

Kiwanis Awards Serra HS and Charter School Graduating Seniors

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



Serra HS Scholarship Awards

L to R: Avery Evans, Christina Luu and Lena Huang

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. The awards also honor former Kiwanis members who are now deceased.

Lena Huang received a scholarship named in honor of Vernon D. Bowman in 1986. Lena achieved a greater than 4.0, “A” average placing her in the top 10% of her class and graduating with 100% membership in the California Scholastic Federation. Lena stood out as a leader among her peers and serviced as the president of the Serra High Key Club. 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.

Christina Luu received the second Kiwanis scholarship, a one-time award of \$1,000 named in honor of Thomas G. Cherniss in 2000. Christina was the class Valedictorian with a 4.7 GPA, the top of her class and graduating with 100% membership in the California Scholastic Federation. She was president of the AP Club and served as secretary of the Serra HS Key Club. Her community service included extensive work with the NJROTC, Club Green and Little Saigon Festival. She worked seasonally at a movie theater.

Avery Evans received a one-time scholarship of \$1,000 named in honor of George V. Paluso in 2006, a member of the club for over 29-years and instrumental in the initiation of the club’s scholarship

program. In addition to the general criteria, the Paluso Scholarship awards participation, leadership and excellence in athletic activities. Avery was a top academic performer at Serra ranking among other students at the top of his class. He is an exceptional athlete playing freshmen through varsity football, basketball and golf. He was the football and golf team captains his senior year and named to the 2nd All-League football team his junior and senior years. Avery balanced his academic and athletic participation and success with a commendable record of community service.

The club presented Hope of America Awards to Tierrasanta graduating senior Patricia Cleaver of the Charter School of San Diego and Serra High School graduating seniors Jose Amaro, Ashley Boggio and Stefano D'Amato, the second Hope of America recognition since receiving the award in the 5th grade at Vista Grande Elementary School. Kiwanis



Serra HS Hope of America Awards
L to R: Stefano D'Amato, Jose Amaro and Ashley Boggio

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 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, an award letter, a certificate featuring the American's Creed and \$100.



Charter School Hope of America Award
L to R: Kiwanis President Cathy Chesire, Patricia Cleaver and Kiwanis Foundation President Mike Pent