Aloha,

The Board of Directors of the McKinley High School Foundation welcomes the new Principal of McKinley, Mr. Ron Okamura. We look forward to working with Mr. Okamura. Please note the article in this newsletter that ran in the August 1, 2008 issue of the Pinion.

In 2008 the Foundation awarded 55 scholarships to members of the class of 2008. The awards ranged from $4,250 to $750. As part of the scholarship application process, the students were asked to submit an essay about a particular challenge in their lives and how they dealt with it. As you read a brief highlight of each student’s essay, you will get a glimpse of why the scholarship committee’s selection of recipients is a difficult task. Now, more than ever, financial assistance for graduating seniors is important. It can mean the difference of going on for higher education or having to find work to help with family finances. We are so very grateful to our dedicated alumni and friends who continue to support our scholarship program during this difficult economic time.

We thank the class of 1958 and 1946 for their generous outpouring of support at their class reunion. The class reunions of many classes have contributed to the Scholarship program of the Foundation and we thank them. The Board of Directors is always amazed at the generosity of our fellow alumni. From the class of 1932 to the class of 2002, the realization of the importance of supporting our alma mater continues. A huge Mahalo!

Finally, on behalf of the members of the McKinley High School Foundation Board of Directors, we hope you and your family have a happy holiday season and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

As always, we welcome your input. You may use the enclosed envelope (to make a tax deductible donation) or call the Foundation at (808) 536-3832 with any comment or suggestion. We also encourage you to check out our website, www.mckinleyfoundation.com.

Aloha,

Carl Takamura
President
A Huge Mahalo!!

Thank you to the classes who give back to our alma mater by donating funds from their class reunions. In our last newsletter we thanked the class of 1948 and the class of 2002 for donating funds. We are amazed and very grateful for the support.

Class of 1958

The MHS Class of 1958 celebrated its 50th Year Reunion this year and as part of their celebration the Reunion Organizing Committee asked their classmates to donate funds for a class gift to the school. The classmates responded by donating a total of $3,828. The Reunion Organizing Committee made the decision to donate the funds to the McKinley High School Foundation. It is the hope of the Class of 1958 that they might set a precedent whereby other classes during their 50th reunion will also contribute their class gift to the Foundation.

The Board of Directors of the McKinley Foundation are truly grateful and honored that our fellow alumni support the common belief that giving financial assistance to graduating seniors is a good thing.

We thank the Class of 1958 and wish them many more reunions!

Class of 1946

Once again, the Class of 1946 has generously donated residual funds to the Foundation. The Class of 1946 sent a donation to the Foundation to commemorate their 60th year birthday in 2006.

Edmund Leong, the Class of 1946 Coordinator, writes the following: "We commend the Board of Directors and volunteers of the Foundation for their dedication and commitment to make “our school the best school in the land”. Your efforts to support and award deserving scholarships to students from the school are greatly appreciated.

Keep up the good work and much success in the years to come!"

We, at the Foundation, cannot thank you enough. Providing a scholarship to deserving students’ is a passion of ours, receiving support from our fellow alumni makes it all worthwhile. It is heartwarming to receive such kind words and encouragement. It is the spark that keeps us going. Thank you to the Class of 1946.

Summer School

This past summer the Department of Education held summer school classes at McKinley. The Foundation was asked to help with financial assistance for nearly 100 students who were not able to afford the tuition charged for summer school. Summer school is self-sufficient and is not part of the DOE budget. The Foundation provided funds and at our September meeting received a report from the McKinley Administration that summer school was a success and many students benefited from the grant.

Scholarship recipient of Foundation’s Panda Travel/Henry Lau Scholarship, Alexia Kwok letter of thanks to the Scholarship Committee – written prior to Commencement Day.

To the members of the McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Committee,

As Commencement Day looms ever nearer, I begin to reflect on my time here at McKinley and think of all the things that have made me so proud to be a Tiger. When I first arrived at McKinley as a floundering freshman, eager to explore the mysterious world of high school, I never imagined just how much my new school had to offer me. In the relatively short span of four years — which has indeed passed quickly — I have been fortunate enough to have been involved in Student Government, the McKinley Theatre Group II, the National Honor Society and the School Community Council; each of which has provided me with not only valuable knowledge and experience, but also fond memories to look back on.

And as I reminisce about all the good times that I have had, I realize that even more influential than the activities, however, were the people I met through each activity. One of the things that I have found to be most admirable about McKinley is its faculty members and the pride and respect that they instill in their students. Having had the privilege of working with many of the advisors around campus, I have formed many valuable relationships that I will treasure even as I leave McKinley — relationships that have taught me a great deal and that have helped guide me to choosing the right college and career path for myself.

In the fall of this year I will attend Northwestern University of Evanston, Illinois. There I plan to major in Journalism and minor in Theatre and either Political Science or Communications. Thanks to the flexibility that I have learned during my years at McKinley, I have the confidence to also seek out study abroad options as well as various internships that will be available to me. After college, I hope to either pursue a career in Broadcast Journalism or Magazine Journalism — whichever will allow me to indulge in my love of writing and speaking.

Four years ago I never imagined that I would be who I am today with these opportunities laid out before me. Thank you so much for the great honor of being the recipient of the Foundation’s Panda Travel/Henry Lau Scholarship and for allowing me to pursue my dreams. With your support and the support of my family and friends, I truly hope to exemplify the motto, “Tiger Born, Tiger Bred.” Although I will cross the Oval on June 1st and end my days as a McKinley student, I will always remember my pride as a Tiger. And I look forward to the day when I can give back to the school that has given me so much.

Sincerely,
Alexia Kwok
2008 Scholarship Recipients

As part of the process for applying for a scholarship each applicant was required to submit a paper (500 words or less) of a personal challenge and how they handled that challenge. In the profiles below reference to his or her challenge will sometimes play a significant role in the recipient's life.

WAI YAN LAM - Wai Yan writes that her over protective mother has played a major role in her life. When her mother came to Hawaii several years ago, she brought only Wai Yan with her, leaving her other older children in Hong Kong. With Wai Yan her only focus she became overly protective following Wai Yan everywhere from rehearsals for school productions to actually following her to school. While being rather embarrassed by her mother's closeness, she has grown to understand why her mother felt the need to stifle her. Wai Yan in looking forward to her new found indecency at Mount Holyoke where she has not yet made a decision on what her major will be. Wai Yan is the recipient of the Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. Robert J. Pfeiffer Community Scholarship Award in the amount of $4,250.

MIMI HANG - Being raised in a first-generation family of Vietnamese immigrants, Mimi did not learn to speak English until she was in kindergarten. She endured being picked on and bullied by the other girls in her class because she could not understand them. When one bully stole her precious butterfly key chain, a gift from her grandmother in Vietnam, Mimi was determined to learn English and be accepted. She studied hard and in the end told her teacher about her key chain, it was returned to her along with a very valuable lesson “always assert yourself and do the very best you can. Throughout her educational experiences the butterfly incident served as an inspiration to excel. Mimi is attending Mount Holyoke where she is majoring in Chemistry. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation scholarship honoring Eyvinne & Kay Lee in the amount of $3,500.

DANIEL LEE - Daniel's love of the piano and what he perceived to be his inability to play it profi ciently became the catalyst that inspired him to strive for excellence in all he attempts. Motivated when during a performance he froze and could not remember how to play not one but actually four songs, he was embarrassed and vowed to make certain that incident would not happen again. He worked hard to get back his confidence and today truly enjoys the piano and all of the joy that it can bring to him and others. Daniel is attending John Hopkins University where he is majoring in Biomedical Engineering. Daniel is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $3,000.

ALEX WRIGHT - Alex entered McKinley her sophomore year. Moving from California to Hawaii was trying for her. Her biggest challenge was fitting in. The turning point for Alex came when she signed up to be on the Speech and Debate Team. Reaching out and meeting new friends was difficult – however she says the students and advisors of the Speech and Debate Team were like her second family. She learned that entering a new school is frightening but can be a wonderful experience if you reach out. She says being a McKinley Tiger is something she will always treasure. Alex is attending University of California at Irvine where her major is Communications/Public Relations. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship honoring Dr. Raymond Yap in the amount of $2,750.

IRIS KIM - Iris writes that her father and mother immigrated to the United States from Korea twenty years ago and struggled to make a go of it. Her mother encouraged Iris to study hard so she would be able to have a better life. Iris took her words of wisdom to heart and went from being a C average student to a straight A student. She is attending the University of California where her major is Medicine. Iris is the recipient of A McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship honoring Abraham and Shin Quon Wong Goo in the amount of $2,750.

WEI LIN - Wei's family immigrated to Hawaii in 2004, being the only one in her family to speak English, and only conversational English, Wei had a difficult time in just getting an apartment, phone and electricity hooked up. Her parents purchased an electric dictionary for her and this enabled her to improve English enough for her to excel in school. She now feels confident that she can accomplish any goal that she sets for herself. She is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is majoring in Pharmacy. Wei is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,500.

DONNA MIZUBA - Donna says that her best friend opened her eyes to a whole new world. She was overly concerned about what other people thought of her. To compensate for these feelings she never spoke up. She didn't stand up for herself or her friends and family. Until that fateful day when her friend told her to that she cared too much about people who did not know or care about her and too little about the ones who did. She took his words to heart and from that day forward has learned to
speak up. She is truly grateful to her friend and they remain best friends today. Donna is attending the University of Hawai'i at Manoa where her major is Chemistry. She is the recipient of a Hung Wo and Elizabeth Lau Ching Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,500.

IRENE MA - Irene had hard acts to follow, both her sisters Sandy and Connie excelled academically while attending McKinley. Both were also recipients of McKinley Foundation Scholarships. Thinking that her parents were expecting the same for Irene pushed her to study hard. She spent so much time studying that there was little time for anything else. The summer before her senior year she started getting very bad headaches mostly from lack of rest. After talking to her parents, who assured her that they were very proud of her and she should not compete with her sisters, she learned to balance her studies with everyday living. She has an accomplished academic record and is grateful to her sisters for setting the bar so high. Irene is attending the University of Hawai'i at Manoa where she is majoring in Civil Engineering. She is the recipient of the Jack Tsui Scholarship Award in the amount of $2,500.

EVA MAK - Eva grew up in a single parent household. Her father left her mother to move back to China when Eva was three years old. Her mother and she lived a very quiet life and because of her mother's gentle ways, she came to forgive her father for leaving and learned to cherish her mother for always being there when she was needed. Eva credits her mother for giving her strong beginnings and says she strives for success because of her. She is attending the University of Hawai'i at Manoa where she is a Business major. She is the recipient of a Hung Wo and Elizabeth Lau Ching Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,500.

JIN YANG HUANG - Jin Yang attended McKinley for only five months but in that time has proven to be an exemplary student. He was a member of the math team where he obtained all perfect scores in every meet of the Oahu Mathematics League. He was also a member of the McKinley Soccer Team. Jin Yang's passion is mathematics and he wants to attend Massachusetts Institute for Technology where his major will be Mathematics. Jin Yang is the recipient of a Hung Wo and Elizabeth Lau Ching Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,500.

ANDREW NISHII - Andrew has experienced something that many people associate happening to someone quite a bit older. At the tender age of sixteen, Andrew had a minor heart attack. To say the least, this has been a life changing experience for Andrew. The doctors are not exactly certain why it occurred but Andrew is taking steps to help ensure that it does not happen again. He has altered his eating habits for a much healthier diet and has put exercise into his daily routine. He feels better and living a healthy life has become a top priority. He is attending Washington State University where is majoring in Mathematics. Andrew is the recipient of a Hung Wo and Elizabeth Lau Ching Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,500.

LAII HUNG LAM - Lai Hung moved to Hawai'i two years ago from China. Her biggest challenge was learning the English language, not only for academics but for every day living. Her parents do not speak English very well so she became the person to pay the bills and interpret correspondence. She has overcome this obstacle very well – well enough to be a recipient of a Scholarship. Lai Hung is attending the University of Hawai'i at Manoa where her major is Pharmacy. She is the recipient of the Wong Family Scholarship Award in the amount of $2,000.

JOHN PAIK - John writes that as a member of the McKinley Robotics Team he was made a robotics captain in his junior year. Given the responsibility of being the webmaster for his team was very difficult given the fact that the senior webmaster was a very hard person to work with. The senior webmaster was a volume of information and John knew in order for him to succeed he would have to learn to work with the senior webmaster. Though it took a lot of effort on his part, John did manage to work with the senior webmaster and the team eventually won the 2007 Championship Website Award. John is attending the Illinois Institute of Technology where he is majoring in Engineering. John is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship honoring Dr. Ruth Ono is the amount of $2,000.

ALEXIA KWOK - Alexia has truly raised the bar for all Tigers who follow. As president of the McKinley Student Body she has indeed been exemplary in all she has attempted. United States Senators Daniel K. Inouye and Daniel K. Akaka appointed Alexia to the 40th Annual United States Senate Youth Program in Washington, D.C. In March of 2008 Alexia went to Washington, D.C. to participate in an intensive study of the United States Government and in particular the United States Senate. Alexia is attending Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois where her major is Journalism as well Theatre and either Political Science or Communications. Alexia is the recipient of the Panda Travel/Henry Lau Scholarship Award in the amount of $2,000.
TRAVIS HISHINUMA - Travis says that learning to prioritize was an obstacle he learned when he needed help bringing up his calculus grade. Music is his first passion and when his calculus grades started to drop, he knew that in order for him to bring it up he would need tutoring and that would mean having to give up practicing his music. He made the decision to practice music before school and lunch. His grades improved and he also learned that sometimes in life we must sacrifice something we truly love in order to succeed. Travis is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where he is majoring in Physics. Travis is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship honoring Steve Hirano in the amount of $1,500.

JOHN MICHAEL BARAYUNGA - John Michael writes that his life changing obstacle occurred when he was a young Boy Scout on a camping trip in the mountains in the Philippines. After a day of hiking to their camp their captain said they were free to do whatever they wanted as long as they came back to the camp before sundown. John Michael found a lake and went for a swim. After he enjoyed the water for some time he decided to head back for camp. Unfortunately he forgot which way he needed to go and after spending hours looking for camp resigned to the fact that he would have to spend the night alone in the forest. At day break he remembered a survival technique of lighting a fire so the smoke could be seen from above. He did so and several hours later he was rescued. He learned he was more than two miles from camp. This lesson will be one that John Michael will never forget. John Michael is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where his major is nursing. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship honoring Patsy Young in the amount of $1,500.

ANGELINE WOO - Angeline says that a conflict of scheduling with regards to being in the band at McKinley became a life long lesson of prioritizing what is important to her well being. When her class schedule didn’t allow her to be in band she would sporadically practice with the band as extracurricular and became very dissatisfied with her performance. When she realized that playing well was what she really wanted to do, she started practicing at home and immediately saw results. That taught her that if there is something in life that she really wants to do – she only need make an effort and it can be accomplished. Angeline is attending Grinnell College where she has not yet decided on a major. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship honoring Senator Daniel K. Inouye in the amount of $1,500.

TOM SHEK - Tom writes that as a young child he was uncomfortable in the water and usually stayed in the shallow end of the pool or at the beach played in the sand. When he was in Middle School his parents insisted he take swimming lessons. While the thought of holding his breath underwater terrified him, he worked hard at it and became comfortable in the water. He is grateful to his parents for insisting that he learn to swim not only for recreation but also as a skill that could someday prove useful. Tom is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where his major is Liberal Arts. Tom is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship honoring Senator Daniel K. Inouye in the amount of $1,500.

ZHENG NING LUO - Zhen says that he felt he had not faced any obstacles until September of 2007 when his mother became ill and needed surgery. It hurt him to see his mother in pain and he did all he could to make things easier for her. She is fine now, but Zhen is exceedingly grateful that she is well and he looks forward to spending many more years with her. He says this challenge taught him never to take anything for granted. Zhen is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where he is majoring in Accounting. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship honoring Senator Daniel K. Inouye in the amount of $1,500.

ANGELINE PHOUKSOUVATH - Angeline writes that her personal challenge was her lack of self confidence. Her love for music was hindered by her self confidence or her lack of it. She allowed it to interfere with her performance. This actually went on for a couple of years before she realized that she could either sit on the outside or practice on her own to be good enough to play in the band. Fortunately for Angeline she chose to practice and found her self confidence along with her improved music skill. Angeline is attending Washington State University where she is a Pre-Pharmacy major. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,500.

HUI MEI SHI - Hui Mei says that being President of the Chinese Club presented a challenge for her. The first challenge was she was very uncomfortable speaking in public. Also, being President of the club left her with the problem of fitting in her school work and the activities for the club. When she failed to attend a club function that she had agreed to, her advisor spoke to her about prioritizing her time and the importance of following through with a commitment. She took that to heart and ended the year on a good note and felt a true sense of accomplishment. Angeline is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Business and Accounting. She is the recipient of a Carole Kai Charities Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.
LINA LE - Lina's passion is politics. As she learned early on it is not always the most qualified person that the voters choose. She didn't win her election for student government – but she did gain a valuable lesson. Never give up. She actually became friends with her opponent and during her tenure at McKinley went on to mentor students who show a desire to be on student government. Lina has worked with Representative Della Bellati and grown to love politics so much that she will most likely run for a State seat in the future. Lina is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Business Management and Political Science. She is the recipient of a Carole Kai Charities Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

LISA WU - Lisa says taking to heart her Pastor's words helped her overcome a challenge. Those words were Quitters ultimately never win. They were especially poignant to Lisa because she had taken up tennis as a freshman only to give up because she didn't think she was good enough. After hearing her Pastor, Lisa decided to give tennis another try while she wasn't the best she did play in tournaments and had very good showings. Lisa will always remember this lesson and it will help her in the future. Lisa is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is majoring in Pre-Pharmacy. She is the recipient of a Carole Kai Charities Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

JERICHO LOPEZ - Jericho grew up in a very religious household. As he grew older he found it difficult to go to church just because his parents said to. That and the fact that his friends were not supportive of is religious lifestyle caused him to rebel. He says he went through a “phase” and decided that his family was right. He soon made new friends and he is very comfortable with his decision to listen to his parents. Jericho is attending Brigham Young University in Provo where his major is Theatre. He is the recipient of a Carole Kai Charities Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

TSUN YEUNG TSANG - Tsun Yeung notes that giving up easily was something he was pretty good at. Like the time he was walking to the bus stop and his bus passed him – he ran to get to the bus stop but just as he reached the stop the bus left – giving him plenty of time to think about what had just happened. This was something he was all to familiar with then at his brother's graduation ceremony in 2007 the Chancellor gave this advice to the graduating class a quote from Winston Churchill “Never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never-in nothing, great or small, large or petty, never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense”. He took those words to his heart and made sure that he had overcome his tendency to give up. Tsun Yeung is attending Boston University where he is majoring in Pre-Dental, Biology. He is the recipient of a Carole Kai Charities Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

SUSAN WONG - Susan credits a childhood friendship with helping to shape her into what she is today. The friend was a neighbor. Susan and he became good friends playing together daily. As they grew older and their interests were different they grew apart. Susan always felt bad and longed to go back to when they were friends. However, people change and Susan learned that her friend had not made the best choices in life and she was much better off for moving on and keeping fond memories of someone in her past. The broken friendship had a far reaching effect on her. The experience helped her grow and learn. Susan is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Business. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in Memory of Lawrence Hirohata in the amount of $1,000.

ERIC WU - Eric says that the death of his grandfather had a profound effect on him and this has helped him become the person he is today. He doesn't recall ever seeing his grandfather get out of bed with the exception of his grandfather's birthday. It was his last birthday and Eric has fond memories of seeing him and enjoying all of his visitors. Eric's parents encouraged Eric to try his best in all that he does – telling him that although his grandfather is not here to see him; he would still want him to do the best he can. Eric has taken those words to heart and strives to be the best he can. Eric is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where he is majoring in Computer Science. He is the recipient of the McKinley High School Class of 1954 Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

ROGER SHEK - Roger says one of his greatest challenges is adjusting to the way instructors teach their lessons. While he wants to get good grades, he thinks it is more important to understand the process. He says sometimes his brother and his friends would help him out in rationalizing a problem; if that didn't work; he went back to the drawing board until he truly understood the problem. This is a great lesson for all us to learn. For Roger it is the challenge that he strives to overcome. Roger is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where his major is Biology. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship honoring Bennett C.L.F. Ing in the amount of $1,000.
JACK HO - Jack felt abandoned by his parents as he was growing up – like many families today, both of his parents need work to help pay the bills. While he understands the reason why he came home to an empty house he still wishes things could have been different. They have grown close and Jack is thankful for the patience his parents have shown him. Jack is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where he is majoring in Pharmacology. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship honoring Bennett C.L.F. Ing in the amount of $1,000.

AMY YANG - Amy says the one challenge that she had this past year was earning enough money for a trip to Japan. Her and her classmates held many fundraising projects and while at the time the tasks seemed quite daunting; in the end it paid off and Amy’s dream of traveling to Japan came true. The old adage “Money does not grow on trees” is very true and she learned that money cannot be earned by waiting for it, but by working for it. Amy is attending Northern Arizona University where her major is Health Care. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship honoring Bennett C.L.F. Ing in the amount of $1,000.

HELEN CHANG - Helen writes that her struggles have been heard many times. Raised in a traditional Chinese household she was surrounded by high expectations. She felt that she could not live up to the goals that her parents expected from her. At McKinley the turning point for her came in her speech class. She joined the McKinley Theatre Group II, and wasn’t able to participate in the State Speech and Debate Competition her freshman year. Taking that as a challenge she worked hard and she and her partner, Alex Wright, qualified for the Duo Interpretation in Dallas, Texas. That gave her a new outlook on life and her success with speech spilled over into her academics. Today she, and her parents, is proud of what she has accomplished. Helen is attending Marist College where she is majoring in Marketing Communications. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship honoring Bennett C.L.F. Ing in the amount of $1,000.

ANNA LEE - Anna’s parents divorced when she was very young. However, she says this was a challenge for her to overcome because she always felt different from her friends that had both a mother and father at home. It took her many years for her to realize that her mother is a strong individual who shaped Anna into what she is today. The bond between her and her mother is strong and she strives to do well for both of them. Anna is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Radiologic Science. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship honoring Bennett C.L.F. Ing in the amount of $1,000.

YOO JUNG HAN - Yoo Jung came to Hawaii in 1999, attending an American elementary school where she knew little English was a big challenge for her. After two years she was able to pass the ESL program. From that point on Yoo Jung never looked back. She has excelled in class and was in the gifted and talented program in Middle School. She is looking forward to a successful career in dentistry. Yoo Jung is attending Santa Monica College where she is majoring in Pre-Dentistry. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

BRITNEY MAGLAYA - Britney credits her band advisor with helping to make changes in her attitude which in turn helped her become an effective leader. She had to learn diplomacy and compromise as the Band President of 2008. She discovered that being a leader is a work in progress and she is accomplishing and conquering it every day. She is attending Colorado State University where her major is Education. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation in the amount of $750.

CARA YIM - Cara states that being the role model for her two younger sisters has been a challenge for her. Her parents expect her to be understanding and to give in to her sisters. While that has not always been easy; she knows that she has been a positive influence on her sisters and that makes it all worthwhile. She is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is majoring in Nursing. She is the recipient of a McKinley Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $750.

JACK LAM - Jack says that personal challenges are special compared to other challenges because personal challenges are set by one’s self to improve the self. He goes on to state that these challenges can improve the character or mindset of a person. His challenge was to be the best academically that he could possibly be. He says that the higher education he received the better his insight became. He changed from a naive person to an open minded and observant person. Jack is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where his major is Computer Science. Jack is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $750.

BO LI - Bo says the one challenge that he remembers most was a misunderstanding that he had with his best friend. His friend cares about details and wants everything to be perfect. Bo prefers to be faster which he believes to be more efficient and dislikes reading every detail. When a party they planned and was mostly coordinated by Bo had some mishaps, they had a disagreement. Bo realized that he needed to be more understanding and after they compromised their differences he feels they
will be friends for life. Bo is attending the Illinois Institute of Technology where his major is Civil/Structural Engineering. Bo is the recipient of McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $750.

**CONNIE CHOI** - Connie not only managed to get good grades but she was also in the band and on the golf team. These were challenging enough, but then she started working at Don Quijote on weekends. Now McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship the challenge of fitting everything in was really difficult. In the end she solved the problem by giving up her job and concentrating on school, band and golf. To earn extra money she did jobs around the house for her mother and brother. She felt satisfied with the decision and has not regretted it. Connie is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is majoring in Nursing. Connie is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $750.

**MANHATTAN ISHIMI** - Manhattan states that having a difficult family situation when she was a sophomore required Manhattan to work several hours a week. During this trying time, her grades suffered and she had to work harder to bring up her grades. Instead of working less hours she chose to sleep less and got up early to go to school for extra help with her classes. She has been successful and we applaud her for her efforts. Manhattan is attending Lafayette University where her major is Chemical Engineering. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $750.

**PHILIP CHAN** - Philip says that the biggest challenge he has had to date was getting his drivers license. Having to wait several months just to get in drivers training was stressful. When he finally got to take the class he was ecstatic. Three months after completing the class he took the road test and failed miserably; he took it again and failed again. This was discouraging for him and he prepared for the road test more diligently. Finally he passed the road test and had his license. An accomplishment he is proud of. Philip is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where he is majoring in Business Management. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $750.

**RICHARD HO** Richard writes that getting into Creighton University was by far his biggest challenge. As he started his senior year at McKinley he looked back and wished he could be in a time machine and go back four years. He knew his grades were probably not good enough to get into a mainland college and it was his dream to attend Creighton University. He flew to Omaha to attend Creighton's Admissions Receptions and volunteered for at the college fair. He hoped that this would improve his chances of being accepted. Well, it worked! He is happily attending Creighton University where his major is Computer Science. Richard is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $750.

**SANDRA KAONOHI** Sandra set goals for herself upon entering McKinley as a freshman. Making it to the bowling team, become an officer for Orchesra and most importantly uphold her grades. She was fortunate to accomplish all, but nearly had a disaster when her final day of the bowling league and being chairperson for “Le Piu”, a dinner for graduating seniors were on the same day. She managed to get it all done but learned that valuable lesson in life – not everything goes as planned! Sandra is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is majoring in Business. Sandra is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $750.

**NICCOLE GRIFFIN** Niccole’s mother became ill when Niccole was seven years old. She was sent to Molokai to stay with an aunt while her mother recuperated. It was a traumatic time and Niccole had a difficult time adjusting. Feeling like she was an intruder in her aunt’s home Niccole passed the time by doing a project for her mother each day. After that experience Niccole feels that she can now do anything she sets her mind to. Niccole is attending Bellevue Community College where her major is Women Studies. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $750.

**DEREK CHUN** Derek states that enrolling in Running Start and taking psychology for both high school and college credits was very challenging. The biggest obstacle he faced was his reading ability. Reading is not easy for Derek and he sometimes had to read a chapter two or three time to comprehend the information. While he did not make the highest grades he did pass. Not satisfied with his grades, he registered for AP classes at McKinley. He knew he would have to work hard, but he felt the effort was worth it and he is grateful he had the opportunity to prove himself. Derek is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where he is majoring in Physical Therapy. Derek is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $750.
PHILIP TRUONG Philip writes that his biggest challenge has been getting the motivation to do something with his life. Time management was the one thing that he needed to work the hardest on. In the process of working on time management he would reward himself with small things if he did something desirable. It worked! He begin to look at the future and setting goals. He worked on his study habits and was delighted to be accepted in an AP class and did very well. Philip is attending the University of Hawaii in Manoa where his major is Electrical Engineering. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $750.

MATTHEW TAVARES Matthew says that achieving the rank of shodan (1st degree black belt) in Aikido was his toughest challenge. It took many years of practice, training with a certain number of hours and passing the tests which are judged very critically by the high ranking instructors. He achieved the rank of shodan on March 4, 2007. He says that it has taught him discipline, dedication (stick to something, never giving up), time management, responsibility, and confidence that he can achieve anything he sets his mind to. Matthew is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where he is majoring in History/Government. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $750.

CINDY KANG Not taking education seriously during her freshman and sophomore years at McKinley nearly jeopardized Cindy’s chances of going on to college. In her junior year Cindy settled down to turn things around. She joined the Academy of Finance and there was no looking back! She credits the Academy with motivating her to improve her grades and teaching her about integrity. She says without integrity one can never be truly successful. Cindy is attending Spokane Falls Community College where her major is Business Management. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $750.

LEI CHEUNG Being president of the Leo Club turned out to be a major challenge for Lei. While honored to be selected as president, Lei realized that it would be a challenge managing her time and keeping her grades up. She planned community service projects and quarterly socials before school started up so members would know in advance when events would be held and could plan for them. It was a busy year but she is truly grateful for the experience. She gained courage, refined her leadership skills and learned how to be well rounded. Lei is attending Johnson County Community College where she is majoring in Pharmacy. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

TARYN ANNE SAKUMOTO Taryn’s parents divorced when she was eleven. Her challenge was not favoring one parent over the other. It was a difficult situation and she credits this painful experience with making her more responsible and to think of others rather than herself. Instead of looking at her situation negatively, she considers it character building which has helped her grow into a better person. Taryn is attending Honolulu Community College where her major is cosmetology. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

KAI XUAN HUANG Immigrating to the United States from China presents many challenges per- haps the most daunting is the language barrier. Kai Xuan had to work very hard to be understood by his teachers and classmates. Approaching classmates was difficult and it took him a long time to make friends. As time went by he could understand English better and things have gotten easier. Kai is attending Kapiolani Community College where he is majoring in Engineering. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

ERWIN YOUNG Erwin writes that, like his classmates, his challenge was to train his analytical power, think logically and acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to begin his career as a mechanic. He wants to be the best mechanic possible, he is still unsure of if it will be mechanical, electronics or computer, but he know he must work hard and he is willing to put in the effort to make it happen. Erwin is attending Honolulu Community College where his major is mechanics. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

GEENA WANNA Geena says that her biggest challenge was her attitude and she needed to change it. While at the YMCA she has had to work with many different people at times that could be frustrating because Geena felt that her way to do things was the right way and she had to learn to temper her ways. She learned to quit doing everything herself and came to realize that delegating is a big part of being a good leader. Geena is attending Honolulu Community College where she is majoring in Electrical Engineering. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $750.

JASMINE CHANG Jasmine faced a huge challenge; her courage and personal growth is astounding. She is a teen mother who has not given up; she takes care of her child and continued on with her schooling. She knows firsthand that you must never give up – no matter what comes your way. Even if you make a mistake pick up the pieces and go forward. Jasmine is attending Honolulu Community College where her major is marketing and management. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $750.
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Raymond Iwasa

Continued on page 7
Ron Okamura: A hunter, a cook, and our new principal

By Minna Jun

A new school year starts and someone new has also become part of McKinley High School: Mr. Ron Okamura, our new principal.

Having 23 years of experience in teaching, Okamura had been a social studies teacher, a principal of Kihei Elementary in Maui and a Complex Area Superintendent. He is looking forward to being a principal again, this time as a fellow McKinley Tiger.

“I’m ready for challenges,” said Okamura. “I want to make sure that everyone gets their schedules, and that the school is up and ready by the time it starts.”

When Neal Takamori, athletic director, first met Okamura he had positive things to say.

“He was very down to earth. He looked like a person who’s committed to making MHS move forward,” said Takamori. “It was very easy to talk to him, and he was open to ideas and yet not afraid to make decisions.

Ron Okamura is McKinley’s new principal.

He also seemed very knowledgeable about the curriculum.”

Teaching wasn’t Okamura’s childhood dream. He wanted to be a pro football player, a chef, or even an accountant. He only found out he wanted to work with students after working with the YMCA.

“Working at the YMCA really changed what I wanted to be. I worked with high school students. Ever since then, my major goal has been to teach students what life is about, and that no matter what obstacles may come, they can still succeed,” said Okamura. “Students should always remember to study hard and work hard too.”

Aside from work, when time allows, he enjoys outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, and diving on the island of Lanai. Cooking is another activity he enjoys doing.

Let’s welcome our new principal and start a great new year together.
**Past Recipients Write**

The following letter is from Leanne Ta, a 2005 McKinley Graduate, who received the Alexander & Baldwin Inc, Robert J. Pheiffer Community Scholarship. Leanne is now in her fourth year at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dear Board Members:

The McKinley High School Foundation has been an invaluable part of my college career. With sincere appreciation, I am writing to thank you for enabling me to pursue higher education at the University of Pennsylvania.

I am now a senior, majoring in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics with a minor in English. As I begin my search for full-time job opportunities, I have had a lot of time to reflect on what my undergraduate experience has meant for me.

People often remark that the college years are some of the best years of one's life. True to this statement, the past three years have been incredibly rewarding in many ways. I have discovered my passions, gained a wealth of knowledge and formed life-altering relationships with classmates and professors. My semester in Shanghai, China (spring of 2008) was especially memorable. The experience of living and studying abroad helped to broaden my international understanding, and shed light on the cultural, economic and political issues that are important to our world today.

The Alexander & Baldwin Inc, Robert J. Pheiffer Community Scholarship has opened many doors for me, and I know that my education will be an important asset in the future. I hope that I will someday be able to contribute to the Foundation and help to perpetuate its priceless service to McKinley students.

Sincerely,

Leanne Ta

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As life's circumstances change, so do insurance policies related to your financial planning. You can have the satisfaction of helping McKinley High School, its teachers and students in the future by gifting an insurance policy that's no longer needed. If a donor transfers a life insurance policy to the McKinley High School Foundation, the gift is tax-deductible for gift tax purposes. If the donor pays subsequent premiums due on the policy, those additional premium payments constitute additional gifts that would also qualify for the gift tax charitable deduction.

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For more information, please contact the McKinley High School Foundation at (808) 536-3832 or send in the short form below.

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