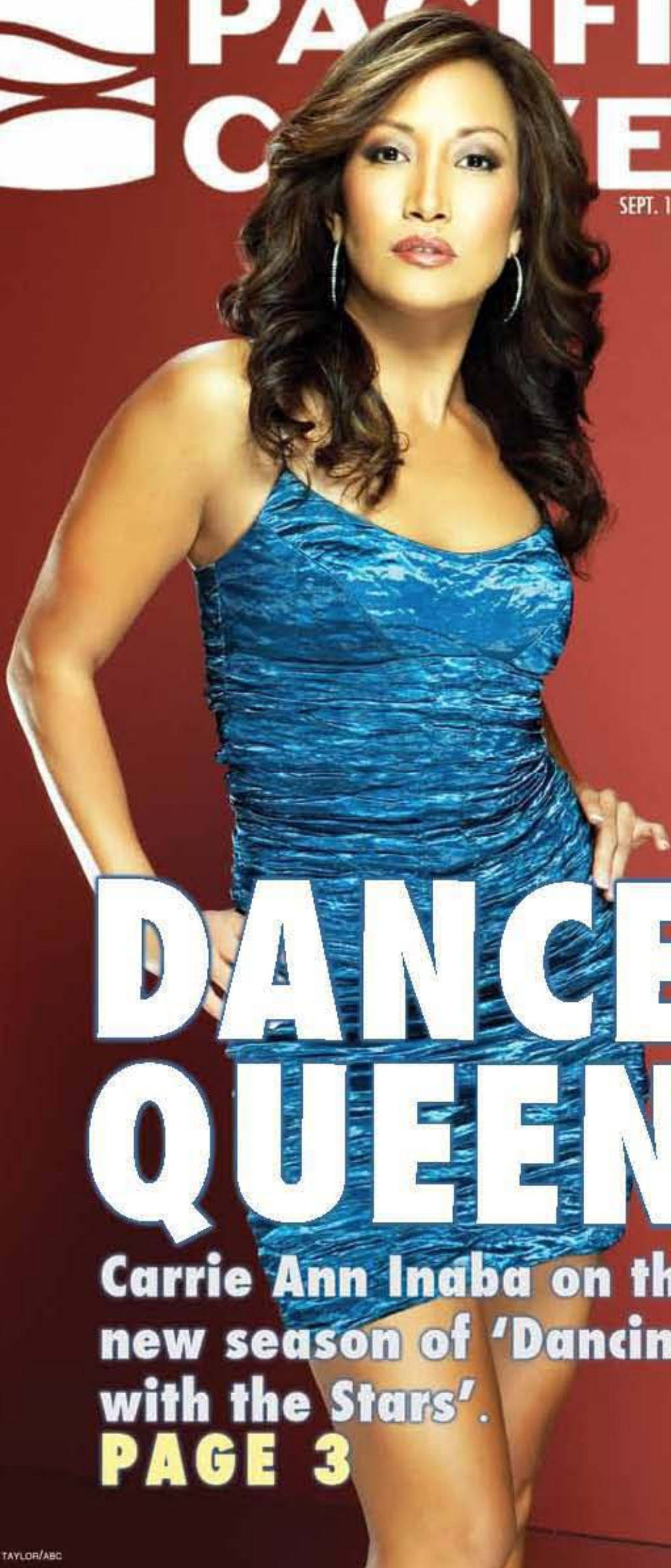


SPECIAL YOUTH ISSUE



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

SEPT. 16-OCT. 6, 2011

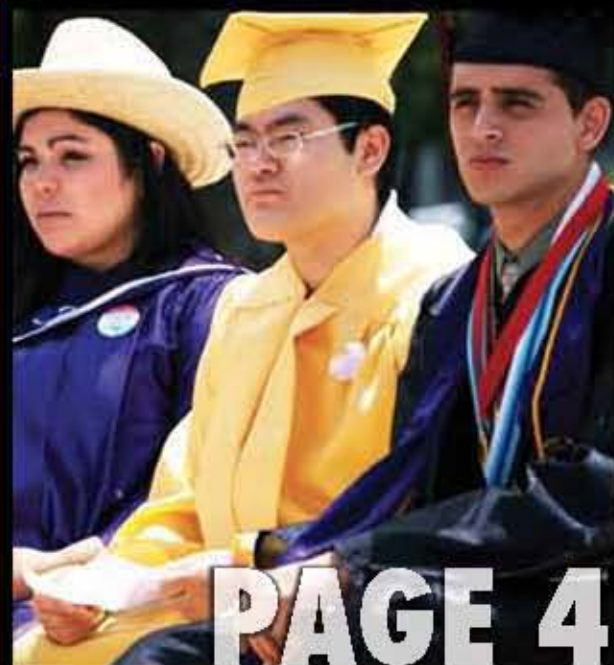


# DANCE QUEEN

Carrie Ann Inaba on the  
new season of 'Dancing  
with the Stars'.

**PAGE 3**

PHOTO: ADAM TAYLOR/ABC



**PAGE 4**

Asian Americans  
and the DREAM Act.



**PAGE 5**

Asian American  
youth doing good.



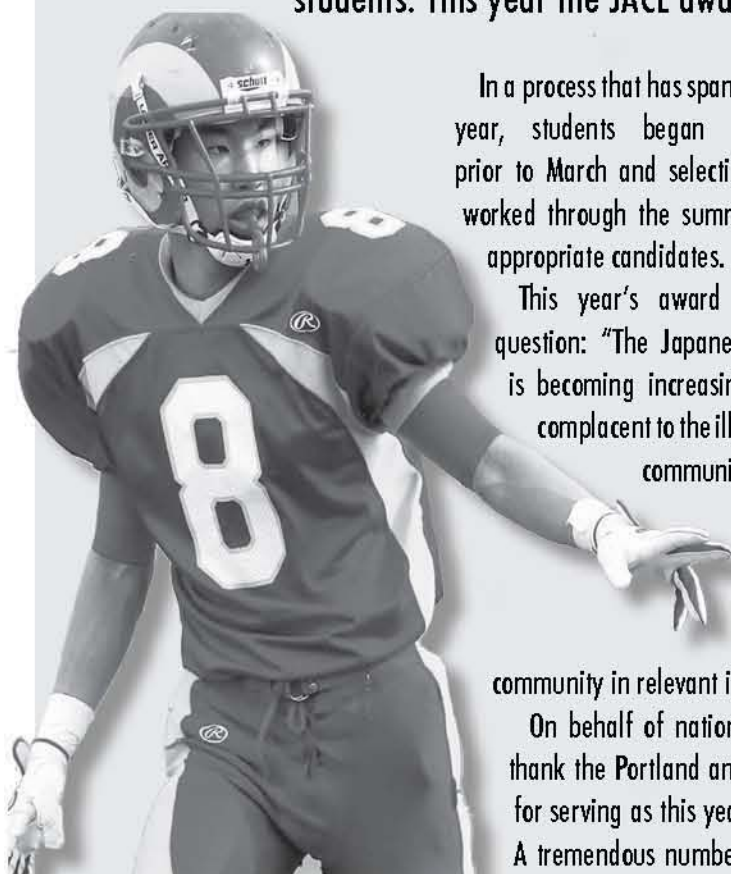
**PAGES 6-15**

National JACL  
scholarship winners.



# 2011 NATIONAL JACL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

In this special issue, the national JACL is pleased to announce this year's scholarship winners, a group that includes outstanding freshman, graduate, undergraduate, law, creative & performing arts and financial aid students. This year the JACL awarded 34 scholarships totaling \$78,000.



**GREGORY K. HORI,**  
winner of the Paul & Katherine  
Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship.

In a process that has spanned much of the calendar year, students began submitting applications prior to March and selection committees diligently worked through the summer identifying the most appropriate candidates.

This year's award winners answered the question: "The Japanese American community is becoming increasingly privileged, yet also complacent to the ills and needs of the greater community. As a student who cares about the future, how will you dedicate yourself to educating and engaging our community in relevant issues?"

On behalf of national JACL, I would like to thank the Portland and Salt Lake City chapters for serving as this year's selection committees. A tremendous number of volunteer hours are dedicated to the National JACL Scholarship Program by our chapters, selection

committee members and national staff.

A heartfelt thank you to the volunteers from the Portland chapter Setsy Sadamoto Larouche (chair), Sandy Tashima and Chip Larouche as well as Salt Lake City volunteers, Paul Fisk (chair), Hena John-Fisk, Dr. Jeanette Misaka, Dr. Cassandra Van Buren, Jen Ungvichian, Dot Richeda and PJ Nakamura.

We thank each of you for your time and effort screening hundreds of applications. There were so many well-qualified applicants, selecting only 34 was tremendously difficult. I want to extend a very personal thank you to Patty Wada, NCWNP regional director, for her dedication and work on the scholarship program.

## JASON CHANG

NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT  
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

**SEE PAGES 6-15  
FOR 2011 WINNERS**

## JACL's Eastern District Council Congratulates and Welcomes Our National Scholarship Winners Coming East to Study

Lisa Okamoto (New York)	Brooklyn Law School
Sarah Matsumoto (New England)	Lesley University
Jonathan P. Lee	Stevens Institute of Technology
Kristin Y. Sakaguchi	Syracuse University
Naomi D. Schurr	MIT
Kelly M. McCormick	Columbia University

"The apple on the top of the tree, is never too high to achieve"  
Cole Porter

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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# Judge Carrie Ann Inaba Gears Up For 'Dancing with the Stars' Premiere

**Twelve couples will hit the dance floor Sept. 20 to perform either the Viennese Waltz or the Cha-cha-cha on the premiere of "Dancing with the Stars."**

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

Finding a celebrity in Hollywood who wants the truth — the good and the bad — may be an anomaly. But prolific dancer and choreographer Carrie Ann Inaba says don't stroke her ego because brutal honesty is the best policy with her.

Inaba — who is Japanese, Chinese and Irish — uses that same philosophy when dishing constructive criticism to contestants on ABC's "Dancing with the Stars," which is set to premiere Sept. 20.

And after 13 seasons of "Dancing with the Stars," if Inaba does not call out a contestant for a technical error on the dance floor, a fan at home likely will.

"It's not like the first or second season where maybe nobody notices," Inaba said with a laugh about a contestant's dancing foibles. "In fact now I get people saying, 'That foot came off the ground and you didn't call it.'"

The "In Living Color" Fly Girl turned TV show judge has earned her spot on the show. In the 1990s she danced front stage with stars like Jennifer Lopez and Madonna. Inaba has also done choreography for "American Idol," "The TV Land Awards," "The Swan," and "Dance Fever," among others.

This season of "Dancing with the Stars," Inaba will judge a new crop of celebrity dancers.

Season 13 contestants — including Ron Artest, David Arquette, Chaz Bono, Elisabeth Canalis, Kristin Cavallari, Nancy Grace, Robert Kardashian, Carson Kressley, Ricki Lake, J.R. Martinez, Chynna Phillips and Hope Solo — will debut their dancing skills performing either the Viennese Waltz or the Cha-cha-cha on the show's premiere.

The Internet is already buzzing with controversy about Chaz Bono, a transgender contestant who will dance with female partner Lacey Schwimmer.

The *Pacific Citizen* chatted with Inaba about what she does to prepare for the show.

**There has been a lot of controversy surrounding contestant Chaz Bono. Have you been following the online news?**

Actually you know what, before the season I sort of unplugged

myself because as a judge. I have to remain neutral. And it's better for me not to know what's going on in the media about certain contestants, especially somebody like Chaz Bono who I know there's a lot of controversy surrounding. But I [laughs] know that Cher apparently went after a few people. As a good mom should [laughs].

**Do you get to watch any rehearsal videos before the premiere?**

[Laughs] No. Not at all. We don't get to see anything until, well, show time really. We get to see those video packages that everybody sees during the show. We get to see that the day before, if it's done.

And that's about all we get to see. We're completely sequestered away from the contestants during the season. It's funny because people always want inside scoops and I'm like, 'Well, I'm the wrong [laughs] person to ask.'

**Which contestants do you think have the best chance at winning?**

You know this is a really interesting group. Athletes have a tendency to do well on our show, mostly because they're able to take constructive criticism. Actors get a little bit more sensitive (these are generalizations). People that are willing to put it all on the dance floor and willing to risk, do well on our show.

**We've interviewed past Asian American contestants like Apolo Ohno, Kristi Yamaguchi and Hines Ward, who have all won mirrorball trophies. The AA contestants seem to do well, too.**

There's a work ethic involved there [laughs]. [That] could possibly be part of that. I think there's an AA work ethic that we all have that can take you very far. And I think that has helped some of our AA contestants in the past.

**Did being AA ever prevent you from getting jobs in Hollywood?**

Never. And you know it's funny because I have tended to



PHOTO: GIULIANO BEKOR

Judge Carrie Ann Inaba is set to begin her 13th season with "Dancing with the Stars."

think that it helped me because they're always looking for sort of a multi-ethnic cast. If they're even considering me, they're probably going for one Asian, one African American, one Latina and a Caucasian person. That has worked to my advantage I feel because there was always going to be a spot for somebody like me.

**How has growing up in Hawaii shaped you? Do you think you would've been different had you been raised on the mainland?**

It's funny, I was just at my workout talking to another AA who is quite successful in this business as well and she's from here. But she was saying, 'When you look at all the successful AAs most of them are from Hawaii.' She goes, 'Why do you think that is?' I said, 'Oh, that's easy.' [Laughs] I think it's because where we're from we're the majority.

Growing up as a majority I think has given me a lot of confidence and it made my

cultural background not an issue. So it's like one less thing to worry about in life. It was just something I was very proud of and happy with.

**You always seem so upbeat. Is there anything that ever upsets you?**

Yes [laughs]. I'm just like everybody else [laughs]. I don't like it when people lie. It's interesting because I have a really hard time when people lie, even if they're telling me a lie to be nice to me, something about it feels wrong. I so much would rather have people tell me the truth.

And in this town it's actually hard because in Hollywood there are a lot of people that want their egos stroked. And I'm not one of them. I'm always telling my team, 'just tell me the truth.' Brutal honesty, that works better for me.

**Do you use that same philosophy when judging 'Dancing with the Stars' contestants?**

I try to be honest with them because I know they joined the show to win and I know that they joined the show to grow. So when they're out there I feel that it's my duty — and it is because I am a judge — to give them my honest critique.

**How do you spend your free time when you're not filming?**

I love working out. That's my favorite thing to do. I love to workout and I love to sit outside in my garden. Working out, it's like my coffee. It helps me get energized. It's great for stress relief.

**Is there anything else you'd like to add about other projects you are working on?**

I've always wanted to produce television. That's been my lifelong goal. I produced a pilot for ABC last season called 'Grace' that featured dance. And I'm in the process of developing another show this year, and I've got some great new partners that I'm working with. It's an exciting time. So hopefully this season we'll get a show on the air. ■

**Congratulations, Karisa Yamamoto!**  
**Good Luck to the New UCLA Bruin!**

*Ucla*  
Bruins

Love, Mom, Dad,  
Allison, Grandma and  
Grandpa Fujii



**Ventura County JACL**  
**congratulates**  
**KELLY M. MCCORMICK**  
**for receiving the**  
**2011 National JACL**  
**Scholarship Award.**



# AA Undocumented Students Call for Passage of Calif. DREAM Act Part II

**Journalist Jose Antonio Vargas, who is of Filipino descent, went public about being undocumented after being inspired by undocumented students who have spoken out.**

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

*Editor's Note: The following feature is the first in a three-part series that takes a look at citizenship and immigration in this country and its impact on the Asian American community.*

Scarlette Kim says she is an ordinary 20-year-old student. But unlike some of her other college classmates, Kim's future after college is uncertain because she is undocumented.

The Korean American undergrad came to the United States in 1996 from Brazil. She said her family arrived legally with a tourist visa, but their lawyer allegedly didn't properly file their paperwork.

Inspired by other undocumented students who have publicly told their stories, Kim decided to speak publicly in support of the DREAM Act last year.

"I thought it would be good for the community to also see that an average student like me also is undocumented," Kim said about speaking publicly about her story. "You don't see that often in the classrooms because we don't reveal it to other people."

The California DREAM Act, the first part of which was signed into law July 25, would benefit undocumented students like Kim. Authored by Assemblyman Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles, AB 130 allows undocumented college students to access privately funded financial aid.

Some 65,000 undocumented students graduate every year from high school, according to the University of California, Los

Angeles for Labor Research and Education.

The second part of the California DREAM Act, AB 131, passed the state Assembly and awaits Gov. Jerry Brown's signature. If signed into law, the bill will allow undocumented students who meet the requirements to apply for state-funded financial aid such as Cal Grants.

While advocates for undocumented students are optimistic about the California DREAM Act, they say without federal legislation these students' futures after college are in limbo.

"California has passed historic and important laws that have allowed undocumented students to attend college," said Karin Wang, vice-president of programs and communications at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. "But as a state, California cannot legalize the status of these young people so they continue to struggle in the shadows of society once they finish college."

Wang said only the federal DREAM Act would "truly help fulfill the all-American dreams of these undocumented youth."

About 2.5 million students under 18 were estimated by the United States Census Bureau to be undocumented in 2000.

The federal DREAM Act would essentially give undocumented students, or DREAMers, a path to citizenship post-college and allow them to work legally.

To spark a "real conversation about immigration" Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas founded the organization Define America. Vargas says the immigration system in America is broken and new voices need to join the discussion.

It was the stories of undocumented students like Kim that inspired Vargas to tell his own story.

"I remember when I was writing the story all I kept thinking

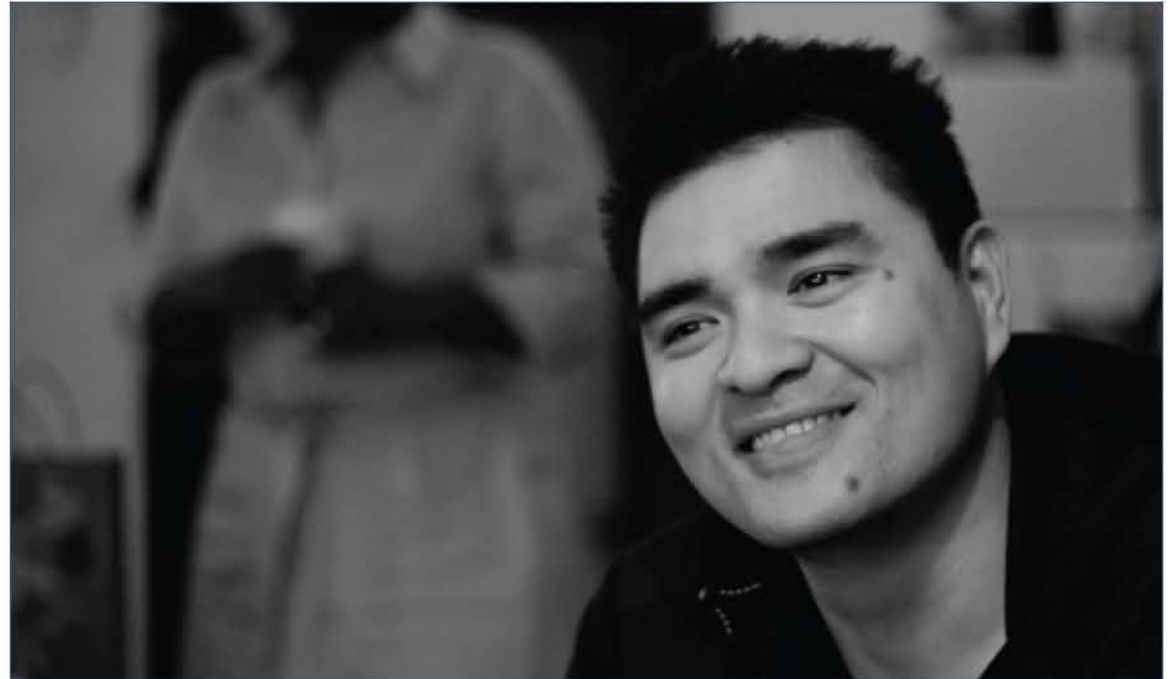


PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSE VARGAS

Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Jose Vargas is one of the most visible DREAMers fighting for undocumented students in this country.

about is that undocumented student sitting in a middle school somewhere or sitting in a high school somewhere," Vargas said. "Because I was in their shoes just a few years ago. And that has to stop. I think we have so politicized this thing, that we have lost all trace of common sense."

Vargas went public about being an undocumented immigrant from the Philippines in a *New York Times Magazine* article published June 22.

His journey to the U.S. started at the age of 12 when his mother said goodbye to him at the Philippines' Ninoy Aquino International Airport in 1993. She sent Vargas to live with his grandfather in the San Francisco Bay Area, wanting to give him a better life.

At 16 Vargas would find out that his green card was fake. He was an undocumented immigrant. Despite being undocumented, Vargas was able to graduate from San Francisco State University. Along the way his "underground railroad" of mentors and fake documentation

helped Vargas reach his goals.

His career in journalism quickly gained momentum, and in 2008 he was part of a team that won the Pulitzer Prize for their coverage of the Virginia Tech shootings. It was a risk to go public with the truth, but Vargas said telling his story was a relief.

"As a storyteller myself I've been living with this since I was 16," Vargas said about telling the truth about being undocumented. "This couldn't keep going. There was going to be a time when I just had to stop."

Similarly inspired, other undocumented immigrants are possibly risking deportation to tell their stories. They say their career plans will be deferred indefinitely if the federal DREAM Act is not passed.

"Ultimately, my future will be on hold. I have so many skills that I want to put forth for this country. This is my home and I can't imagine my life anywhere else," said Jamie Kim, a 20-year-old undocumented Korean American living in California.

However opponents to the California DREAM Act say the bill is an economic drain on a state already in a financial crisis. A Senate committee analysis

estimates that the bill could cost about \$40 million.

Other groups like Federation for American Immigration Reform, or FAIR, say the DREAM Act is essentially amnesty for "illegal aliens."

But Vargas makes an economic argument to explain his support of the DREAM Act, saying the bill provides a return on investment, or ROI.

"Let's talk about it from an economic point of view," Vargas said. "I want my ROI, I want my return of investment. I've invested in these kids. It's not their fault that they're here. They were brought here. Well, all right contribute. Go to college. Get a job. Pay taxes."

Scarlette Kim, who hopes to transfer to UCLA from the community college she is attending, says she hopes to get a degree in math and land a stable job.

The Korean American says she does not know what her future will hold if the federal DREAM Act is not passed into law.

"I guess I'll stay in the shadows forever," she said with a nervous laugh. ■

For more information:  
visit [www.defineamerican.com](http://www.defineamerican.com).



## Congratulations ...

... to all the scholarship recipients AND applicants. Your accomplishments are considerable and admirable. Your successful efforts reflect well on you, your families and your communities. Best wishes in all your future endeavors.

DAVID KAWAMOTO & CAROL KAWAMOTO

## Congratulation to Danielle Kihara,

our 2011 JACL National  
Scholarship Winner and  
Eden Chapter Winner.

Eden Township Chapter  
Eden Youth Group





# Asian American Youth Find Unconventional Jobs, Doing Good

**Hungry to make a difference and impact their communities, some young Asian Americans opt out of conventional careers and instead volunteer or seek philanthropic jobs after college.**

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

When Shin Fujiyama, 27, started a nonprofit in his dorm room he likely never imagined it would one day raise over \$1 million.

Today volunteers and staffers with the nonprofit Students Helping Honduras, which Shin Fujiyama co-founded with his sister Cosmo, have built seven schools and an entire village for 300 people in Honduras. He was also named a CNN hero and caught the attention of Larry King.

But dedicating his life to ending extreme poverty in Honduras meant Shin Fujiyama would have to indefinitely defer his medical school plans. The Japanese American philanthropist says he has never looked back on his decision.

"I have absolutely no regrets for taking the decision to work in Honduras," Shin Fujiyama said from Honduras. "Life is too short to be doing something that is boring or not fulfilling."

As an undergraduate at the University of Mary Washington, Shin Fujiyama traveled to Honduras in 2005 with a campus group. The people he met there inspired him to start Students Helping Honduras, or SHH.

Hondurans like 10-year-old Juli Rodas, who struggled to care for her siblings while doing her homework by candlelight, left a lasting impression. Shin Fujiyama later returned to his college campus to fundraise for Honduras.

But his first shot at fundraising only brought in \$26. In 2006 Shin Fujiyama and a friend set a loftier fundraiser goal. The undergrads visited Warren Buffett's older sister, Doris, asking for \$100,000. She met with Shin Fujiyama and gave him a homework assignment: raise \$33,000 in 60 days. If Shin Fujiyama succeeded, Buffett would sign a check for \$66,000.

The Fujiyama siblings and others joined forces to eventually earn \$82,000 in two months, in addition to Buffett's donation.

Today SHH has about 60 college chapters



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHIN FUJIYAMA

Shin Fujiyama, founder of Students Helping Honduras, has dedicated his life to helping the children of this impoverished country.

nationwide. Some 1,000 volunteers from across the world are expected to volunteer this year with the organization. Shin Fujiyama says he hopes to build 1,000 schools in the country by 2020.

"We have grown tremendously since we started in 2007," Shin Fujiyama explained. "We're no longer operating out of my dorm room [like] when we first started. We have two offices, four vehicles and a dedicated team of staff and volunteers."

The success of the organization is a testament to the Fujiyamas' faith in their generation.

"My brother and I believe so much in the power of youth," said Cosmo Fujiyama, 26. "I think that's the message that we really try to share. Everybody can make a difference."

Careers or volunteer opportunities in philanthropy have appealed to other Asian American youth.

From September 2009 to September 2010 some 62.8 million people volunteered at least once, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

About 27.8 percent of those volunteers are White, 19.4 African American, 19.6 AA and 14.7 Latino American. Those with a higher education were more likely to volunteer.

"This generation wants to be a part of the

change that the world needs right now," Shin Fujiyama said.

Organizations such as the Jubilee Project were born from the idea that "doing good is contagious." The Jubilee Project founders — Jason Lee, Eddie Lee and Eric Lu — create monthly videos for a good cause.

"All three of us have a heart for social justice and also filmmaking. It is something that really keeps us grounded I think," said Lu, 24, a Harvard University medical student. "And the Jubilee Project is really this instrument, sort of the vehicle that we use to spread that awareness and also channel that core that we have."

The Jubilee Project is in the process of becoming an official nonprofit, says Lu.

Other nonprofits are sprouting up nationwide. The number of newly created nonprofits increased over 30 percent from 1999 to 2009, according to the National Center For Charitable Statistics.

The Jubilee Project friends say they believe more of their peers are going into philanthropy post-college to also make a difference.

"I think that there is this cool factor to philanthropy, especially with what we're seeing in the recent phenomenon with Barack Obama and his candidacy," said Eddie

Lee, 25, who is also with the White House Initiative on AAs and Pacific Islanders. "But I think at the same time we have to really consider: Are we making a real impact? Are we making a real change in people's lives?"

The Jubilee Project has created about 56 videos and raised over \$26,000 for different organizations, says Lu. But the inspiration they have sparked in others might be the best measure of their success.

"At the end of the day while these numbers and these figures are important ... I think we really believe that if we're able to even inspire or help one person we've really done our job," Lu said.

One of the videos the Jubilee Project has created highlights the organization Project Red Balloon, founded by Jennifer Allison Tran, 23, who is also in medical school. Every view of the YouTube video "A Letter of Hope" raises funds for Project Red Balloon, which supports musical therapy programs.

"The fundraiser isn't over until mid-September I believe," Tran said, adding that Project Red Balloon will receive two pennies per view. "They're at 61,000 views right now for the video. So it's going to be at least \$1,200 so far."

Tran started Project Red Balloon after spending a summer volunteering in South East Asia. She returned to the U.S. wanting to give back to the community just like some of her peers.

"I feel like people, young adults, are realizing that their voice is just as strong as somebody who is in their 30s, 40s or 50s," Tran said.

For Shin Fujiyama his desire to do humanitarian work in Honduras has become a lifestyle change. He lives and works year-round in Honduras where he also plays for a village soccer team.

When he is not working in the community, Shin Fujiyama enjoys grabbing a pizza or a smoothie with his girlfriend, Cindy, who he met at a local coffee shop.

Doing philanthropy is challenging but fun, Shin Fujiyama says. But there are bigger benefits to a career in philanthropy that he has discovered.

"There is nothing more fulfilling than dedicating our short lives to helping children who need it most." He added, "I also get to go to work in flip-flops and nothing but a laptop and soccer shoes." ■



## Congratulations 2011 Grads

James Aubrey	Eric Nakagawa	Stacie Sakuma
Katie Doi	Audrey Nakamura	Erin Takeda
Amanda Drennan	Kim Nakamura	Karen Thjan
Greg Hori *	Eric Nishimatsu	Molly Yamamoto
Ryan Michelfelder	Nicoleto Noto	Nick Yamamoto
Kelly Morimune		

\* National JACL Scholarship Recipient  
Pat & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship

  
**Silicon Valley JACL**  
bridging generations

**We are very proud of you,  
Kelly Midori!**

**Love always,  
Mom, Dad, Ted, Meredith  
and Grandma**





# NATIONAL JACL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

## 2011 ESSAY TOPIC

**"The JA community is becoming increasingly privileged, yet also complacent to the ills and needs of the greater community. As a student who cares about the future, how will you dedicate yourself to educating and engaging our community in relevant issues?"**

DARA ODA performs the Snow Queen pas de deux role in a production of the Nutcracker Ballet.

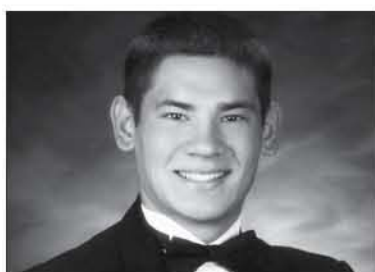


(Far right) KARISA YAMAMOTO celebrated her high school graduation with her grandparents. (Center) CHRISTOPHER R.R. HYDE catches air going for the basket.



## FRESHMAN WINNERS

### Christopher R.R. Hyde



#### Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship San Jose JACL

**University of Calif., San Diego**  
"Quality healthcare is not just a moral obligation but is also fiscally sound. Investments in preventative medicine make good financial sense in a period of federal, state, and local budget crisis. But programs must be designed to reach their targeted audience. What works for one group may not work for others. And despite the perception that all Asian groups are the same, this is simply not the case. Currently, communities of color have limited access to culturally responsive treatment and education. Hepatitis B and TB rates are higher for Asians. Bone marrow and liver donor registries for Asians are insufficient. South Asians, in particular, face many obstacles to treatment ... And even more tragic, our senior citizens are still reluctant to seek preventative treatment. What is lacking is a healthcare system that reaches out to these

underrepresented communities of color ... To respond to the needs of immigrant communities, more must be done than just printing brochures in multiple languages ... As a young person who cares about our future and who wants to make a meaningful difference in the lives of people, I want to do more than just practice medicine. Physicians are no longer just doctors. They must also be advocates and teachers."

### Gregory K. Hori



#### Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship Silicon Valley JACL

**West Valley Community College**  
"By establishing a strong foundation in the youth today, we can ensure a flourishing and prosperous tomorrow. The theme of leadership development among the youth is one of the most important among the Silicon Valley JACL ... To ensure that a 'complacent' Japanese American community is educated and engaged in issues relevant to our culture, I plan on developing the youth. Just recently, in fact, I attended the San Jose Day of Remembrance. This day honored the JA citizens who were interned during WWII. During this time, there was great prejudice and racial profiling against JAs.

However, through their strength and vitality, the Japanese community endured their ordeals, showing true meaning to the Japanese word *gaman*. The Day of Remembrance has also been extended to include other groups including Muslims after 9/11 who were victims of the same hatred JAs suffered from during WWII. These are prime examples of relevant issues to our culture that the youth must be educated about ... I want to equip the younger generation with the tools necessary to carry on the practices and culture promoted through involvement within the JACL."

### Melissa K. Gjerde



#### Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship Gilroy JACL

**University of Calif., Davis**  
"Living in a West Coast city in the 21st century had always shielded me from the ignorance and hate that people contained and continue to contain for people of color ... For the past few years of high school, my interest in current events has peaked; I have found an intense passion for the environment and civil rights, gays and civil rights in particular. By following news programs, websites, and other

media I have kept up on current issues and have looked into the objective facts regarding each side. I believe that liberal issues such as these are extremely important, and I will go to college to study environmental science in order to become an environmental lawyer. By practicing law, I hope to assist in making strides for the protection of the environment in future years to achieve sustainability for society through government regulation and law, and will continue to fight against unjust corporate policies, which harm the natural world we depend on ... I have huge dreams of making changes in the world; media controversies such as the 'Ground Zero Mosque' and gay marriage over the past few years have sparked such passion in me to fight for what I believe to be right."

### Nina L. Coomes



#### Mr. & Mrs. Takashi Moriuchi Scholarship Chicago JACL

**University of Chicago**  
"My generation of JA youth is blessed beyond the dreams of our parents and grandparents. If we continue to look self-ward, complacency will blur memories and fade the images of past struggles.

To build on the perseverance and honor of past generations, I believe that I have an inherent responsibility to dedicate my studies and my career aspirations to educating and engaging the global community with relevant issues of justice, equality and hope. I am challenged to look beyond the mirror. As a high school student, I meet said challenge by utilizing my love for literature and art to become a modern day orator through slam poetry... my poetry became a vehicle for me to raise social consciousness about JA issues among my peers ... As my poetry has progressed, I realized that my literary art could promote the same value of racial equality and justice that the JACL sustains. Spoken word especially acts as an instrument of change, alerting listeners to new perspectives and issues. With words of poetry, I hope to engage my audience with the struggle of being between two racial identities ... With words, the JACL and I present a call ... imploring the surrounding community to take notice, and to take action."

### Karisa K. Yamamoto



#### Patricia & Gail Ishimoto Memorial Scholarship Sacramento JACL

**University of Calif., Los Angeles**



"Our greatest problem today is understanding other cultures. As the last superpower in the world, America suffers from a severe case of ethnocentrism. Like the great Roman Empire, we have conquered other nations of interest with our military might. We use violence, intimidation, and deception to fight for liberty and peace. We believe the ends justify the means. Yet at present, this strategy doesn't seem to be working too well in our international relations. I believe the key to waging peace rather than war is learning about other cultures. When an idea, belief, or practice is foreign to us, we tend to look down upon it and place ourselves on a higher pedestal ... To cure our ethnocentrism, we must study the languages and customs of other countries. Students in most developed nations are required to learn English. Yet, why is it that many of us Americans do not choose to become fluent in Chinese, Spanish or Arabic? Through education we can fight for peace ... If we spread this idea of understanding other cultures, we can learn to respect one another and avoid conflict ... As an aspiring doctor and medical researcher, I want to extend my reach across borders and take part in a global effort to improve health."

#### Nicole A. Sakioka



**Kenji Kasai Memorial Scholarship**  
**SELANOCO JACL**  
**San Francisco State University**  
 "As a JA teen living in the 21st century, I realize that it is easy to take everything I have for granted. Nowadays, many JA teens like to focus on what's popular with fashion, music, school, etc. Internment camps in Manzanar and the civil rights movement are not a part of their biggest concerns. Unfortunately, we fail to look deeper into the problems

we currently have ... I want to dedicate myself to educating our community in relevant issues ... I started doing activities for my local community in middle school with a few of my closest friends. Together, we made our own group called Project C.O.O.K.I.E. (Charity Organization Of Kids In Education), collected thousands of books for children, and collected items and assembled hundreds of baskets for foster mothers ... The problems that Muslim Americans are fighting do involve the JA community because the prejudices Muslim Americans are facing now mirror what happened during WWII. If a community does not help a community in need, then that community is not strong and growing."

#### Bryan Namba



**Hanayagi Rokumie Memorial Cultural Scholarship**  
**Arizona JACL**  
**University of Arizona**

"The JACL has given me a vehicle to learn more about my family's history, fight for civil rights of all people and most importantly to learn more about myself. In my short 18 years, I've been to five national JACL conventions and have been to one JACL youth conference. I served as the Arizona chapter youth representative for many years growing up. And prior to the 2010 Chicago convention, I was appointed the Pacific Southwest district youth representative ... I know that the issue of civil rights will be continual and the fight for justice will never cease ... My only hope is that I can help carry on the legacy of fighting for social justice that past and present JACL members possess."

**Kelsey M. Kwong**  
**Deni & June Uejima Memorial Scholarship**  
**San Gabriel Valley JACL**

#### Whittier College



"My work at [Japanese American National Museum] JANM is largely aimed at education and outreach. Through the docent-training program I hope to work with the youth who are our future. I feel it is especially important to educate them in the subjects of social justice, racial equality and cultural diversity. Teaching the history and past experiences of JAs during WWII is extremely important, so that we can learn from our mistakes and not repeat them. Unfortunately, we see these same patterns recurring in today's world. By keeping JA history alive through pilgrimages, educational programs and activities, exhibits, etc. we are reminded that freedom cannot be taken for granted ... Since many young JAs become alienated from the community, as they get older, I would like to create a sense of unity by capturing the interests of the younger generation through the use of the media and arts. Raising awareness through the use of music, visual arts, film and dance are just some of the many

options for bringing the younger people together to educate and begin to discuss important social and political issues."

#### Noelle Fa-Kaji



**Shigeki "Shake" Ushio Memorial Scholarship**  
**Berkeley JACL**  
**Scripps College**

"My paternal grandparents were both interned during WWII: my grandmother at Poston and my grandfather at Manzanar ... If I ask about what they lost in being interned, they respond *shikata ga nai*. It cannot be helped. It is true that dwelling on the past is never productive. Knowledge of past mistakes, however, is necessary and I plan to continue studying history in college to develop my understanding in this area ... Even in Berkeley, there is a great amount

of inequality. I started a math tutoring program at my alma mater ... I work one-on-one with students who otherwise would be left behind ... I encourage my pupils, check for understanding, and try to make math fun. It is very fulfilling to see my pupils progress and start to understand on their own. I would like to continue teaching throughout college and for a career ... Whether at home in Berkeley or elsewhere in the world, I try to make a difference. I remember my JA heritage and connection to discrimination, and I see that these issues of social injustice are similar to those my grandparents faced. I know I cannot single-handedly transform the world, but that's no excuse not to try."

#### Aliya M. Kochiyama



**Mas & Majiu Uyesugi**



### Sacramento JACL Chapter

*Congratulates Its 2011 Scholarship Recipients!!*



Karisa Yamamoto

Karisa Yamamoto

Kristi Chow

Garett Kurahara

Lindsey Valdovino

Kristen Ito

Breanne Matsuura

Kara Hamamoto



**WE'RE PROUD OF YOU, ALLIE!**

With love,  
 Dad, Mom, Michael, Jon



## CONGRATS BRYAN!

Love,  
Dad, Mom  
and Lauren



## PUYALLUP VALLEY JACL

*congratulates*



Sean Tanino

Geoff Sasaki

Jeremy Morita

Melissa,

You are such a sweet and beautiful very special girl, both inside and out. We wish you happiness and success always. We love you so much and are so proud of you!

Love, Mom and Dad



Glenbo / Mom,

Congratulations on your scholarship, we are all very proud of you!

With love,  
Grayson, Garret, Melissa, Short,  
Munch, Mac, Stuie, and Z-B.



Follow your  
dreams, Aliya!

Much aloha,  
Kochiyama Family



Danielle Kihara (center) graduated from James Logan High School summa cum laude.

### Memorial Scholarship South Bay JACL University of Calif., Irvine

"Presently, JAs are more privileged and our community doesn't face the same issues it did 30 years ago ... The new generations are unaware of how our community arose and the struggles we faced. Knowing the history and issues is really important to preserve our community ... The JA community wouldn't have activities like martial arts, sports, Boy Scouts, and obons without the original founders who started it. Along with educating the new generations, I think it would make more of an impact if the youth experienced for a short time not having these activities. Many kids in the JA community take these activities for granted ... The JA community has been through a lot throughout the years, so I believe that we should give back to other communities. We wouldn't want other communities to go through what we went through during WWII ... It is a problem if our community begins to care less about the greater community."

### Danielle Kihara



### Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship Eden Township JACL University of Calif., Irvine

"I agree that the JA community is becoming more and more privileged, but at the same time, we are starting to not care about the ills and needs of the greater community ... I think that teaching the youth is important because it teaches them about their history,

culture and background ... This is also helpful because it will encourage the youth to become more involved with what is going on around them in their communities ... I can also try to look for events that I can participate in with Eden Youth Group. By this, I do not only mean more community service events, but also collaborating with different youth groups from other cities to come together and talk about problems that we think our community is having. It is a good idea to talk with other youth about things that are going on in today's world because it ensures that we are always trying to help solve problems in our communities and that we know everything that is going on around us."

## UNDERGRAD WINNERS

### Mariko J. Newton



### Nobuko R. Kodama Fong Memorial Scholarship Portland JACL Pacific University

"My active involvement in JACL has directly expanded my understanding of APA issues, owing to the broad outreach and coalition-building efforts of our organization. Recently, I had the privilege to attend the 2011 JACL/OCA Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., which introduced me to the national decision-making process by meeting with members of Congress, the White House and federal agencies. Throughout the

summit, I learned about legislative issues within the context of APA interests and the role JACL plays in shaping public policy at the federal level. Specifically, we focused on the theme of anti-bullying and noted several instances of bullying in different communities including the 2009 anti-Asian immigrant violence in the Philadelphia School District and the post-9/11 bias incidences against Sikh students in New York City public schools. With these issues in mind, we had the opportunity to promote our policy agendas on anti-bullying and anti-racial profiling legislation to the Congressional staffers at the Capitol. Overall, the leadership summit has equipped me with the necessary resources to advocate for civil rights both within and outside of the APA community, which in turn helped me raise awareness of these modern-day issues to other youth members in my own community. Moreover, the outreach efforts of JACL also encompass the Vietnamese and other APA communities that were adversely impacted by Hurricane Katrina and more recently, by the BP oil spill."

### Nicole Horiuchi Gaddie



### Kenji Kajiwara Memorial Scholarship Salt Lake City JACL Seattle University

"Seventy years ago, our Nisei grandparents and their families were federally forced to relocate to unknown destinations with an unknown length of time. Within 90 days, they had to sell, rent or store



all possessions and were only allowed to take what they could carry with them. The hysteria of WWII unfairly portrayed our families as a threat and a dangerous enemy. Today our circumstances have drastically changed. The youth are privileged, so they don't have to worry about the harsh and unjust conditions our grandparents faced. Executive Order 9066 can serve the JACL and their youth as a reminder for social justice and civil rights in our community and country, regardless of race, creed or color. In being vigilant with these values, we keep America true to its creation and destiny. We can now help our communities by educating and engaging people in a variety of issues. I chose to attend Seattle University because of its Jesuit mission: 'Jesuit education means more than acquiring knowledge. The Jesuits believe what you do with that knowledge is just as important. At Seattle University, students are encouraged to grow personally and spiritually, testing their values, developing a sense of responsibility for themselves and their community, and learning about making ethical choices in their lives.' Seattle University has the values and goals similar to the JACL."

**Molly M. Serizawa**  
Henry & Chiyo Kuvahara  
Memorial Scholarship  
San Fernando Valley JACL  
Scripps College



"With my experiences in JACL PSW's summer program, 'Project: Community! 2009,' I realized what it meant to have a voice in response to JA issues, and how important and effective that is as a youth. Our predecessors — including the Issei and Nisei leaders who continue to head our organizations — have done their part in creating and establishing our ethnic community. Now, it is my generation's turn to take responsibility to not only continue our predecessor's legacy, but also offer a hand to those who need it most. Back when our community was first being established, there were no other groups that outreached to us. However, I truly believe that our community is full of compassion and a drive to help others inasmuch as we're willing to help each other, and we need to seek more ways to manifest that to the world. As a student who genuinely cares about the future, I will dedicate myself to making relevant issues known to the youth of our community and promote their participation. As a student member of several JA organizations that



**Briana Hamamoto's greatest love is her horse Grasshopper, whom she rescued at the age of 11, trained and showed in jumping, dressage, trailriding and chasing cows.**

rely upon volunteers, including the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Southern California, I have already begun outreaching to the youth to become more involved. I have proposed the creation of an alumni group that will make it their personal responsibility to give back to the community that enabled them to achieve greater success in college through generous scholarship funding."

**John William Kanemoto**  
Shigeru Nakahira  
Memorial Scholarship

**Florin JACL**  
Cal State Univ. Sacramento



"My aspiration to go into the teaching field was ignited during my junior year in high school as I embarked on a career research project. Embracing the opportunity

to hear my calculus teacher confess the moment he realized teaching was his internal spark and driving force, allowed me to connect my passion for social change with a lifelong career. However, my path to become a math teacher has not always been a successful one. As the level of rigor and adversity increases with each step upward in the mathematics major requirements staircase, more and more am I enticed to look elsewhere for a major. Nonetheless, it seems as I continue progressing in my various careers as a first year experience



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JACL Members**

Call the JACL Health Benefits Administrators at  
**1.800.400.6633**  
or visit [www.jaclhealth.org](http://www.jaclhealth.org)



*Glenda,*

Congratulations on your scholarship! We are extremely proud of you for this great accomplishment, but we are equally impressed by your constant passion for learning since your early childhood. After graduating from your local high school, you enrolled in the Foreign Study League in different major cities in Europe.

You also attended Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan for two years.

Last but not least, you completed your college education in Los Angeles.

You are now raising three adult children and completing your doctoral studies.

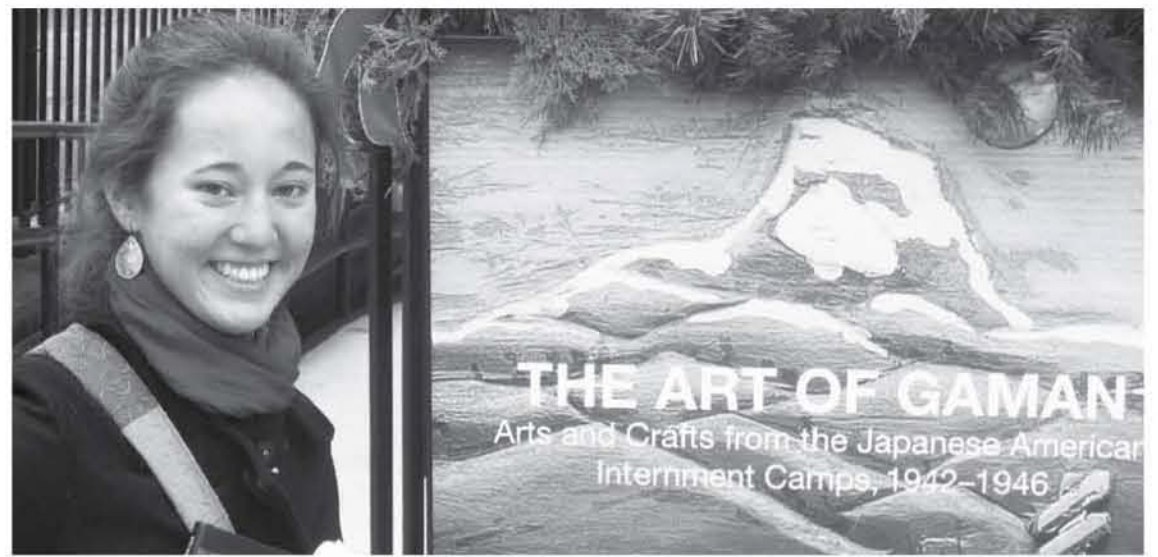
You not only demonstrate your determination and ambition but also serve as an incredible inspiration for your family.

Much Love and Affection,  
Your proud mom and dad  
*Grace and George*





**Gilroy JACL**  
is proud of our National JACL scholarship recipient  
**Melissa Gjerde**



**Monica M. Matsumoto**, pictured here at "The Art of Gaman" exhibit, spent a year in Egypt studying Arabic and volunteering at a center for mentally disabled children.

peer mentor, orientation leader, student representative of JACL, and Environmental Student Organization, that my journey in the realm of civil rights empowers my voice for those who do not have one, nor have found their own. Hence, one must not look completely at my performance within my math classes to define my potential for success. Rather, they must view my foundation of inspiration. They must view my definition of success."

**Jonathan P. Lee**



**Kyutaro & Yasuo Abiko**  
**Memorial Scholarship**  
**Portland JACL**

**Stevens Institute of Technology**  
"It is very true that the JA community is becoming more and more privileged compared to where JAs were 50 years ago. However this should never change the fact that the community needs to always look out for those less fortunate. The JAs are not necessarily people who are more privileged than everyone else, but should definitely not see themselves as more privileged because they are JA. American born Japanese have been born into a country where they are given many of the same opportunities as any other American; however there are still many Americans regardless of race who are deprived of basic opportunities and are in need of help. This is why the JA community cannot become complacent to the ills of the greater community, because if no one takes action then the world will remain unfair to those who were born with less. In order to educate people and engage our community in relevant issues they must first be interested in the issues. If you can get people to become genuinely interested in a

topic then they will feel much more compelled to take time to educate themselves and others, and even possibly take action on the issue where it is necessary."

**Monica M. Matsumoto**



**Alice Yuriko Endo**  
**Memorial Scholarship**  
**Houston JACL**  
**Rice University**

"Advanced technology and transportation have transformed the world into a truly 'global' environment and as a result, the importance of international understanding and cooperation has grown exponentially. I have had multiple opportunities to serve as a youth ambassador, promote cross-cultural awareness, and encourage dialogue. I spent the 2009-10 academic year in Egypt, living with an Egyptian family, studying Arabic, and volunteering at a center for mentally disabled children. While in Egypt, I strived to represent the youth of the United States in a positive manner and resolve any misconceptions. Upon my return, my role has only increased. I am passionate about spreading awareness of the Arab world, its people, and its religions, so when people ask me about life in Egypt, I give them my honest opinion and analyses based on personal experiences, as well as published studies. In this way, I hope they will better understand the causes and motives of the issues, and in the future, will be more likely to engage in resolving — instead of ignoring — them. Increasing awareness, volunteerism and other forms of direct involvement are another effective solution. Caring for and teaching disabled children, as well as simply walking around the streets of Cairo, constantly reminded me

of the widespread need of so many people. Volunteering also allowed me to truly witness the major impact of even the smallest contribution."

**Kristin Y. Sakaguchi**



**Saburo Kido**  
**Memorial Scholarship**  
**GLAS JACL**  
**Syracuse University**

"There is a definite need for more community involvement to assist other communities especially other minority groups with issues they are facing. The first step is to inform the community about the issues at hand. Since one of the biggest challenges and goals of JACL is for more youth involvement, targeting goals toward the youth is very important. The solution to this is to utilize technology such as e-mail and social networking and media sites such as Facebook, Twitter or even YouTube, since a vast majority of today's youth uses such sites. Obtaining youth's attention through this avenue, as well as the larger JA community in this manner, will prove to have positive results. For example, last year I was informed that there was a possibility that Los Angeles' Little Tokyo's future could be compromised due to a major purchase by a developer. I discovered this news through an e-mail. It was through this avenue that I was able to inform my friends about this issue and encourage them to sign a petition electronically demanding a dialogue between representatives of the JA community and the owners to voice the concerns of Little Tokyo, the JA community and its future. Communicating through e-mails and social networking and media sites not only puts the necessary information out there, but

**Briana,**  
We are so  
proud of you.  
Have a great year  
at UC Davis.

**Love**  
**Mom, Dad &**  
**Elizabeth**



**WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL**  
Proudly Congratulates

***Samie***  
***Kuratomi***

Recipient of the  
**DR. KIYOSHI SONODA**  
**MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

WWW.WATSONVILLESANTACRUZJACL.ORG



**NICOLE H. GADDIE**  
Seattle University

Keep the focus  
and  
be your best!

Love Dad and Mom



does so in a way that will quickly attract the attention of the youth and hopefully engage their interest in the topic."

#### Naomi D. Schurr



**Dr. Thomas T. Yatabe  
Memorial Scholarship  
South Bay JACL  
Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology**

"Growing up in Southern California, I learned the Japanese language at a Japanese language school, but I learned about being Japanese from my grandparents. Every week at dinner time, my grandfather would tell us stories of the immigrant experience, coming to America to work as a schoolboy, struggling to learn English, then working and attending night school until he finally earned a college degree. And every time we drove to Northern California, we would pass Manzanar, a dusty, barren expanse next to the road. My grandmother reminded us of how she and her family were interned there when she was a child. As I progressed in school, learning about the Constitution and the rights of citizenship, it became clearer than ever to me that the internment was wrong. In high school, my American history textbook contained only a scant handful of lines about the internment. To increase awareness of the internment experience, my friend and I jointly researched and created exhibits for History Day in California on Sadao Munemori and conflicts within Japanese families in America due to the internment during WWII. When presenting our exhibits to viewers, we made the same points that I make today: we must not forget the past if we intend to protect our present and our future."

**Briana D. Hamamoto  
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara  
Memorial Scholarship**



**Naomi D. Schurr, pictured here playing tennis, learned Japanese at Japanese language school.**

**Livingston-Merced JACL  
University of California, Davis**



"My life has been filled with inspiring events. My family, my animals and my environment growing up have all greatly influenced my future aspirations and have helped mold me into the person I am today. They have had the most profound impact on my future and helped me to discover why I want a university education and what I want to study. A very important part of what I want to study is how to communicate to the community my discoveries in order to make our medical world a better place. My life was changed dramatically my freshman year when my mother was diagnosed with stage B colon cancer. I remember walking into the chemotherapy center with her for the first time feeling both terrified and fascinated at the same time. Over the course of my mom's illness I accompanied her to doctor's appointments, watched her progress, and cheered with

her when she finally overcame this ugly, horrifying disease. I matured greatly throughout that year and discovered the true importance of life. Through her illness, my mom taught me to enjoy life while it's good and to appreciate all of life's little surprises. She has also taught me that persistence, dedication, and commitment will open many doors throughout your life and ultimately get you to where you want to go in life."

**Alexandra Wong**



**Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara  
Memorial Scholarship  
Chicago JACL  
Northwestern University**

"While I am not a JA, I still belong to the Asian American community as a Chinese American. Our identity is one shaped by both Asian and American culture, and we relate to one another through our minority experience. Although the United States is made up of numerous immigrants and their descendents,

## CONGRATULATIONS,

**BRYAN NAMBA**, national JACL scholarship winner, and Arizona JACL's Sara Hutchings Clardy Scholarship winners  
**KEVIN FUSE,**  
**FRANCESCA GERMINARIO,**  
**ALEX HARBOTTLE**  
and **BRYAN NAMBA!**

**ARIZONA  
JACL**



## NICOLE:

"People will forget what you said,  
people will forget what you did,  
but people will never forget how  
you made them feel."

— MAYA ANGELOU

**You have always made us  
feel loved and proud.**

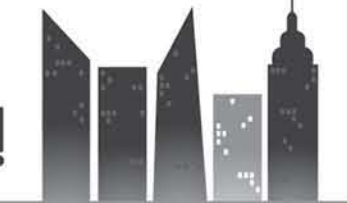
Love,  
Dad and Mom



NICOLE SAKIOKA

## CONGRATULATIONS,

**LISA  
OKAMOTO!**



**NEW YORK JACL**

### Congratulations 2011 Twin Cities JACL Scholarship Recipients!

*Emily Erickson, Wayzata High School*

*Stephanie Hohbein, Wayzata High School*

*Nicholas Honda, Tartan High School*

*Charles Kiriha, Bloomington Jefferson High School*

*Tyler Satoh, Edina High School*

*Mika Sugano, Highland Park Senior High School*

*TJ Wesley, Eden Prairie High School*

## Keep Reaching For The Stars

**2011 IDC Scholarship Winners**

**Hena John-Fisk, Salt Lake City chapter**

**Nicole Gaddie, Salt Lake City chapter**

**- Intermountain District JACL**

## Congratulations

**Kristin Sakaguchi**

National JACL Scholarship

&

**Tenaya Senzaki**

GLAS Chapter Scholarship





## Florin JACL salutes JOHN KANEMOTO, national JACL scholarship recipient.



Also, hats off to Florin chapter graduating seniors scholarship awardees: **Garrett Abe, Teryn Hara, Cameron Iwasa, Alison Emiko Lewis, Corey Nakata, and Kimmee Staley.**

Americans of Asian ancestry remain a minority in many aspects: we are underrepresented in politics, we remain relatively unrecognized in academic research as a specific cultural group, and we encounter obstacles to entry in several job industries due to the 'model minority' stereotype. Progress still needs to be made. As I am a college student, my education is largely my own responsibility. I have chosen to dedicate myself to developing a strong knowledge base in government and citizenship. Besides focusing on various political systems and human rights issues, I am very much interested in what it means to be an individual, and what it means to be a citizen in a national or global landscape. I also hope that my study abroad experience next year will supplement these ideas. With this background, I hope to use my own education as a tool for the future. I want to empower and inspire young JAs and all AAs who may not necessarily understand the far journey their community has made over the past decades in gaining representation, acceptance and legal rights."

## Graduate Awards

**Allison M. Fujii**  
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara  
Memorial Scholarship  
South Bay JACL

Calif. State Univ., Long Beach



"I am passionate about social justice in my academic career and personal life. I see myself as an advocate for social change and am committed to empowering the marginalized of society. My family's history has shaped my value of education and influenced my desire to effect change through working in the higher education field. For my grandparents who were incarcerated as teenagers in the WWII JA internment camps, higher education was the way to a better life in the U.S. They have passed down the legacy to me that education is not only a vehicle for upward mobility but also a part of you that no one can take away. I am privileged with the opportunities I have today because my grandparents went to college. I know that when you help someone succeed in higher education, you are not only empowering them, but also impacting their family's opportunities for generations to come. It is with this perspective that I have chosen to pursue a master's degree in counseling with an emphasis in student development in higher education. Within this field, my passion is for supporting

students who enter college with significant barriers."

**Jamie S. Kuratomi**



**Dr. Kiyoshi Sonoda**  
Memorial Scholarship  
Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL  
University of Calif., San Diego

"As a Buddhist, I remind myself of the importance of community service by remembering the Golden Chain, which says to be 'kind and gentle to every living thing and protect all who are weaker than myself.' Participating in community service has always been a part of my life. Since I was in elementary school, I have done projects through the Watsonville Buddhist Temple and organizations such as Second Harvest Food Bank. Volunteering at UCSD's free dental clinics has also reinforced the importance of community service and compassion. Seeing both the gratefulness of the patients and the kindness of the volunteer dentists have taught me the importance of caring for others in need. The volunteer dentists donate their time to provide dental care to people that would otherwise not be able to afford it. All the dentists that

**Noelle**

You are following in the footsteps of your grandparents (Charles & Theresa Fa and Bruce & Frances Kaji) with your heart of service. We are so proud of you and thankful for the blessing you are to all of us.

— Your Mom, Dad and Sisters

**Congratulations, Noelle.**

The Berkeley Chapter is so proud of you.

Best of luck on your studies at Scripps College!

## San Jose JACL

Congratulates **CHRISTOPHER HYDE**, recipient of the Kenji & Shizu Sakauye Scholarship (\$10,000) and the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship (\$5,000).

SAN JOSE  
JACL  
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

## JOB POSTING

## Executive Director



### Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation

The Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) was founded in 1899 and has its Mission to propagate Jodo Shinshu Buddhism throughout the United States. It is affiliated with Hombu Hongwanji in Japan. There are 61 member temples across the country. The BCA Endowment Foundation is a separate corporate entity and is charged with managing the endowed assets of the BCA.

The BCA Endowment Foundation Executive Director shall be responsible for managing day-to-day operations of the Foundation; serving as the primary interface between the Board and fund managers and other service providers; supervision of an assistant/bookkeeper; maintaining communications with donors, board members, and stakeholders in the Buddhist Churches of America. S/he must have excellent interpersonal skills; ability and willingness to make presentations to potential donors, BCA meeting attendees, and temple groups; and ability to work independently. Must have experience with the securities and financial services industry, and knowledge of accounting principles. Must be familiar with Excel and QuickBooks. Prior management experience is required. Working knowledge of the BCA organization is desirable.

The Foundation office is located in San Francisco. The Executive Director would be expected to work out of that office as telecommuting is not utilized at this time. Salary and benefits to be negotiated.

Interviews will be conducted in the Fall of 2011 in the Bay Area. The job will begin on January 3, 2012. Please apply in writing to:

David Unruhe  
BCA Endowment Foundation  
1710 Octavia Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109

Please include a resume. Finalists will be asked to submit three references.



volunteer have regular paid jobs during the week, but they still come to the clinic for up to five hours at the end of the day. Their service and commitment to helping others in need has inspired me to strive to do the same. Hopefully, my involvement in the community will one day inspire someone else as well."

**Dana Y. Nakano**



**Magoichi & Shizuko Kato  
Memorial Scholarship  
SELANOCO JACL  
University of California, Irvine**

"Within my discipline of sociology, the story of JAs has already been told. Having achieved socioeconomic successes, high levels of education and movement out of ethnically concentrated neighborhoods, JAs are the quintessential story of perseverance through adversity and ultimate achievement of the American dream. We cannot deny these facts and, certainly, much can be said for paying it forward with JAs helping other communities. The interest in helping other communities of color and other AA communities was strong among JACLers who completed the State of the JACL survey. Across the board, JACLers wanted to build more coalitions across racial and ethnic lines, but still wanted to maintain a distinct JA identity for the organization. While this is a valid and admirable trajectory for our community, I have thought through my research that JAs themselves remain racialized as non-white and hence, continue to inhabit a marginalized status within the U.S. I assert that hidden within the praise of JAs as the model minority or model minorities is reliance upon understandings of race and racial discrimination within a black/white paradigm. While there may be many cases where our history and present experience with discrimination aligns with the plight of African Americans or

other oppressed groups, I believe there are still issues in need of addressing that are unique to JAs."

**Hena John-Fisk**



**Rev. H. John Yamashita  
Memorial Scholarship  
Salt Lake City JACL  
University of Utah**

"As a student I think it is very important first to break down the wall which the JA community has around itself. It is important to make JAs understand and feel that they are a large part of the minority community, and that what affects other AA and minority communities also affects JAs, such as racial profiling. Only after this can we work on how to get JAs involved in issues that other groups find important. There are several ways we can try to get the JA community involved. National JACL and local chapters have to work hand in hand. National already does a good job of taking stances on issues relating to non-JAs. These messages need to be carried to the community through each chapter by presenting these to prominent leaders of the community. Along with this, national needs to encourage and help make connections between groups such as OCA and South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) at the local level like they do at the national level. Also, there should be small group meetings to present important issues, and we need community action groups to talk to a wider segment of our local communities. This way we can involve more people and get them involved in relevant causes. In addition to this I think if the JACL changed their name to just the acronym of JACL it would help JAs accept that the JACL is for everyone."

**Kelly M. McCormick  
Minoru Yasui Memorial  
Scholarship**

**Ventura County JACL  
Columbia University**



"I am currently in my first year of the East Asian Languages and Cultures M.A. Program at Columbia University. In this program I focus on postwar Japanese history and political activism. Often, the history of a group of people is a history that is defined by the borders of the nation where they reside. The way JA history is written, it usually determines Japan as an origin and the United States as an end. However, I am looking at JA history as it exists on a continuum; not starting in Japan and ending in the United States, but in a constant process of reflection back and forth. Thus, when I research political activism in the 1960s in Japan, I look for activists who had connections in the U.S. and were inspired by AA activism during the civil rights movement. Similarly, I am looking at Japanese history from American perspectives: how were AA activists who still had connections like family members in Japan looking to events in Japan to inform their identities? In this way, I am creating a trans-Pacific conversation between Japanese and JAs that complicates, clarifies and makes much richer the story of AA activism in the 1960s. It is my hope that this unique perspective will provoke discussion about the role of JAs in the civil rights movement."

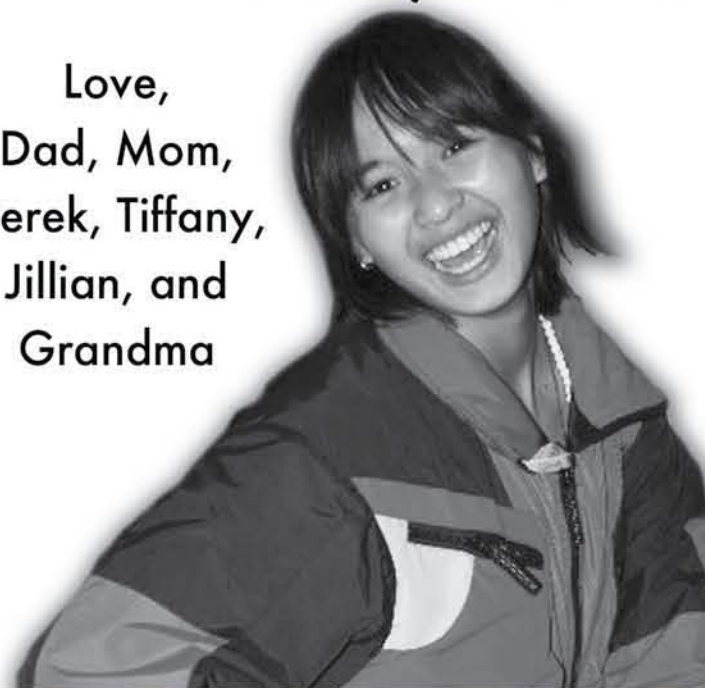
**Glenda Izumi**



**Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara  
Memorial Scholarship  
Riverside JACL**

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Oct. 31-Nov. 14	<b>Yamato South Pacific Wonders with Collette Vacations</b> - 15 days/12 nights visiting Cairns (Great Barrier Reef) & Sydney, Australia; Christchurch, Mt. Cook Nat'l Park, Queenstown, & Milford Sound, New Zealand.	Collette Escort
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December 3-12	<b>Yamato Christmas Markets of Europe Tour</b> - 10 days/8 nights visiting Prague, Rothenburg, Dinkelsbuehl to Ulm, Neuschwanstein, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Salzburg, Vienna.	Philippe Theriault

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April 4-18	<b>Yamato Deluxe Spring Tour to Japan</b> - 15 days/13 nights visiting Tokyo, Hakone, Nagoya, Takayama, Kanazawa, Hiroshima, Miyajima and Kyoto. Ask about partial tour participation.	Peggy Mikuni
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#### Fielding Graduate University

"Undoubtedly, it is important to engage with one's own community, be it ethnic or geographic. However, by limiting oneself to local involvement, it is easy to become content or worse, apathetic, about what is happening outside one's local surroundings, particularly if that environment is fed by the stereotype of JAs as the complacent model minority, ignoring any discriminatory acts we may have experienced as an ethnic minority, and even more easily, turned the other cheek to discrimination faced by other marginalized populations one may have observed in the U.S. as well as the world. It is imperative that we 'connect the dots', to understand what is happening systemically, to see that our experiences as ethnic minorities in the U.S. are not limited to JAs. Indeed, the events surrounding Sept. 11 clearly illustrate the dangers that racial/ethnic profiling still exists, decades beyond the unjust incarceration of JAs during WWII. We must not forget too that the JACL is a voice for all AAs, and in fact all ethnic minorities, and that it is dangerously erroneous to assume all AAs are living the good life of model minorities."

#### Alexandra E. Margolin



#### Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship San Fernando Valley JACL University of California, Los Angeles

"I became strongly connected to the AA community during my time at Pitzer College. In particular, I became involved with the student-run AA Sponsor Program (AASP) whose mission is to help AA first years transition into college. It was there that I first learned the power of collective memory and public history. AASP was the heart of the AA community as the only completely student run AA group on campus. I was involved in AASP during all four years in college, and I took a leadership role in my junior and senior year. One responsibility was to introduce students to the history of the AA community at the Claremont Colleges. The history that I told was one that had been told to me; it was a shared history of the community. As I began to share the history time and again, my sense of ownership increased as though through retelling, I became more intertwined with the collective memory of the AA community at the Claremont Colleges. Despite no longer being at Pitzer College, I am proud to still be part of the oral history of the AA community that continues to be passed down every year."

#### Law Awards

##### Shirley Tang



#### Grace Andow Memorial Scholarship

#### San Francisco JACL

##### University of California, Hastings

"In order to fully educate and engage the JA community in relevant issues, it is pertinent to highlight the community's history of triumph and enduring struggles so that these issues will resonate and have significance in the lives of community members. When JACL was founded in 1929, members were united with a common cause of fighting against racial discrimination. Because of the older generation's efforts in combating racism, subsequent generations received retribution, recognition for their loyalty and their contributions during WWII, and won general acceptance from American society. Although later generations of JAs no longer encounter the same struggles as older generations, there is a commonality in both experiences. Later generations of Japanese and AAs today still face discrimination but prejudices are subtly masked in different forms. Inequality in job and educational attainment among AAs, discrepancies in health outcomes, the perpetuation of the Model Minority Myth, and the treatment of Muslim Americans following Sept. 11th are all reminders of the injustices plaguing the AA community today. Highlighting the commonality between the struggles of the different generations, the efforts taken by previous generations to combat prejudices, and the importance of later generations to continue to fight to eradicate injustices and uphold the legacy of those who paved the way, community members may be able to identify with the issues and be motivated to participate in promoting diversity by 'respecting values of fairness, equality and social justice.'"

#### Edward T. Yoshida



#### Thomas T. Hayashi Memorial Scholarship Orange County JACL Chapman University

"I am grateful that I can indulge a passion of mine by serving at JANM as a volunteer, informing visitors of the JA experience. I plan on continuing to serve the museum beyond retirement. One reason I love the museum is because it is the world's foremost institution dedicated to preserving and sharing the JA story with its unparalleled comprehensive permanent resource collection of over 60,000 documents and artifacts. Without sounding contradictory, however, I also love the museum because it is not JA-centric. Yes, it focuses on our history in this country, but as its mission statement conveys, the JA experience is painted on the larger canvas of the amalgamation of America's ethnic and cultural diversity so as to promote understanding and appreciation of the whole. It is not about one particular group; it is about arming the general public with as much information as possible so it can be better equipped to understand each others' differences or an overarching socioeconomic or geopolitical issue. It is in this broader context where I feel I can be most productive in reaching out to others and informing others of our history in this country. Only then, I believe, can we begin to address contemporary issues that affect JA families today."

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## Lisa K. Okamoto


**Sho Sato Memorial Scholarship  
New York JACL  
Brooklyn Law School**

"I started my first full-time job after college with the Little Tokyo Service Center as a case manager. The LTSC is a community development organization located in the heart of L.A. Within the first week at my new job, I met and spoke to immigrant families who did not have enough money to purchase food or pay rent. I worked with older and disabled adults who needed assistance maintaining their quality of life. Loved ones of my clients discussed long-term care issues with me, which often was about the large financial burden families faced to provide adequate care. While many of these stories were not experiences that I had, each one touched me and made me think of how my family could be or are affected by similar plights. I imagined how hard it must have been for my parents to raise children in an area where not many spoke their language. When helping older clients, I realized that my parents are part of the Baby Boomer generation and their long-term care could be a complex situation to tackle. I often saw people in my life through the clients I worked with. It became imperative for me to commit my career to life of service, so that people like my clients and my parents can live the way they deserve to live."

**Creative Arts  
Award**

## Sarah Matsumoto


**Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara  
Memorial Creative Arts  
Scholarship  
New England JACL  
Lesley University**

"As an educator, I encourage my students to make work that engages with the world. Their work can draw upon the past but should also be concerned with the present and the future. During my student teaching at Somerville High School, I had my students complete a project about the immigrant experience. The town of Somerville, Mass.

has an extremely high immigrant population and many of my students were first- or second-generation immigrants and the project allowed these students to articulate and share their experiences. The students in the class who did not personally have these experiences had a chance to see things from another point of view and consider how life is different for their peers. As the JA community becomes more privileged, we must not become complacent to the ills and needs of the greater community. Our collective memories and experiences should make us more sympathetic and empathetic to issues of oppression and hatred. Our community must be concerned with basic human rights for all people, as we have clearly seen what tragedies can occur when we treat people as less than human. We must adopt viewpoints and practices that protect and encourage equality for everyone regardless of creed, culture, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender and disability."

**Performing Arts  
Award**

## Dara Oda


**Aiko Susanna Hiratsuka  
Memorial Performing Arts  
Scholarship  
Chicago JACL  
Belhaven University**

"The JA community has been becoming more fortunate and should be applying their resources to become more involved with the greater community. They have become negligent to the needs of the surrounding society and I look forward to involving my fellow JAs in current significant problems in the world. In light of the recent events occurring in Japan, I believe the JA community will be moved to respond and support their land of heritage. If provided with the opportunity to do so, I hope to see JAs unite with each other and involve the community in supporting Japan during their times of trouble. There are many ways to provide assistance for the Japanese. One of these approaches might be organizing fundraisers specifically aimed towards donating all the proceeds to Japan. Various events such as artistic performances, auctions, bake sales, and others would be methods that can have more than one purpose. Including entire schools, churches, sports teams, and additional organizations will engage both the greater

community and the JA community in this pertinent and current matter. Other than simply helping the earthquake and tsunami relief, the entire masses of people will be able to get involved in serving others and connect to each other at the same time."

**Financial Aid  
Award**

## Kimiko Ichikawa


**Abe and Esther Hagiwara  
Student Aid Scholarship  
West Los Angeles JACL  
University of Calif., Los Angeles**

"Japanese citizens for centuries have inherently been hard workers. As the JA community continues to grow, this union strengthens. It allows for a more privileged society. I am happy to be part of this prospering group; however, with privileges, comes responsibilities. It is an opportunity for us to act as a group, and not isolate ourselves and flourish especially in these trying times. The devastating catastrophe, which erupted in Northern Japan in March, is an example of uniting ourselves during a harrowing experience. I observed the hidden unity in Japan through the JA community. Many of us began volunteering at charity events throughout L.A., relishing the fact we were able to help those in need on the other side of the world. This gave me comfort knowing that our Japanese spirit is still there. Personally, the JA community has been there for me since I immigrated to the U.S. in 2006. My desire has always been to contribute my language skills to the educational field. A precious experience of mine is linguistics in Hebrew Studies. It is a chance for me to help the unity of Jewish community in the future for Israel. This is the part of the JA community I enjoy contributing to bilingual studies and becoming a bilingual-bicultural citizen. Through communication, I hope to help fulfill the needs of fellowship and instilling aid to each other, because language is the most fundamental essence inside a cross-cultural community." ■

**NATIONAL JACL  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

All scholarship information, including some photos and essay excerpts, were provided by the Nat'l JACL Scholarship Committee.

For more info. on scholarships, contact JACL headquarters: 415/921-5225.

## TRIBUTE

**Aiko Hamashima Nakawatase**

May 22, 1917 - August 8, 2011



She was preceded in death by her daughter Reiko Miyamoto Nakawatase Gaspar (Guszt) of Philadelphia, PA and her sisters, Asako Yamamoto, Sanger, CA; Nagako Miya, Salt Lake City, UT; Teruko Hamashima, Bridgeton, NJ; and Masano Kamiya, San Francisco, CA. She is survived by her son Masaru Edmund Nakawatase (Jean Hunt) of Philadelphia, PA; her daughter, Hisako Lenore Wurtzel (Ken) of Bridgeton, NJ; her brothers, Taisaku Hamashima, Federal Way, WA; and George Hamashima, Raleigh, NC; and her grandchildren, Ilona Gaspar (Angelo), Michiko Hunt, and Kenzo Nakawatase, all of Philadelphia, PA; and Jeremy Wurtzel (Morgan), Bridgeton, NJ.

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