

**Serra HS Graduating Seniors
Receive Kiwanis Scholarships and Awards**

June 2007

The Kiwanis Club of Tierrasanta has served the communities of Tierrasanta and Murphy Canyon since 1976. The club established a scholarship program in 1982 and now annually award three scholarships to graduating Serra High School students bound for college who best exemplify the high ideals of Kiwanis service including character, leadership, academic and athletic achievement and service to school and community. The club's charitable foundation, Kiwanis Foundation of Tierrasanta, conducts the awards program. The recipients of the scholarships are selected by a committee of the foundation based on a review of applications submitted for the awards, including an essay, school transcripts and documentation of school and community activities, service and leadership. The awards were presented by Foundation Secretary John Hopper and the Serra High School Awards Assembly on Thursday, June 7, 2007.

Christopher Nguyen was awarded the Vernon D. Bowman Scholarship named in honor of Mr. Bowman after his death in 1986. Mr. Bowman was a charter member of the club 1976 and the second president of the club. He was instrumental in the formation of the club and his leadership contributed immeasurably to the development of the club as a primary service organization in Tierrasanta and the club's scholarship program. The award of the scholarship was based Christopher's strong record of community service, altruistic devotion to the welfare of his fellow Serra High School students, and unequalled academic success. The scholarship awards \$1,000 per year for four years of college, a total of \$4,000.

The club's second scholarship was awarded to Samantha Logan, a one-time award of \$2,000. The award was named in honor of Thomas G. Cherniss after his death in 2000. Mr. Cherniss was a charter member of the club, served two terms as president, club secretary for many years and served as the first president of the Kiwanis Foundation of Tierrasanta. His service to the community of Tierrasanta and to Kiwanis was exemplary. He was instrumental in the formation and development of the club and the club and foundation's scholarship program. Samantha's

award was based on her strong record of community service, altruistic devotion to the welfare of her fellow Serra High School students, and her academic success.

The third scholarship was awarded to Alex Fialho, a one-time award of \$1,000. This award was named in honor of George V. Paluso after his death in 2006. Mr. Paluso was a member of the club for over 29-years and served as president of the club in 1981-82. He was instrumental in the initiation of the club's scholarship program in 1982 and the formation of the club's foundation in 1997. He served on the foundation board of directors since its inception and as foundation president from 2000 through 2005. He was an avid and active baseball enthusiast. In addition to the general criteria, the Paluso Scholarship awards participation, leadership and excellence in athletic activities. The scholarship was awarded to Alex based on his strong record of community service, his devotion to the welfare of his fellow Serra High School students, his high academic success and sports achievement. He performed exceptionally well in all these areas.

The club also presented Hope of America Awards to John Naviaux, My-Hanh Nguyen and Sarah Steinman. In 1979 the club began the Hope of America Award program for all the public schools in Tierrasanta and Murphy Canyon. Since 1982 the awards have been presented throughout the California-Nevada-Hawaii District of Kiwanis International. This award is presented to students selected by school faculty members and administrators to recognize and encourage students who have demonstrated academic accomplishments, leadership and good ethical and moral character- all traits of leaders who have sustained our democratic way of life. Such outstanding citizenship traits and consistent devotion to the acquisition of learning skills as exhibited by the award recipients are very important to help guarantee the future of the United States of America. The awards include a plaque, certificates that feature the American's Creed and \$100.