

Kiwanis Awards Serra HS and Charter School Graduating Seniors 2010

The Kiwanis Club and Foundation of Tierrasanta awarded scholarships and Hope of America Awards to graduating seniors at Serra High School and the Tierrasanta campus of the Charter School of San Diego. The club established a scholarship program in 1982 and annually awards three scholarships through the club foundation 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 foundation selects the recipients 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.



Serra HS Scholarship Awards
L to R: Lexie Ryan, Derek Miller and Maika Adair

Alexandra (Lexie) Ryan received a scholarship named in honor of Vernon D. Bowman after his death in 1986. He was a charter member and 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. Lexie Ryan graduated as a straight A student at Serra placing her among the top ranked students in her class. She served as the ASB vice president during her senior year and a student representative to the Serra HS Site Council for three consecutive years. She was president of her freshman class. She excelled in athletics earning a varsity letter in field hockey and four varsity letters in softball. She was captain of the softball team during her senior year. She was voted the field hockey “Most Inspirational Player” her senior year and named by the San Diego Union-Tribune to the All Eastern League 1st Team and the All Section Division II Teams. She 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.

Derek Miller received the second Kiwanis scholarship, 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 the first president of the Kiwanis Foundation of Tierrasanta. His service to the community of Tierrasanta and to Kiwanis was exemplary. Derek was a top academic performer at Serra HS, ranking number 3 of 437 graduating senior with an exemplary record of community service including many activities while a member and ultimately vice president of the Key Club during his senior year. He was a three-year member of the Serra HS cross-country track team and received a M.V.P. Award in addition to other awards.

Maika Adair received the third scholarship, a one-time award of \$1,000 named in honor of George V. Paluso after his death in 2006. A member of the club for over 29-years, Mr. Paluso was president in 1981-82 and instrumental in the initiation of the club's scholarship program and the club's foundation in 1997. He served on the foundation board of directors since its inception and 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. Maika Adair was a top academic performer at Serra ranking among other students at the top of her class. She excelled in athletics as a member of the Serra HS tennis and basketball teams. She was the M.V.P. of the Serra HS varsity tennis team for 2006-2007 and moved on to play as a ranked player at the state and national level with the United States Tennis Association.

The club presented Hope of America Awards to Tierrasanta graduated senior Genequa Simpson-James of the Charter School of San Diego and Serra High School graduating seniors Gina Furio, Dylan Herbst and Kaitlin Sirota. Kiwanis initiated the Hope of America Award program for all the public schools in Tierrasanta and Murphy Canyon in 1979, now expanded to include all schools assisted by the club and the Tierrasanta campus of the Charter School of San Diego. The California-Nevada-Hawaii District of Kiwanis International has presented Hope of America Awards since 1984. The award recognizes students selected by school faculty members and administrators to honor and encourage students who have demonstrated academic accomplishment, leadership and good ethical and moral character- all



Serra HS Hope of America Awards
L to R: Dylan Herbst, Kaitlin Sirota and Gina Furio

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.