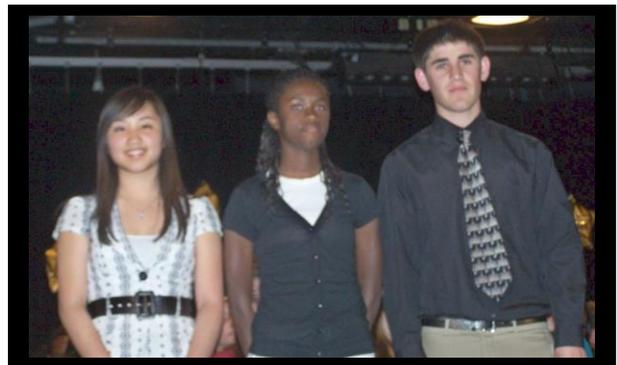


Kiwanis Awards Serra HS and Charter Graduating Seniors 2009

The Kiwanis Club and Foundation of Tierrasanta have awarded scholarships and Hope of America awards to graduating seniors at Serra High School and the Tierrasanta Charter High School. The club established a scholarship program in 1982 and annually awards 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. This program is administered by the club foundation. The recipients of the scholarships are selected by 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.

Kiwanis awarded Jennifer Oh a scholarship named in honor of Vernon D. Bowman after his death in 1986. He was a charter member and the second president of the club. He was instrumental in the formation of the club, his leadership contributing greatly to the development of the club as a primary service organization in Tierrasanta and the scholarship program. Jennifer Oh graduated as a straight A



L to R: Jennifer Oh, Amber Berry and William Sholan

student at Serra ranking as one of two Number 1 students in the class of 484. She was president of the Kiwanis sponsored Key Club and had a commendable record of service to her school and community. The scholarship awards \$1000 per year for four years of college, a total of \$4,000.

The club's second scholarship award went to William Sholan, a one-time award of \$1,000 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. William Sholan was a top academic performer at Serra with an

exemplary record of community service including many activities while a member and ultimately vice president of the Key Club. He was a four-year player on the Serra baseball team and received the Coach's Award in Baseball for the team member who best exemplifies the team as a player and person, nominated for the award by fellow teammates and coaches.

Amber Berry received the third scholarship, a one-time award of \$1,000 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. George was an avid and active baseball enthusiast. In addition to the general criteria, the Paluso Scholarship awards participation, leadership and excellence in athletic activities. Amber Berry was a top academic performer at Serra ranking 14th in her class. She excelled in athletics receiving the San Diego Union Tribune All-Academic Cross Country Award in 2006 and 2007, Cross Country All CIF in 2007 and the Coaches' Track and Field Award in 2007 and 2008. Amber received the Presidential Award for Community Service in 2007 after posting an outstanding record of community service.

The club presented Hope of America Awards to Charter High School senior Jacqueline Isbell and Serra High School seniors Grace Anderson, Amelianne Conrique-Haskins and Mikaele Pepin. Kiwanis initiated the Hope of America Award program for all the public schools in Tierrasanta and Murphy Canyon in 1979. The club has expanded the program to include schools assisted by the club and the Tierrasanta Charter School. Since 1983, the awards have been presented throughout the California-Nevada-Hawaii District of Kiwanis International. The award recognizes students selected by school faculty members and administrators to honor 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.