



NSRCFUND NEWSLETTER

COMMEMORATE THE PAST - EDUCATE FOR THE FUTURE

VOLUME 26

FALL 2018

NSRCF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS SURPASS \$1 MILLION

30 Orange County students receive \$50,000

2018 marks a big milestone for the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund. For the first time in its 38 year history the Fund passed the \$1 Million Dollar mark in scholarships awarded. Nearly 1000 high school seniors in 26 different cities, regions and states across the country were given an opportunity to pursue higher education.



This remarkable achievement did not go unnoticed by this year's Orange County scholarship awards program Master of Ceremonies, Vattana Peong, Executive Director of the Cambodian Family Community Center. He enthusiastically welcomed the 100 attendees by saying how happy he was to be a part of this special occasion. The awards ceremony was held at the Delhi Community Center in Santa Ana on June 16.

Vattana and Mary Anne Foo, Executive Director of the Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA) served as this year's co-chairs of the local scholarship committee. The committee members included Borany

Kang-Martinez, Ken Inouye, Sophia Soberon, Sophia Chhoeng, Alisi Tulua, Jody Cajudo and David Kem along with ten additional scholarship reviewers. They worked extensively to ensure that this year's 30 recipients were well-deserving, exceptional high school seniors.

Attendees were treated to refreshments before the program, giving everyone a chance to mingle. The ceremony began with the NSRCF video followed by Jean Hibino who spoke on behalf of the board of directors. Christy Linh Le, Field Representative and Ofelia Velarde-Garcia, Policy Advisor, congratulated the recipients on behalf of Congressman Lou Correa, D-46th District and Andrew Do,

R-First District, OC Board of Supervisors, respectively. Three recipients, Catherine Dinh, the Michi Nishiura Weglyn Scholar; Tiffany Chhuor, the Nobu (Kumekawa) and Yosh Hibino Scholar; and Ryan Nguyen, the David Mitsuo Takagi Scholar, gave insightful and eloquent speeches on behalf of this year's awardees. [Excerpts of their speeches are in the newsletter.]

The last half of the program was devoted to the presentation of awards and recognition of this year's recipients. As the students marched across the stage they were greeted by their proud and grateful parents, grandparents, siblings, friends and

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NSRCF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS SURPASS *cont'd.*

teachers snapping photos and cheering them on. Group pictures and informal gatherings followed after the program ended. Longtime NSRCF supporters, Shelley Kurata and her daughter Courtney, Kathy Marin, and Shirley Hibino were pleased to be a part of the festivities. They were impressed to see that the scholarships were awarded to

such smart, mature and passionate students, and provided a tangible opportunity to pursue higher education.

The NSRCF began with \$153.00 in 1980. Today the Fund is nearing \$2 Million Dollars. For a “Mom and Pop” organization this achievement is remarkable on its own. But to

have been created with the intent of turning their forced removal and internment during WWII into a positive investment in the future is a testament to the dedication and vision of the founding Nisei. Congratulations to the Class of 2018 and this year’s scholarship recipients from Orange County. You are now part of this history-making story!



CATHERINE DINH

Thank You NSRCF for Helping All of Us Do What Most of Our Parents Couldn't

[Ed. note: Excerpts from Catherine’s speech given at the 2018 awards ceremony; she is the Michi Nishiura Weglyn Scholar, and is attending UC Irvine.]

I come from a Vietnamese and Laotian background. I think many of you here can relate to me when I say that my parents immigrated here for a better life. I’ve heard my parents’ stories ever since I was 5 and my childish mind back then processed that information as “oh they had

a tough life so they moved to the US.” But I was so wrong. It wasn’t until I traveled to Laos where I fully comprehended the stories of how tough it really was.

My family that lives in Laos and my family in America aren’t all that different from each other. We work hard, play hard, eat hard, but the biggest difference I saw was in educational opportunities. This trip not only made me realize the true hardships my parents went through,

but made me grateful for their sacrifices.

To me, pursuing higher education means that I’m proving to them that every hard decision they were forced to make was worth it. I’m making their own dreams come true: finishing college. And this scholarship is helping me achieve that. I’m one step closer to getting that college diploma and one step closer to that dream. So thank you NSRCF, for helping all of us do what most of our parents couldn’t.

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD

Dear NSRCF supporters and friends,

In its 38th year the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund reached a milestone. With the awarding of \$50,000 to 30 students from Orange County, California, the Fund passed the \$1 Million Dollar mark in scholarship aid to nearly 1,000 students! In celebrating this remarkable achievement we affirm the Fund's mission to reach underserved communities throughout the U.S. while telling our story as Japanese in America.

This year's scholarship awards ceremony was held on June 16 in Santa Ana, California. CONGRATULATIONS to co-chairs, Vattana Peong and Mary Anne Foo and their committee! They worked long and hard to ensure a successful outcome knowing that this was such a special year for the Fund. It was also a pleasure working with everyone connected with The Cambodian Family Community Center and the Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance.

The board of directors remains an all-volunteer group. We are committed to keeping operating costs to a minimum so that gifts to the Fund go primarily towards scholarships. (The NSRCF Fund's financial statement is made available upon written request.) As of July 31, 2018 the Fund stands at \$1.9 million dollars.

Special kudos to NSRCF president, Paul Watanabe, who received the Japanese Government's prestigious Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon in a ceremony held

by the Japanese Consul General in January of this year. Paul was recognized for his contributions to enhancing the social status of Japanese Americans. Paul said, "It brings together my passions – my Japanese roots and my Japanese American community, my professional activities, and the privilege to work with so many supportive colleagues at my home for nearly 40 years, the University of Massachusetts – Boston."

Deepest condolences are extended to the family of longtime NSRCF supporter, Tetsuo (Taka) Takayanagi who passed away on August 2, 2018 one day shy of his 99th birthday. Taka was the husband of board director, May Takayanagi.

This year's newsletter and appeal letter are dedicated to Ryozo ("Rosie") Glenn Kumekawa, former president of the NSRCF board of directors, who passed away on April 16, 2018 at age 90. When he was 17, Rosie was chosen Valedictorian of the Class of 1945 Topaz High School, behind barbed wire, in a Utah concentration camp. In his speech he said, "We are a generation called to struggle and give our efforts to the hard task of finding new ways to reassemble a broken world into a pattern so firm and so fair, that war cannot be possible. No one of us can do much, but each can catch perhaps a small portion of truth to add to the whole for there is no selective service of the spirit, it is on a voluntary basis." Here's to Glenn, a shining example of the best of the Greatest Generation.

The 2019 scholarships will be awarded in the Twin Cities – Minneapolis and

St. Paul. Committee chairs, Tiffany Xiong and KaYing Yang, are already at work with the help of the 2007 Minnesota co-chairs, Judy Murakami and Janet Carlson. We are excited to be working with everyone and are grateful they agreed to help us with such a big undertaking.

And last but not least, thank you to the Fund's supporters. In awarding scholarships every year we also make sure to tell the history of Japanese Americans during World II. Racism, xenophobia, white supremacy, economic greed, and weak political leadership led directly to the forced removal, separation of families, and imprisonment of 120,000 persons whose only "crime" was being Japanese. History must not be allowed to repeat itself. Our motto is "Commemorate the Past – Educate for the Future" and we will continue to provide opportunities for Southeast Asian American students to go to college. Our sense of "ongaeshi" (repaying a kindness) is strong, but our ability to do so depends on your support.

With appreciation,

NSRCF Board of Directors
Paul Watanabe, *President*
Stephen Y. Hibino, *Treasurer*
Jean Y. Hibino, *Executive Secretary*
Kesaya E. Noda, *Recording Secretary*
Islanda Khau Naughton
Yutaka Kobayashi, *Awards Committee*
National Liaison
James McIlwain
Laura H. Misumi
Keith Schuricht
May O. Takayanagi
Phitsamay Sychitkokhong Uy

IN MEMORIAM: RYOZO GLENN KUMEKAWA (1927-2018)



Part of the inscription on a plaque presented to Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa on April 18, 2009 by the board of directors in recognition of his outstanding service to the NSRCFund:

“R. Glenn Kumekawa has played a critical role in the growth and development of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund (NSRCF) for seventeen years - as an involved supporter, a board member, and as president of the board.

Glenn joined the board in 1998 and assumed the presidency in 2002. As a leader, he has focused on areas vital for the further development of the NSRCF, directing our attention to the need to expand our funding base, opportunities for corporate outreach, the size and composition of our board, and the process by which we make scholarship awards.

Glenn Kumekawa has made our work on the board of the NSRCF a joy and a privilege.

He has steadfastly focused on the importance of our efforts to commemorate the wartime evacuation and the generosity and goodness of people who reached across race differences and wartime hatred to offer a helping hand to young Japanese Americans. He has inspired our efforts to reach out in that same spirit, and he has made our work together deeply satisfying.”

Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa passed away on April 16, 2018. He was born in Yokohama, Japan and moved to San Francisco soon after. In 1942 he and his family were sent to the Topaz, Utah concentration camp where he spent his high school years. With help of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council (NJASRC), Glenn left Topaz to attend Bates College in Maine. He continued his post-graduate studies in city planning at Brown University.

From that point on, Glenn spent the rest of his career and life in his beloved Rhode Island. He served as the Director of City Planning for the City of Warwick from 1958-1972. He was appointed Executive Assistant for Policy and Program Review for Governor Philip Noel from 1973-1977, and from 1977-1979 he was the Executive Director of the Coalition of Northeastern Governors (CONEG) Policy Research Center. From 1980 until his retirement in 1998, he directed the University of Rhode Island Intergovernmental Policy Analysis Program and served as the Chair for the URI Graduate Program in Community Planning.

He continued his active commitment and dedication to the NSRCF until 2012 when his health prevented him from participating on the board of directors.

Spending his high school years in a concentration camp imparted Glenn with a fierce awareness of social injustice and inequality that instructed the rest of his life. On the occasion of the NSRCF’s 30th anniversary in 2010, he wrote:

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

Immediately recognizing - but refusing to accept - that possibility, the goal of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council was to obtain our release from the camps so that we could continue our interrupted studies. My sister, Nobu Kumekawa Hibino, was one of the earliest recipients of the helping hand extended to those of us behind barbed wire. I was one of the last to be helped during those four short incredible years of the Council’s existence.

To commemorate that effort is to honor those who dared to help students from a populace deemed to be “disloyal” and a “threat.”

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It commemorates the very best values of our society for fair play and justice. But most of all, it is the affirmation of our worth in an atmosphere of rejection, suspicion and outright hostility that remains the singular legacy of the Council's aid extended to us.

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

Ever the humble, self-effacing professor who back in the day was fond of pipes, bow ties and tweed, and with a penchant for the silliest jokes and sayings, Glenn leaves a legacy of a life well-lived, thoroughly enjoyed, and guided by intelligence, thoughtfulness, and insight. He is an inspiration.

RYAN NGUYEN

I will Wear This Honor with Pride

[Ed. note: Excerpts from Ryan's speech given at the 2018 awards ceremony; he is the David Mitsuo Takagi Scholar, and is attending UC Irvine.]

Ever since I was a child, my parents wanted me to become successful in any career that I wished to pursue. As immigrants from Vietnam during the war, they were faced with tremendous difficulties and their career goals vanished before their eyes. However, they kept their heads held high and put forth their greatest efforts in providing my brother and I with opportunities they wished they had.

I brought up these topics because all of us will face some degree of adversity in our lives and it is up to us to overcome these challenges. I applied to this scholarship because

I wanted to help my parents and ultimately, make them proud of me. I wanted to be the face of resilience in our time of darkness. I wanted to prove to myself that I was capable of growth.

As a Southeast Asian American, low income, and first generation college bound student, I shot for the stars. And there were helpful people who saw and gave me that chance. For that, I am eternally grateful and forever in debt to the NSRC Fund and to the David Mitsuo Takagi Scholarship. I will wear this honor with pride as I celebrate life just like he did and to become a role model for disadvantaged students by helping them become contributing leaders in our societies and preparing them for influential and rewarding careers.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2018 NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

HIROKO FUJITA AND PAUL FUKAMI SCHOLARSHIP



Nhu Huynh Bui, (Westminster HS) and her family moved from Vietnam when she was a sophomore in high

school. Struggling to learn English and seeing the difficulties facing her parents in their new country made her even more determined to be the first in her family to attend college. Volunteering at a local hospital fueled her interest in pursuing a medical career. One of her teachers said, "She is a self-starter with great initiative and inner drive to be the best at whatever she attempts to accomplish." Nhu is attending Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, California.

COLONEL JOSEPH Y. KURATA SCHOLARSHIP



Paul Cao (Westminster HS) An outstanding student, Paul says that joining a lion dance troupe in high school

gave him a deeper understanding and appreciation of his Vietnamese heritage, "My Vietnamese culture contributes an invaluable perspective of creativity to the ensemble of cultures that constitutes the American people." Paul's leadership skills were evident as president of the

MERITS Club, captain of the varsity volleyball team, in the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement, and as a peer tutor. Paul is attending UC Berkeley to pursue a career in bioengineering.

NOBU (KUMEKAWA) AND YOSH HIBINO SCHOLARSHIP



Tiffany Chhuor (Irvine HS) In high school Tiffany excelled both academically and in her extra-

curriculars as Executive Editor of the school newspaper, in National Honor Society, and the California Scholarship Federation. From firsthand experience she says, "The adversities in my life became a catalyst to delving back into my interests in finance to better serve my community." She did so by volunteering at Big Brothers Big Sisters where she created and taught financial literacy and investing lessons to her young mentees. Tiffany, a first generation Cambodian American and first in her family to go to college, is attending Williams College studying economics and finance.

MICHI NISHIURA WEGLYN SCHOLARSHIP

Catherine Dinh (Ocean View HS, Huntington Beach) Visiting her family in Laos Catherine says, "Although we come from the same ancestry, we live completely different lives. ... My Laotian family had it harder, but they lived their



best and fullest life. More importantly, I learned to be grateful for what I have." Catherine played varsity volleyball,

served on the Associated Student Body, National Honor Society and Next Generation Nepal, raising money to help stop the trafficking of children. Grateful and committed to making her parents proud, Catherine is attending UC Irvine pursuing a major in Computer Science and a minor in design.

YUTAKA AND MAUREEN KOBAYASHI SCHOLARSHIP



Cathy Duong (Garden Grove HS) ranked third in her class and was president of the Academic Decathlon, Editor-in-

Chief of the school paper, and in the National Honor Society. She volunteered at the public library, her church, and the Vietnamese Language School, and at home she is the caregiver for her older sister. Cathy is interested in researching the effects of Agent Orange, "...parents suffer from the Vietnam War's aftermath as they take care of their disabled children." She would also like to "conduct research in precision medicine to cure genetic disorders." Cathy is attending Yale University as a pre-med English major.

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2018 NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS *cont'd.*

DR. KENJI MURASE SCHOLARSHIP



Andy Hoang
(Magnolia HS, Anaheim)
Overcoming obstacles is not new to Andy, "I want to prove to the world

that being poor and living with a speech impediment will not make me give up on my dreams." His parents came from Vietnam and he says "the most important goal is to give back to my parents for their sacrifice." Andy mentored at Big Brothers Big Sisters, was active in the summer reading program at a local library; in National Honor Society, California Scholarship Federation, and STEM. Andy is the first in his family to attend college and is considering a major in the biological sciences at UC Irvine.

TAMA (YOSHIMURA) AND JIRO ISHIHARA SCHOLARSHIP



Quynh Huynh
(Santiago HS, Garden Grove) After many years of waiting in Vietnam Quynh was

reunited with her family and came to the US as a freshman in high school. She studied hard and found the time to participate in Boys & Girls Club, the Vietnamese Club and community groups providing to those in need. One of her teachers says, "... she handled the obstacles that come with moving to a new country during high school with incredible grace and dedication." As the first in her family, Quynh is attending

Santa Ana College with plans to transfer to a four-year university to study aeronautical engineering.

HISAYE HAMAOKA MOCHIZUKI SCHOLARSHIP



Melody Khouchanh
(Godinez Fundamental HS, Santa Ana)
"Throughout my childhood and up to now,

... I knew I wanted to go to college ..., but those aspirations in combination with a low income didn't seem very probable." Melody is a first generation Laotian American raised by a single mother who left a refugee camp to come to America. She has worked hard to do well in and out of school. She was in the top 3% of her class, Senior Class president and president of Key Club, and found time to volunteer over 700 community service hours. Melody is attending Tufts University hoping to become a veterinarian.

KAIZO AND SHIZUE NAKA SCHOLARSHIP



Anh Nguyen
(Santiago HS, Garden Grove) Anh's family came from Vietnam in 2012 when she was 12 years old. "To

me, education doesn't stop when school is over, I have to improve myself ... each and every day. I don't really like school but I love to be educated. I love to help people and I really love to learn foreign

languages." To help her family Anh works five days a week. She hopes to have her own business one day. Anh is attending Rancho Santiago Community College, Santa Ana planning to major in International Business and Chinese.

KOH, MITSU, AND DR. KOTARO MURAI SCHOLARSHIP



Michelle Nguyen
(Godinez Fundamental HS, Santa Ana) Michelle worked hard in school, extra-

curriculars and at home. "My parents explained that they never got a good education due to leaving Vietnam so they wanted to make sure I took advantage of mine." Michelle ranked near the top of her class and was active in Key Club, National Honor Society, Student Senate, and volleyball. She helps as caregiver at home and volunteers at her church. She hopes to become a pharmacist to benefit people and their health. Michelle is attending UCLA planning to major in Chemistry.

DAVID MITSUO TAKAGI SCHOLARSHIP



Ryan Nguyen
(Westminster HS) "My everyday goal was to make my parents proud of me and to discover

my personal and academic interests."

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2018 NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS *cont'd.*

Ryan's parents left Vietnam during the war and as a first generation Vietnamese American he found his passion for engineering participating in a summer internship with the Boeing Company. He was an academic standout in high school and also the co-editor of the yearbook, involved in MERITS program, Pell After-School tutoring, president of the Make-A-Wish Club, and Upward Bound. Ryan is attending UC Irvine.

GLADYS ISHIDA STONE SCHOLARSHIP



Steven Nguyen
(Tustin HS)
After college Steven hopes to join the military to give back to his country.

He would be the first in his family to do both. He was raised by a single mother who developed health issues leading his counselor to say, "Steven's ability to stay the course, take care of his family and still perform academically, socially and physically at school is a true testament to Steven's ability to overcome adversity and still thrive." Steven was involved with the Center for the Pacific Asian Family, Project MotiVATe, AVID, and swimming, while also working on weekends to help his family. Steven is attending Cal State Fullerton pursuing a degree in nursing.

ALICE ABE MATSUMOTO SCHOLARSHIP

Tung Nguyen (Magnolia HS, Anaheim)
When Tung learned his family would be moving to the US from Vietnam, "The only thing that was in my way was



wasted if I don't take action." It took a year and a half before Tung felt he was fluent in English but it opened doors for him. He took Honors and AP classes, was active in Key Club, California Scholarship Federation, Science Fair, and National Honor Society. Tung would like a career in the medical field and he is attending UC Irvine majoring in the biological sciences.

LAFAYETTE AND MAYME NODA SCHOLARSHIP

Hoang Vu (Kevin) Nguyen Pham



(Magnolia HS, Anaheim) gained an appreciation for the medical field through his volunteer work with the "Medical

Explorers Program." He met doctors and other medical professionals who provided him with a better understanding of the hard work it will take to realize his dream of becoming a doctor. Kevin was in JROTC as well as STEM Club and Speech and Debate, while taking a rigorous Honors and AP course schedule. "I intend to stick with my goals in life and work forward to achieve my dream of helping people for the better." Kevin is attending UC Irvine with a biological sciences major.

the language barrier I knew that I was given a great opportunity, an opportunity that some kids never get, and it will be

AUDREY LOGAN SCHOLARSHIP



Kelly Pham
(Santiago HS, Garden Grove)
Growing up in a struggling single parent household, Kelly says, "I knew education was the only path I could

take in order to change the way we are living and to give back to what my family has done for me." Kelly excelled academically and was active Key Club, AVID Club, her church and several volunteer community activities. Kelly is attending Cal State Fullerton with a dream of becoming an elementary school teacher, "I want to motivate the Vietnamese community that they should be proud of who they are and where they come from; they have made it this far to the U.S. so that makes them ready for anything."

MICHIHIKO AND BERNICE HAYASHIDA SCHOLARSHIP

Vy Pham

(Westminster HS) and her family moved to the US from Vietnam. She says that growing up an immigrant and impoverished only made her want to "work harder, dream bigger, and reach



higher." She ranked in the top 1% of her class taking rigorous Honors and AP classes; was in National Honor Society, Girl Scouts, and varsity tennis and track and field. Vy is attending UCLA, pursuing her dream of becoming a doctor, "I will be able to make my ambitious journey my own and eventually return the inspiration and gratitude to the underserved area that I live in."

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2018 NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS *cont'd.*

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE SCHOLARSHIP



Diem Huong Phan (Santiago HS, Garden Grove) has been in the US for only four years but never allowed

her lack of fluency in English to slow her down, making the Honor Roll every year. She was very active in the Vietnamese Club including Little Saigon Clean Up and the Tet parade; her church; and found time to visit nursing homes on the weekends. Diem is attending Santa Ana College with the intent of transferring to a four year university to fulfill her dream of becoming a math and Vietnamese teacher, following her parents who were teachers in Vietnam.

RYOZO GLENN KUMEKAWA SCHOLARSHIP

Dan Ta (Oxford Academy, Cypress)



Becoming an Eagle Scout at 15 was just the beginning for Dan. In 2015 he was one of ten Boy Scouts, and the first

Vietnamese Scout, to be invited to deliver the BSA Report to the Nation to President Obama. His public speaking skills allowed Dan to reach and inspire many youth at BSA events. Seeing his family struggle financially provided the impetus for him to want to teach financial literacy and he started the Penny Wise Club at school. Dan also played varsity soccer and track and field;

is an avid pianist and enjoys sailing. Dan is attending UC Irvine pursuing a business degree and hoping to “make a positive impact to those in need.”

SHIM AND CHIYO HIRAOKA SCHOLARSHIP



Teresa Tran (Santiago HS, Garden Grove) Teresa has her sights set on biology – medical or environmental – she is

fascinated by both. She would also like to “repay my parents for all the years they spent raising me to become the person I am now. I want to thank them in any way I can for all the blood, sweat and tears they have put into raising me.” Teresa spent an active senior year honoring her Vietnamese heritage, history and culture through activities at her church, in choir and in dance. At school she was in National Honor Society, the California Scholarship Federation, band and orchestra. Teresa is attending UC Irvine.

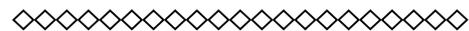
KAY YAMASHITA SCHOLARSHIP



Sylvia Vo (Santiago HS, Garden Grove) “My goal in life is to have everyone smile and not have them feel like

they should hide their teeth.” Sylvia has wanted to be a dentist for as long as she can remember and understands how difficult, and costly for her family, the journey will be. She is determined to keep

pushing forward as her honors and AP course work have shown. She was active in the marching/concert band, California Scholarship Federation, and Vietnamese Club, and volunteered at Planned Parenthood and the Red Cross. Sylvia is attending Cal State Fullerton.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2018 NSRCF \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Nina Ho (Westminster HS)
UC San Diego



Caitlin Kheang (Pacifica HS)
Cal State Fullerton

Nancy Lim (Western HS, Anaheim)
Brigham Young University



Chhivsoun Luy (Tustin HS)
Cal State Fullerton

Hang Nguyen (Magnolia HS, Anaheim)
UC Irvine

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2018 NSRCF \$1,000
SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS *cont'd.*

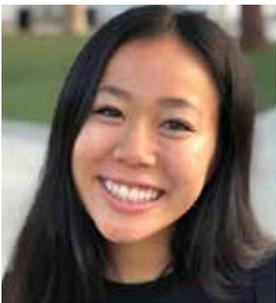


Duyen Amy
Nguyen
(Santiago HS)
UC Irvine



Ngoc Nguyen
(Saddleback
HS)
Pomona
College

Tam Nguyen (Rancho Alamitos HS)
UC Riverside



Molica Ong
(Tustin HS)
UC Irvine



Aaron Sar
(Villa Park
HS)
Cal State
Fullerton

TIFFANY CHHUOR

Grit, Resilience, and Unyielding Passion



[Ed. note: Excerpts from Tiffany's speech given at the 2018 awards ceremony; she is the Nobu (Kumekawa) and Yosh Hibino Scholar, and is attending Williams College.]

When I think of the Southeast Asian community, three key words/phrases come to mind: grit, resilience, and unyielding passion. Our strong, tight-knit, and culturally diverse community cultivates powerful, inspiring individuals ready to honor ourselves and others while taking this world by storm.

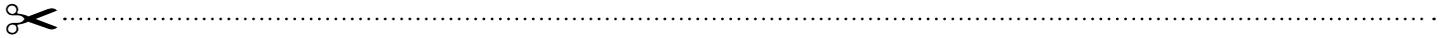
As a first generation college student as well, I understand the importance of receiving an education that will not only stretch my intellectual capabilities but to also build a more profound understanding of myself. There are a fair share of unique struggles when it comes to this aspect of my identity, but I have those key words to remember in the process.

I have my parents to thank as well for introducing these values and traits at an early age - for teaching me to express my story. My unapologetic verse. My parents' grit originated from their experiences as survivors of the Khmer Rouge genocide and the communist takeover of Vietnam. They truly assisted me in the process of growing up to be the best version of myself - something that I'm continuously working on. Consider it a lifelong work in progress. As I prepare to head off to college, it's interesting to reflect upon my struggle with the concept of identity and specifically cultural identity. It feels as if I'm a mix of a little bit of everything as I identify as Chinese, Cambodian, and Vietnamese.

It wasn't a single ethnicity that identified me instead it was a diverse set of cultures that I grew to love and feel endlessly inspired by.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP THE NSRCF

The Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund needs your support. Donations are the life blood of our scholarship program and allow us to support deserving students as they move from secondary school into higher education. There are several ways to “lend a helping hand.” Contributions may be made to a specific Tribute, Legacy or Named Scholarship funds, or to the General Fund, by using the form below. Donations of appreciated stock can provide significant tax advantages. Designating a charitable donation in your will enables support for the causes that were important to you during your lifetime. Donors are recognized in our annual newsletter. Contact us by mail or email if you would like further information about giving.



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

Enclosed is a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____

To an existing Tribute, Legacy or Named Scholarship Fund called:

To the General Fund.

(Please make check payable to NSRC Fund. You may also use PayPay at www.nsrcfund.org)

Tell me how to establish a Tribute, Legacy and Named Scholarship Fund.

Tell me how to donate appreciated stock.

Please email the annual newsletter: _____

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Phone: _____



MAY 27, 2018:

Hoang Nguyen, 2014 NSRCF North Carolina recipient, with his family at his graduation from Brown University. Hoang received his degree in Computer Science and is working in Salt Lake City.

NSRCF NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS, LEGACY AND TRIBUTE FUNDS

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

The following funds have been established, and are designated by who created them, * and (). The Board of Directors is grateful for the generous support these funds have received, as noted, during the period from October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018.

NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS

American Friends Service Committee*

Judy Nakadegawa

Hiroko Fujita and Paul Fukami

(Joyce M. Fukami)

Thomas Hollander

Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida*

David Hayashida

Frances Hayashida

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Nobu (Kumekawa) and Yosh Hibino

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NOTE FROM FORMER RECIPIENT, ALEXANDRIA NGUYEN-JOHNSON



Alexandria and Bess

[Ed note: Alexandria Nguyen-Johnson received an NSRCF scholarship in Oregon in 2004. Thanks to the efforts of board member, Jim McIlwain, we get to hear how former recipients are doing.]

Since graduating from Lost River, I went on to attend the University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon. I majored in Biology and minored in Chemistry. I loved my time in Eugene and made lifelong friends while I was there.

After graduation, I moved up to the big city of Portland, Oregon. I was accepted to the National College of Natural Medicine in Portland,

OR, where I studied Naturopathic Medicine and Chinese Acupuncture. In 2016, I received my Masters in Acupuncture and a Doctorate in Naturopathic Medicine. I have been practicing at an integrative health care clinic since graduating and passing my board exams. I am so fortunate to be in a career that I love and look forward to every day.

It has taken a lot of hard work and determination to get where I am. I could not have done it without the support from my family, friends, and organizations like yours that have believed in me and supported me along this long but worthwhile journey.

NISEI STUDENT RELOCATION COMMEMORATIVE FUND 2018 NEWSLETTER



NISEI STUDENT RELOCATION COMMEMORATIVE FUND, INC.

19 Scenic Drive

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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.