Thank you all for your support of the McKinley High School Foundation.

As the 2018-19 school year began, McKinley High School continued to set high goals and expectations to help the students achieve their goals. The very successful Math, Robotics, and Science Olympiad Teams persist in their pursuit of excellence. The Center for Tomorrow’s Leaders (CTL), a unique program, is increasing its influence to train and provide opportunities for our students to become future leaders. We applaud their efforts.

The faculty at McKinley is also striving to provide guidance outside of the classroom to enhance our students’ learning experience. Some of the initiatives include Ignition, a mentoring program to help freshman, extra curricula activities, speech and debate, college classes (Running Start, Early Admit, etc).

In addition, programs such as “Unfold” and “AVID” that targets students who feel that they cannot go to college, many are “At Risk” students, are actively being established. Further, “Ambassadors” and President’s Society” were created to enhance the opportunities to teach leadership.

The US News magazine published the 2018 “Best High Schools” and ranked McKinley 3rd Best of Public High Schools in Hawaii. That is quite a testimony of McKinley’s commitment to provide the best for our students, noticing that 97% of the school population are minority and 57% are categorized as “Economically Disadvantaged”.

We can all help McKinley continue their “Pursuit of Excellence” by supporting the McKinley High School Foundation. The McKinley Foundation has supported programs such as Robotics, Band, CTL, College and Career programs, Ignition, Speech and Drama, and other school initiatives, and has awarded over 1.4 million dollars to over 1,000 seniors.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Ben Nakaoka, our Foundation treasurer, who has unselfishly given of his time, expertise, and efforts to oversee our finances, and who has given valuable recommendations to improve the Foundation’s efforts to support McKinley High School. He is truly a valuable asset to the Foundation and the school and his dedication and efforts are “PRICELESS”.

As reported in our last newsletter the Foundation’s website is now completed. Please take the time to visit the site if you have not yet done so. The site address is: http://mckinleyfoundation.org.

We continue to encourage all to sign up for Amazon Smile (McKinley Foundation gets a portion of the sales). To replace the diseased (lollipop) Banyan trees fronting the McKinley statue, the DOE will continue planting Golden Trees. As always, we welcome your input, please do not hesitate to contact us. Best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and a healthy, prosperous and happy New Year.

Aloha,

Neal Takamori
President
Meet the 2018 McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Recipients.

Meet the 2018 McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Recipients. Part of the application process for the recipients requires that they write a brief essay on the following: “Discuss one of your accomplishments or an event that sparked personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others”. Below is a summary of their responses.

**Jessica Chau:** Even at the young age of four Jessica recalls an event that will stay with her throughout her life. While shopping with her mother she saw a pretty pink purse that she really wanted, she asked her mother if she could please buy it for her. Her mother told her no, which resulted in Jessica throwing a temper tantrum with her mother not giving in to buying the purse. As they were leaving the store a stranger stopped them and attempted to give Jessica the purse that he had bought specifically to give to her. Her mother stood her ground and rejected the gift. When they got in the car her mother broke down crying, too young to understand Jessica was in shock. Many years later when Jessica asked her mother about why she didn’t accept the purse from the stranger, her mother told her that she had really wanted to buy the purse, but she couldn’t afford it and her pride was hurt when a total stranger offered it for free. Jessica said that at that point reality set in and realized that she, even though young, was selfish and from then on, she was determined to put others before herself. She started to help her mom out at home and on one occasion reached out to a friend who had no money to buy food, when Jessica offered her half of her burger her friend said no, she looked at her with the same sad eyes that her mother had so many years ago, she thrust the burger in her friend’s hand. She says some people ask “Why do you do this? You don’t have to”, but I retort, “then who else will?” There are some things in the world that need to be done because I believe these small actions can positively impact others. (Please note that for the most part this paragraph was written by Jessica). We can all learn a lesson from others and Jessica is proof of that. Jessica is attending Brown University majoring in Biology. She is the recipient of the Alexander & Baldwin, Inc Matson Inc., Robert J. Pfeiffer Community Scholarship in the amount of $4,000.

**Mella Liang:** In her junior year, she says she was stress-free and overestimated how much she could accomplish in a 24-hour day. So being optimistic she took on the challenge of six advanced placement classes (AP) and several extracurricular activities, which included, Math Team, Orchestra, Student Government, Robotics, ASL Club, Science Olympiad, Center for Tomorrow’s Leaders, LEO Club and Cross Country. While this was a lot to cram but instead of getting to work, she had an onset of procrastination that led her to lying on the couch and mindlessly fiddle with social media for hours. Reality set in when she got her first report card. Upset by her grades she vowed to make a change for the better. She made a spreadsheet of all her classes and extracurricular activities and followed it by checking off her tasks by the corresponding cell. She cut down on her extracurricular activities, concentrating on the math team and robotics, which became more meaningful, and her grades improved greatly. Mella is attending Boston University where her major is Engineering. She is the recipient of Foundation Scholarship Honoring Eyvinne and Kay Lee in the amount of $4,000.

**Yun Huen Cheng:** Having moved from Hong Kong to Hawaii when she was seven years old was a difficult time for Yun Huen, however with the help of her teachers and a lot of practice she became fluent in English and gained a sense of confidence. High school brought on new challenges and, though she was doing well in school and had made new friends, she stepped outside of her box and tried out for varsity tennis. It was grueling, and she wanted to quit like some of her teammates. But then she asked herself, “What is the point of trying something new if you are going to quit so fast?” This turned out to be a good decision. She didn’t win all of her matches, but she enjoyed her time on the court. As Yun Huen says, “Challenges can be found anywhere, but it takes determination and perseverance to conquer them.” Yun Huen is attending Mount Holyoke where she is majoring in Dietetics. She is the recipient of Foundation Scholarship Honoring Eyvinne and Kay Lee in the amount of $4,000.

**Aprille Tang:** Losing her father in a very tragic manner when she was ten years old changed her life forever. Not only did she lose someone she looked up to and loved, her family lost financial support and would face hardships that her mother now faced alone. Her mother took on another job so Aprille took over many of the household jobs that a mother normally does. She would get her siblings up and ready for school each day, walking her sister to school and then rushing to her school before she was tardy. In spite of helping out at home she managed to maintain a high-grade point average getting all A’s in her classes. She knows that this would have made her father very proud because of his value for knowledge and education. Overcoming this hardship has given her the drive she needs to pursue her career in registered nursing. She is attending University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Nursing. She is the recipient of a Foundation Scholarship Honoring Abraham and Shin Quon Wong Goo in the amount of $4,000.

**Vanessa Khamkhay:** The fear of breaking her best friend’s bones gave Vanessa a great idea. She and her group of friends have been a part of the “Lokahi Project” where they visit the senior home each week and host a prom for them at the end of the year. Sadly, her best friend, Faye, who is seventy-three years old was diagnosed with osteosarcoma and arthritis. Faye told Vanessa that the doctors in Hawaii are not specialized and she did not want to go to the mainland. She wanted to hug Faye, but her bones were too fragile, and she could hurt rather than help her. It was at that moment that she come up with the idea of “Grand Wish” like Make-A-Wish Foundation, which is for children, but Grand Wish would be for seniors. She says that Larry is from Palau and his wish is to go paddling, Betty is his
wife and her wish is to get a wheelchair that can fully turn around because her current wheelchair is not as versatile. Vanessa has started fundraising and contacting local companies to help Betty’s wish come true. She has done all this while maintaining a 4.2 Grade Point Average. Vanessa is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Pre-Med. She is the recipient of a Foundation Scholarship Honoring Abraham and Shin Quon Wong Goo in the amount of $2,000.

Hayashi, Mikako: Hayashi and the McKinley Class of 1934 Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

Jahanavi Priya: Jahanavi learned that true friends are hard to find and when you do find one, make the time you spend together the best it can be. We have all heard stories about students being bullied at school, Jahanavi was one of them. Her group of friends made fun of her and one that she considered her best friend just stopped talking to her. It hurt deeply because she did not know what she had done to deserve this treatment. When the taunting got worse her self-esteem did too. About this time, she was working on a project and a classmate from her middle school was also doing this project. Soon they began hanging out and over time built a strong foundation of trust and friendship. This made her realize that not all friends are true and learning to differentiate between a true friend and an acquaintance was life changing. She will take this lesson learned with her and know that even though we have dark days the sun always shines through the clouds. She is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Nursing. She is the recipient of a Hung Wo and Elizabeth Lau Ching Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

Weng Tong Sou: Weng Tong says that in the 5th grade having to speak in front of her class is something that she will always remember. It was so traumatic that she didn’t think she would ever be able to overcome the fear of public speaking. She even found it difficult to ask questions or give an answer to a question in class. It was an opportunity to become an Ignition mentor that made her face this fear once and for all. Ignition is a program where upper classmen mentor a freshman to help them get acclimated to the school. She was excited about being part of Ignition but also knew that it would require her to speak in front of others. Slowly she became more at ease and soon discovered she could speak with ease and it has given her the confidence to push herself to do things outside of her comfort zone. She is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Aerospace Engineering. He is the recipient of a Hung Wo and Elizabeth Lau Ching Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

Wilson Tadena: An experience in the 8th grade taught Wilson to never, never give up. He joined the Robotics Team and all the team members were rookies never having built a robot before. After two failures the team lost hope and didn’t think they would qualify for World Championship First. The team the year before them had done well so they thought that it would be easy but, that was before they realized they were all new comers to robotics. The team made it to the playoffs, so they had a glimmer of hope and they had a renewed sense of “can do”, they ended up making it to the finals and winning! He said he has never jumped so high in his life. Bringing that “can do” attitude into other aspects of his life has opened more opportunities for him. Wilson is attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University where his major is Aerospace Engineering. He is the recipient of a Hung Wo and Elizabeth Lau Ching Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

Connie Lu: Getting a C in Analytical Geometry was life changing for Connie. She took great pride in here academic success and never had a problem getting As. But that Sophomore year taking the hardest math classes she had ever taken proved to be traumatic. Upon seeing that C on her report card she instantly knew she had to change, she was an introvert and did not like to ask questions, especially during class. Fast forward to her second semester, she mustered up the courage to raise her hand and ask questions. After that one question it became easier for the ones following it. She was able to ask the teacher a question and the teacher was able to clear up Connie’s confusion. Looking back what she considers her “best” during the first semester really wasn’t her best, but it taught her to leave her comfort zone and for that she is truly grateful. Connie is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Nursing. She is the recipient of a Hung Wo and Elizabeth Lau Ching Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

Melanie Lau: Becoming Student Body President her senior year turned out to be more than a challenge that Melanie had anticipated. Her first dose of reality came during Homecoming Week, as the President she was the chair for what seemed like a never-ending week. She felt overwhelmed and after having a good cry in the shower one late night she pulled herself out of the self-pity role and went to work. She said that there were mistakes along the way such as bringing judging sheets for the cheering competition but forgetting to bring pens. All in all, it went smoothly and most likely the only one to notice mistakes was Melanie. She says through this experience she better understands the idea of sacrifice and responsibility. Melanie is attending Emerson College where her major is Creative Writing. She is the recipient of a Hung Wo and Elizabeth Lau Ching Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

Ke Er Liu: Not being able to speak or for that matter understand Japanese was an experience that Ke Er was able to gain insight to her ability to communicate with someone even though there was a language barrier. She participated in guiding a Japanese student from Kanazawa, Japan when they visited McKinley High School. Though it was difficult, and she felt like she did not do enough to make the student feel welcomed and could only hope that the Japanese student wasn’t as frustrated with how Ke Er felt. She volunteered her senior year to again guide a student and this time it was truly enjoyable, and she was able to make it a memorable experience for the student that she guided. Ke Er is attending Boston University where she is majoring in Accounting & Business. She is the recipient of the Kingo Hayashi, Mikako Hayashi and the McKinley Class of 1934 Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.
Nikalani Swift: At the age of eleven Nikalani was diagnosed with a connective tissue disease and had to overcome debilitating prolonged pain. With her mother overseeing her treatment along with diet and physical therapy she was able to walk and eventually run again. This led her to the sport of soccer where instead of worrying about the potential consequences of what most soccer players normally do, she concentrated on using homeopathic remedies to ease her joint pain. While the joint pain will always be there, she takes pride in the fact that she found a way to enjoy all that life as to offer. Nikalani is attending Creighton University where her major is English. She is the recipient of the Steven & Lois Mihaylo Family Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

Kyle Raven Moraga: Kyle is a talented basketball player and the one event that will be with him during his lifetime was the last game of the regular season. McKinley was down by three points with only seconds on the clock until the game ended, at the last second, he made the shot that put the game into overtime. Again, at the last few seconds left in the game they were down, and he made the winning basket for McKinley to be victorious. Basking in the glow of victory he credits the people that invested in him to make him successful. He says he can show his appreciation for their support by using his new-found motivation to succeed in other aspects of his life. Kyle is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Business Management and Administration. He is the recipient of the Cades Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

Jungwoo Park: When he moved to Hawaii Jungwoo states he found his future career and enjoyment. In Middle School he joined the band and was assigned the trombone to play. Percussion was his first choice, so he was a bit disappointed by this. However, he practiced and soon his band instructor was impressed with his talent and encouraged him to broaden his horizons. He auditioned for the Middle School Select Band and was thrilled that he not only was selected but he was first chair for the band. This motivated him to be better and he even made new friends. He is very thankful for the experience. Jungwoo is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where his major is Music. He is the recipient of a Carole Kai Charities Scholarship in the amount of $1,500.

Valerie Eng: Growing up with a sibling can be both joyful and trying. Valerie’s brother was diagnosed with autism when she was in elementary school. Too young to understand what an autistic child goes through she, in her own words, became a bully to her brother. Not in the way we may think of bullying, more in the way of ignoring him. It took him being bullied by others and her coming to his rescue that was a turning point for her. Judging him without trying to understand him weighed heavily on her. She says he reminds her to take joy in the little things and to take nothing for granted. He now gets straight A’s and she is immensely proud of him. Valerie is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Psychology. She is the recipient of a Carole Kai Charities Scholarship in the amount of $1,500.

Eva Wang: As a young child Eva never did anything active, choosing instead to spend countless hours on the computer. Then in her freshman year she decided to play tennis and that turned out to be a decision that was pivotal for her. The first day of practice she nearly quit, it was hot, she was nauseous and wanted to give it up. But, a part of her decided to give it a couple of more tries before quitting. This turned out to be a great decision, she soon discovered a love for the game and it motivated her to try other new things and has shaped her into a more ambitious version of herself. Eva is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Secondary Education. She is the recipient of a Foundation Scholarship Honoring Senator Patsy Young in the amount of $1,500.

Carol Vo: Being a part of Student Government at McKinley during her senior year turned out to be a lot more work than she had bargained for. Trying to balance her duties at Student Government and keeping her grades up was stressful and challenging. She said the one event that stressed her out the most was Commencement. It is a memorable day for every student graduating, including her, and she wanted it to be special for everyone. It was only when someone pointed out to her that she was letting stress dictate how she was treating others that she made a concerted effort to not let things bother her to the point of hurting other people’s feelings. This event has taught her how to deal with things, she learned from the challenge she faced. Carol is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Nursing. She is the recipient of the Jeanette (Lee) Kawamura Scholarship in the amount of $1,500.

Kevin Doan: Kevin’s parents came to Hawaii from war torn Vietnam and since then have made it their mission to see as much of the world as possible. Kevin shares this story with us, “Khob Khun Ka” this is how you say thank you in Thai. I learned this from a street vendor woman who sold me two lighters. She was a swarthy, stocky woman with hard lines on her face which hinted at a lifetime of laughter and experience. She sold these knick knacks for a living, and although I knew she struggled more than many people in America ever would, she managed to maintain a cheerful disposition. She greeted me with a warm welcome, this strange foreigner who did not know a lick of Thai and engaged me in an interesting discussion about out different lives. We were an odd pair in the marketplace, a juxtaposition of a dark-skinned experienced woman with naïve, pale skinned teenager. All she had to do was sell me the lighter, but she took the extra effort to teach this random boy how to say thank you in her language. An action which took her five minutes but will remain forever in my heart.] Kevin’s experience, while some might think trivial, is truly inspiring and makes us smile and say our young people are amazing. Kevin is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where his major is Pre-medicine. He is the recipient of a Foundation Scholarship Honoring Abraham and Shin Quon Wong Goo in the amount of $1,250.
Nhan Bui: Landing in the sand pit while attempting the long jump at a track meet was a challenging moment for Nhan. After hitting the sand, which reminded her of the beach and made her wish she was there instead, she felt a tug on her arm and it was her coach helping her up. She had to face her embarrassing mistake of messing up her long jump and having her face planted in the sand pit. After that jump she knew she had to practice improving herself, not only at the long jump but also in other areas of her life. She says that one moment in time has given her the drive to succeed. Nhan is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Pre-medicine. She is the recipient of a Foundation Scholarship Honoring Abraham and Shin Quon Wong Goo in the amount of $1,250.

Michelle Yim: Michelle considered herself a shy introverted young person. So shy and quiet that she would sit in the back of the classroom and never raise her hand or speak in class, she was terrified of being judged. When she entered high school, she was more intimidated than ever, it seemed like the upperclassmen were extroverts and she was afraid to approach them. But what they did do was spark an idea in her that when she became an upperclassman she would reach out to the freshmen and be the “older sister” to them. That was a turning point for her, she did reach out to the younger classmen and discovered that she wasn’t as shy as she thought. She was able help them plan activities and slowly but surely became more confident in other situations and became a leader. Being in a leadership position changed her perspective that people’s opinions are only temporary and only what you take it to be. Michelle is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Hospitality and Tourism. She is the recipient of a Foundation Scholarship Honoring Dr. Ruth Ono in the amount of $1,250.

Sharon Chen: Not getting into a program called LEDA Scholars, was life changing for Sharon. Applying for the program was tedious and required several documents and essays. After submitting her application, she felt a heavy weight being lifted off her shoulders. Six months later she received an email informing her that she did not get into the program. Since this was a national program and she was competing for a spot from students in all fifty states she was not surprised. However, she was disappointed, but she learned much, and says it gave her the fire to make herself stronger and a better person. Sharon is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is a Psychology major. She is the recipient of the Shiro & Jean K. Matsuo Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Kloe Lum: Kloe played on the Varsity Basketball team at McKinley as a freshman. She was nervous about playing with her upperclassmen because they were better and more experienced. During her sophomore year she gained more confidence and though still nervous before each game she gradually became less stressed. It was senior night and they were challenging Kaimuki, she wanted to make it special for the seniors so for the first time ever, she did not feel nervous. She played her heart out determined that they would win for the senior teammates. Although she had a great gaming scoring 15 points, they lost by one point. That loss gave her the determination to try harder, not only in basketball but academically. She says there is no longer afraid to fail because making mistakes is the key to success. Kloe is attending Pacific University of Oregon where she is majoring in Kinesiology. She is the recipient of The Shigeru Okino Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Anh Quach: It was during her sophomore year that Anh had the rare opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall. Excited to be able to be a part of this great event, Anh didn’t consider the amount of time that it would take to prepare for it. The countless hours of rehearsals in a cold auditorium are forever planted in her memory. Rehearsals and keeping up with other classes proved to be challenging and there were times when she wondered if it was worth it. But she remembers the performance. A performance full of the emotions from months of uniting as a band. The feeling of pride, relief and gratification after the performance was so significant when she thought about how far they had come. The band received the highest rating and she says that rating was a symbol of their strenuous efforts and tremendous growth. She states that every daunting endeavor you take and every mistake you make along the way builds character. Anh is attending the University of San Francisco where her major is Business Management. She is the recipient of the May Lee Y. & Raymond W.L. Chung Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Brandy Hitchcock: Being on the Cheerleading team at McKinley gave Brandy a feeling of camaraderie as well as learning a great lesson about volunteering and giving back to the community. Each year the Cheerleading team volunteered at the Keiki Run held on President’s Day weekend. As each runner reached the finish line, they would cheer them on loudly. The look on the runners faces gave her a warm feeling and it was an unforgettable moment. This one event has made such an impact on Brandy that she vows to continue to give back to her community, she says that good feeling you receive from volunteering is so worth it. Brandy is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Nursing. She is the recipient of a Foundation Scholarship Honoring Senator Daniel K. Inouye in the amount of $1,250.

Michelle Yim: Michelle considered herself a shy introverted young person. So shy and quiet that she would sit in the back of the classroom and never raise her hand or speak in class, she was terrified of being judged. When she entered high school, she was more intimidated than ever, it seemed like the upperclassmen were extroverts and she was afraid to approach them. But what they did do was spark an idea in her that when she became an upperclassman she would reach out to the freshmen and be the “older sister” to them. That was a turning point for her, she did reach out to the younger classmen and discovered that she wasn’t as shy as she thought. She was able help them plan activities and slowly but surely became more confident in other situations and became a leader. Being in a leadership position changed her perspective that people’s opinions are only temporary and only what you take it to be. Michelle is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Business. She is the recipient of a Foundation Scholarship Honoring Stan Seki in the amount of $1,250.

Satoko Davidson: Being in an earthquake was life changing for Satoko. Her family lived in Christchurch, New Zealand when the earthquake in 2011 struck and 185 people lost their lives. She and her older sister were in school when it struck and even though the school was small it took them quite of bit time to find each other. Their father had to ride his bike to the school because the roads were unpassable, and they were relieved that they were all safe and together. That event as traumatic as it was, it taught her so much and says since then she has done nothing but grow stronger. She feels so fortunate to live through such a disaster and is determined that she will be successful in the future. She is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Hospitality and Tourism. She is the recipient of a Foundation Scholarship Honoring Dr. Ruth Ono in the amount of $1,250.
Alyssa Payanal: Not ever liking or having any interest in the world of science Alyssa was shocked when her AP Chemistry teacher suggested that she sign up for a science competition, thinking she was joking Alyssa did not take her serious. But she was serious, and Alyssa reluctantly agreed. After her first four events she came to the realization that she liked science and could do things and get the correct answers. She went on to take part in the Physics Olympics at the University of Hawaii which sparked her interest yet further. She says the class that she found to be boring turned out to be her favorite, giving her teacher credit for challenging her. Alyssa is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Education. She is the recipient of a Foundation Scholarship in Memory of Lawrence Hirohata in the amount of $1,250.

Lou Rae Robles: Losing a first chair seating to a friend who also played the oboe for the band was the one event in his life that made an impact. After being devastated for a couple of days he came to the realization that he had taken first chair for granted and even though he was an excellent musician he should have practiced more. This was a real eye opener for him. It made him aware that he could not slack off when he is in a higher position and that he needed to keep his skills up. This experience taught him to build a strong work ethic in whatever he wants to achieve, because nothing comes as easy as we would like it to. Lou Rae is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Computer Science. He is the recipient of the Island Insurance Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Jacki Lam: In the middle of her sophomore year Jackie was feeling comfortable in the high school setting and thought it would be a good idea to challenge herself and take an AP course in her junior year. Knowing what it entailed she decided to enroll in AP Biology. The first couple of weeks were shocking, the work load and pace of the course were daunting. She felt tremendously lost when the instructor was explaining things. In order to keep up with all her classes she needed to change her study habits and get more organized. It took a bit of juggling and adjusting to, but eventually she found the rhythm and even asked her instructor for advice when she needed to. She says she does not think she would have developed strong study habits if she had not enrolled in AP Biology and says it helped her prepare for college classes. Jackie is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Graphic Design. She is the recipient of the McKinley Class of 1954 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Jada Almoguera: Entering a project in the McKinley Science Fair helped Jada find her niche in life. Her first time participating in the event was exciting and she place third among the entire school. She then advanced to the district competition where she won the best category in biomedical and health sciences and was selected to participate in the State Science Fair. She says this sparked an interest that is hard to explain, she even finds satisfaction in watching a pill dissolve. Her goal is to one day serve her community by owning her own pharmacy. Jada is attending the University of San Francisco majoring in Pharmaceutical Science. She is the recipient of the McKinley Centennial Class of 1965 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

RJ Cabico: Having his basketball coach believe in him by making him a captain of the team in his senior year gave RJ confidence and helped raise his self-esteem. He said that it gave him personal growth because as captain it put him in a role that was new to him and one that he embraced. The team went on to be 4th in the OIA East, this was done even though they were not the tallest and they had several new players. RJ loves the game because it taught him never give up on or off the court. RJ is attending Honolulu Community College where his major is Engineering. He is the recipient of a McKinley Class of 1966 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Suzie Park: Having a severe allergy attack when she was in the third grade changed Suzie’s life forever. Having to be extremely careful on what she ate was frustrating and time consuming. Her mother became over protective and it took Suzie a long time to convince her to let her play sports. Being on a team helped her to gain confidence and it allowed her to start enjoying her life. She knows that she will always have to be careful and vigilant on what she eats or for that matter even come in contact with. She says her allergy reaction has taught her to be super cautious and careful. Suzie is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Social Science and Communications. She is the recipient of the McKinley Class of 1983 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Britney Chang: On the basketball court Britney forgets the problems of the world. Off the court ACT, Colleges, Global Warming and Nuclear War haunt her. When she steps on the court and the game begins, she is in the moment and only thinks about basketball. She credits her coaches for her growth and improvement of the sport, while also gaining valuable life skills. Once she is off the court the world problems are still there, but she is ready to take on new challenges, applying lessons learned from her coaches to other aspects of her life. Britney is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is International Relations & Foreign Affairs and Political Science. She is the recipient of the McKinley Class of 1994 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Michael Jake Sumaylo: Participating in an ekiden, a long-distance relay race, was the one event in Michael’s life that stands out. He was the third runner of the team, so he waited anxiously at Maunalua Bay Beach Park for the second runner to meet him and pass the baton. The baton was passed to him and he took off running, the first four miles or so went smoothly. Then he got to Kahala and his legs started to ache, he had to keep going to Kaimuki Middle School. Having to run up Kilauea Avenue hill proved to be a challenge, he didn’t think he was going to make it. Refusing to stop he pushed himself to the limit and finally crossed the finish line. He was glad he didn’t
give up and says this event serves as a reminder to him, that if he works hard, he can accomplish a difficult challenge. Michael is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Mechanical Engineering. He is the recipient of the McKinley Class of 2013 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Kiana Ogawa: As a member of the Symphonic Wind Ensemble at McKinley Kiana had to learn to juggle her studies with her rehearsals. She was fortunate enough to participate in the New York Wind Band Festival held at Carnegie Hall. With Carnegie Hall being the most prestigious music hall in the world the band had to practice extra long hours. Maintaining good grades along with the many hours of rehearsal became a challenge for Kiana. However, the very strict study hours that she implemented helped her achieve her goal of good grades and being to say she has the distinct honor of playing at Carnegie Hall. Kiana is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Architecture. She is the recipient of the McKinley Chapter National Honor Society Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Darren Maluyo-Gilmna: Darren says he was already a success when he came to McKinley. Because of speech impairment in elementary school he was considered academically delayed and placed in special classes. His kindergarten teacher was Mr. Lee. Darren loved Mr. Lee, he taught him how to read and treated him like all the other students. One day there was a meeting with the principal, Mr. Lee and Darren’s aunt. They told him he had scored high on tests and would be placed in a regular classroom. Mr. Lee looked sad because he would no longer have Darren in his class, but he was also very proud of Darren, because when the test results were calculated, Darren had scored higher than many other students. Mr. Lee had such an impact on him that Darren will always thank him for believing in him. Darren is attending Southern Virginia University majoring in Computer Science. He is the recipient of a Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Kristine Anne Portigo: Kristine’s life changing event happened when she was just four years old. Her mother left Kristine with a cousin and moved to Hawaii. Too young to understand, Kristine was devastated. It took her a few years before she truly understood that her mother was making a sacrifice for her family and that it must have been a difficult decision to make. Kristine says that this helped her to become a strong person who can face hardships head on and be better for it. Kristine is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Nursing. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Joyce So: Being the scriptwriter, filmer and editor producing a video PBS Hawaii Hiki No, was a task that was not only difficult but time consuming and rewarding all rolled into one. She produced two videos one her junior year and one her senior year. Her take away from the experience was that taught her time management and the need to work with others as a team. She says that she is grateful for having been given the opportunity to see the importance of working together for a better finished project. She is attending Kapiolani Community College majoring in Radiologic Technology. She is the recipient of a Foundation Scholarship Honoring Dr. Richard Kosaki in the amount of $1,250.

Jayden Eastwood: Joining JROTC was an event that gave Jayden a new understanding of herself. Being shy she did not participate in school activities or community involvement events. After joining JROTC, she embraced the seven Army Values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. She has taken these values and translated them into her daily life. She says JROTC promoted her growth as a person and built her confidence. Jayden is attending Kapiolani Community College where her major is EMT. She is the recipient of the Shigeru Okino Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Jacob Torres: Jacob moved to Hawaii when he was fifteen and started at McKinley as a sophomore, he originally came from a small town in Washington State, so Hawaii was a big change for him. To his credit he got involved in sports playing soccer, but got side lined when he fractured his femur. In his junior year he got back into sports and joined cross country, soccer and track and field. In his senior year he got involved with student council and got to meet a lot of very nice teachers and advisors. His time at McKinley was life changing for him and says Hawaii really is paradise. Jacob is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Business. He is the recipient of a Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Shani Huang: Shani values her family very much, especially her mother, who Shani says works very hard. Learning from her mother’s diligence and work ethic has taught her much. She too works and even has gone to work when she sprained her wrist. Shani says she has learned to manage her money and knows that this will help her be successful. Personal satisfaction for being responsible for your own actions is what her mother instilled in her and she is determined to live her life by that motto. Shani is attending Honolulu Community College and has not yet chosen a major. She is the recipient of a Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Laulii Iosefa: Laulii credits the support of his parents for his success in and out of the classroom. He also has high regards for his wrestling coaches, they gave him the courage and mindset to place first in State Wrestling Tournament. He had the dream of winning from his sophomore year and he credits his coaches for his win. His parents taught him to be humble and kind to everyone. Laulii is attending Honolulu Community College were his major is Fire Science. He is the recipient of C.A.R.S. Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.
Angel Wu: Angel would always compare herself to her sister and cousins, who she thought were outstanding because they got good grades and played the piano. Her grades were average, and she had no desire to play the piano. One day an aunt brought over a cheesecake and it sparked a desire in Angel to bake. Her first try was a batch of brownies that she shared with her friends and they raved about them. She then would go on YouTube looking for recipes to make. She soon moved on to cooking main dishes and discovered her new calling—baking and cooking! It became her passion and wants to make a career of it. She is attending Kapiolani Community College majoring in Culinary Arts. She is the recipient of a C.A.R.S. Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

Summer Muramoto: Comparing herself to others was a way of life for Summer. This led her to make what she now looks back on as bad choices. It was a pivotal moment for her when she made the decision that she needed to find peace within herself and not to try to be what others thought she should be. She began to dress the way she liked and eat more to be healthy. She says that many people feel the burden of other people’s opinions and the influence of social media is furthering damage to self-esteem. What matters most is that their opinion of themselves is more important. Summer is attending Leeward Community College where her major is Public Health.

Huaiyu Zheng: Huaiyu’s family moved to Hawaii five years ago, mainly so his older brother would be able to go to college. Huaiyu found himself going to a new school and trying to fit in. It was about this time that he took up Chess and was given the opportunity to go to the International Chess Tournament on the mainland. To his and his parents surprise he took sixth place. This opened the door for him to excel in other areas. It gave him the confidence and motivation to do well in the classroom. What was a simple game of chess was instrumental in turning him into a well-rounded student. Huaiyu is attending Orange Coast College majoring in Biochemistry. He is the recipient of the McKinley Class of 1962 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Kathy Phan: As a freshman at McKinley Kathy was a free spirit, she made friends with those who didn’t put an emphasis on good grades or extracurricular. As a senior she matured and genuinely worried about college, scholarships and where she would be in ten years. From that one moment of clarity, she took a step forward, she joined the Ignition Organization and became a model for underclassmen. The thought of being someone others could depend on, gave her the strength to believe not only in herself as an individual, but in her ability to improve as well. Kathy is attending Kapiolani Community College where her major is Business. She is the recipient of a McKinley Class of 1962 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Katrine Salmasan: Having moved to Hawaii from the Philippines was difficult. Her first thought was, would she be able to talk to others? She did not have a large English vocabulary so communicating was difficult. When a cousin made fun of her when she misspoke a word it had a long-standing effect on her. She was self-conscious and did not talk to others. She had a hard time in Middle School because of her accent. When she enrolled at McKinley, she attempted to join a sport but that too was not a great experience. The friends she was hanging out with began to do things she did not approve of, so she looked for opportunities to meet new people. Her experience told her that she needed to be more vocal and find something she enjoyed doing. She joined the Dance Club became an officer in the club and made a lot of new friends who don’t make fun of her accent. She is attending Kapiolani Community College where she is majoring in Travel Industry Management. She is the recipient of the McKinley Class of 1962 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Leslie Vu: Leslie’s father moved to the mainland when she was four and her mother became the rock in their family. In the beginning she was sad and jealous of her friends whose fathers would drop them off at school or take them to the park. Her mother took her to visit him several years later and she was grateful for that visit. She sensed that he was having a hard time financially, so when he offered to take her clothes shopping, she gracefully declined. She said the visit makes her want to work hard so she can help everyone in her family. She is attending Kapiolani Community College where her major is Business Administration. She is the recipient of a McKinley Class of 1967 Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

Tevin Cayetano: Tevin is an only child of his parents who separated when he was little. His relationship with his parents is great and he says their separation helped him to remain active, focused and work through challenges. He writes that he was very fortunate to be on both McKinley’s JV and Varsity Basketball teams throughout high school. He credits his two coaches, Art Isaki (Lanakila Athletic Club/PAL) and Coach Dennis Agena (Kalakaua Basketball) for being great mentors to him. Even though he sat on the bench for most of the Varsity Basketball team his senior year, he says he was okay with that and cheered his teammates. He says those two coaches helped him develop academic confidence and resilience following defeat; to pick himself up and keep going; to not let anything or anyone stand in his way. Tevin is attending Honolulu Community College majoring in Liberal Arts. He is the recipient of the McKinley Class of 1967 Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.
For the past sixty plus years the class of 1957 have gathered for, as Jean Hagi puts it, for reasons too many to name, to continue what has become an “everlasting friendship(s)”. It was a difficult decision for the planning committee to discontinue their organized events and disburse their funds to an organization that is close to their hearts. In honor of the late Thomas Katsuyoshi, the class of 1957 committee leader and Stanley Seki, a co-founder of the McKinley High School Foundation, they generously donated the funds to the Foundation. Jean has played an important role in both the Class of 1957 and the Foundation, serving on the Board of Directors for over twenty years. We are grateful to the classmates of 1957, past and present, and wish them many more years of friendships.

The class of 1983 recently held their 35th year reunion, with encouragement from their classmate, Leilani Okuda, they held a “fundraiser” for the Foundation for their Class of 1983 Scholarship Fund. With Leilani at the helm the Class of 1983 has been encouraging their classmates to contribute to their scholarship fund, to date three graduating seniors have received the Class of 1983 Scholarship. We thank them for their commitment to financially assist graduates in furthering their education.

At the annual Board of Directors Meeting on November 13th, the Board of Directors welcomed the newest member to the Board, Darryl K.Y. Yim, Darryl is from the class of 2006 and is a Personal and Small Business Banker at First Hawaiian Bank at the Main Banking Branch.
Do we have your correct information?
Please help us update our data by sending us the correct information. You can either call the Foundation at 536-3832 or write us at:
McKinley High School Foundation
1039 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814