa

**Ryoza Glenn Kumekawa**  
(Joanne K. Kumekawa)

**Denji Dan Kuniyoshi**  
(Anna Kuniyoshi)

**Judge William M. and Victoria Marutani**  
(David K. Nitta)

**Susan T. Matsumoto**  
(Alice and Yo Matsumoto)

**Nobu Miyoshi**  
(Yoshiko and Ryoza Glenn Kumekawa)  
In memory of Nobu Miyoshi,  
100 years old:  
Sumiko Kobayashi  
Glenn & Yoshiko Kumekawa

**Takashi and Yuri Moriuchi\***  
Susan Kishi & David Schuricht  
Kesaya Noda  
Lafayette Noda

**Kenji Murase**  
(Friends and Family of Kenji Murase)

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**John W. Nason\*** (Yoshiko and Ryoza Glenn Kumekawa)  
Warren Uchimoto

**Dr. Lee Lowry Neilan** (Yoshiko and Ryoza Glenn Kumekawa)

**Prof. Mabel M. Nemoto**  
(Atsuko Hirai)

**Masamoto and Kimi Nishimura**  
(Rhoda Nishimura Iyoya, Dwight Nishimura, Joseph Nishimura, Jonathan Nishimura)

**Shichiro and Sachi Noda**  
(Lafayette and Mayme Noda)  
Marcia Kamiya Cross & John Cross

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(Eugene Kodani)  
Eugene Kodani

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**Bill Stevenson\***

**Taichi and Sachiye Takagi**  
(David and Barbara, and Mary Elizabeth Takagi)

**Charles William Tanioka**  
(Anna T. Kuniyoshi)  
Takako Tanioka Paul

**UC Berkeley Student YWCA**  
(Mary Yamashiro Otani)

**Yoshiko Uchida**  
(Virginia Scardigli)

**Paul R. Wada**  
(Yasuko and Yukio Wada)

**Yukio Wada**  
(Mrs. Yasuko Wada and Family)

**Michi N. and Walter Weglyn** (Robert H. and Agnes Suzuki, Lafayette and Mayme Noda, and Nobu Hibino)

**Mabel Sheldon Williams\***  
Frances Ogasawara  
Reiko Azumano Yasui  
(George I. Azumano)  
Rachel Yasui

\* The NSRC Fund board of directors established these and the following funds in the hope that what happened during World War II will never be forgotten, and also that future generations will have the opportunity to receive a higher education:

**Amache Alumni Tribute Fund**

**Gila River Alumni Tribute Fund**

**Heart Mountain Alumni Tribute Fund**  
Laura Uba

**Jerome Alumni Tribute Fund**

**Manzanar Alumni Tribute Fund**

**Minidoka Alumni Tribute Fund**

**Poston Alumni Tribute Fund**  
Robert & Nobuko Maeda

**Rohwer Alumni Tribute Fund**

**Topaz Alumni Tribute Fund**  
Sam & Teri Fujikawa

**Tule Lake Alumni Legacy Fund**  
George Sakata

## THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

The NSRC Fund Board of Directors extends its thanks to the following contributors to the general fund. We appreciate your continued belief that the Fund's mission is worthwhile and deserving.

Ando & Ito Family  
Peter & Tina Barnet  
David Bassett in memory of  
Miyoko Inouye Bassett  
Roger & Judith Daniels  
Elizabeth Emlen  
Noreen Enkoji

Gary K. Hart  
Franklin & Rose Hijikata  
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Christine Yoshinaga-Itano & Wayne Itano  
JACL - Philadelphia Chapter  
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Wallace Kido  
Stephanie Klein & Larry Baer  
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June & Tsuneo Fujita  
Bonika B. Tum  
Paul Watanabe  
Nobuo Yutani  
Rose & Walter Zydlewski



## Jiro “Jiggs” Ishihara (1925 - January 25, 2012)

*[In honor and tribute to an ardent supporter of the NSRC Fund and a wonderful friend, we reprint excerpts from Jiggs’ “Reminiscence - God Be With You” that he wrote in 2003. Jiggs was married to Tama Yoshimura Ishihara who served on the NSRC Fund board for 11 years.]*

### **Introduction**

I never knew when my parents became Christians. (They never told me and I never asked). From my earliest recollection growing up in Los Angeles “Uptown/Tenth Street,” every Sunday the family would get into our yoso iki clothes, get into a Dodge touring sedan (with soft top) and went to the Holiness Church on 32nd just west of Western. The service in English came first followed by the service in Japanese, while we had our school classes. Class sessions would be interrupted when the Isseis sang their hymns. They sang loudly with great emotion. The one hymn sung with the most emotion was “Sobetsu Ryoko.” The Japanese version of “God Be With You.” The English version when used is a “closing of service” hymn. The Japanese version, as the title sobetsu/farewell ryoko/journey, had a deeper meaning and was sung primarily at funerals and ship departures.

### **Funerals**

Funerals for the Japanese community were always scheduled for Saturdays. Since the produce markets were closed on Sunday, the farm family could take a break to come to town on Saturdays. Wake (sobetsu kai) was in the deceased home. The whole family went. (I think

by HS the parents might let you stay home). For the kids there were lots of goodies (and sometimes Japanese soda pop with the glass marble caps). After the funeral service, it was a cross town trip to Boyle Height Evergreen Cemetery for internment/cremation. (No choices as to where we lived or were buried). Then it was Chinameshi in Little Tokyo.

### **Pearl Harbor**

The family was in church December 7, 1941. At the end of service we heard rumors about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. We wrote it off then as another Orson Welles. Meetings in Japanese were banned - so NO rendition of Sobetsu Ryoko when my sister left for Chicago during the two week window. Nobody to see “Tenth Street” off on April 28, 1942 for our military convoy trip to Santa Anita Race Track. No farewells - nobody left to sing for us.

### **Santa Anita**

As the inland camps became ready during that summer, groups were transferred from Santa Anita. Their last meal at Santa Anita was in the “Green Mess” (home of the best koge ever made) next to the main gate. The barbed wire was along the mess and the train siding. As we cleaned up in the kitchen, we could hear the train whistle and Sobetsu Ryoko as the trains departed. It was very sad for they were headed for these “far away places with strange sounding names” - Amache, Topaz, Minidoka, Heart Mountain, Poston, Rohwer, Jerome, Gila River. Our future was a big question mark. Tenth Street as

one of the last groups to leave but we’re given a proper sendoff to Gila River by the “housekeeping” crew.

### **Gila River**

Gila River was heat, dust and high school for me. Two sisters left for Chicago when leave clearance opened in April 1943. I left Gila with my parents in September 1943. There were only us and a student leaving for college that afternoon. My sisters had found a place for us to stay, a job for my father, and a sponsor so we were each given our permanent leave clearance, \$25.00, 2 day \$2.50 per diem and a one-way coach ticket to Chicago. The Isseis gave us the full four verse rendition of “Sobetsu Ryoko” as we were driven from camp. We were LEFT at the Phoenix train station - “abandoned” on our own outside the FENCE. I was one frightened kid all the way to Chicago and the hymn kept ringing in my head.

### **Closing**

I survived and was able to join the Issei at my mother’s and father’s funerals in Chicago.

I never thought I would hear the Issei voices again in Sobetsu Ryoko until on a visit to Osaka. Tama’s cousin broke out into song when he overheard us talking about Christians in Japan. The same tempo, the same emotion. (He, a Buddhist, said they sing it at every Christian funeral).

Sobetsu Ryoko, Jiggs.

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# An honor to be chosen as a recipient

**Hao Phung**

*[Ed. note: Hao Phung is a 2012 scholarship recipient from Upper Darby, PA and is attending Penn State Brandywine.]*

**Dear Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund, Inc.,**

I am writing this letter to thank you for the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund Scholarship I was awarded. It was an honor to be chosen as a recipient of this prestigious award. Your support has kept me from worrying about the cost of tuition, and it has made it possible for my parents to take out a lesser amount in loans. I truly value my education here at Pennsylvania State University, and this scholarship provides me the opportunity to continue with my educational pursuits.

While growing up in Vietnam, I had a naturally optimistic disposition, which overshadowed the negative aspects

of my physical surroundings, such as debris, abandoned houses, and the lack of safe playgrounds. However, I realized that learning to respect others and having the power of knowledge can enrich the community. During my high school, I was a leader of the Future Business Leaders of America Club. As a leader of the team, I worked with team members to promote a goal, strategize and develop a plan. During my lunch period and after school I also tutored students who struggled with their schoolwork. Over the summer, I volunteered at a non-profit organization that worked with children with disabilities. Every high school encounter enabled me to influence others in a positive way. My passion is to become a successful actuary and to be a life-changing force for people in great need. Going to college is the path that I choose for myself. I see education as a grand pathway to achieve my goal.

Throughout my youth, I have always looked forward to a career in the business field, and I investigated many universities during my junior year in high school I concluded that Pennsylvania State University had the quality education I was seeking. I am not only interested in the education that Pennsylvania State University provides, but also the surrounding environment. It offers intellectual opportunities and cultural exploration, such as internships and research, which help students gain real-life professional experience. After I complete my Pennsylvania State University education, I plan to work as an actuary in the company. I also like to receive more experience by volunteering in any related business activities.

Thank you again for your generosity. I look forward to the time that I can help others as you have helped me.

*Sincerely, Hao Phung*



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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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- 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (print your email address)



## **NISEI STUDENT RELOCATION COMMEMORATIVE FUND, INC.**

**19 Scenic Drive**

**Portland, Connecticut 06480**

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### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The NSRC Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization founded in New England that annually awards scholarships to students from underserved communities pursuing higher education. The NSRC Fund 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 prison camps for colleges and universities across the United States. The NSRC Fund encourages inter-ethnic collaboration and promotes public awareness and understanding of the forced removal and internment of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II.