I hope that during this difficult time with the COVID-19 pandemic that you and your family are safe and healthy as we move forward together to adjust to what surely will be a new normal. May we discover the important things in life such as family, friends, and giving unselfishly of ourselves to help others.

Like all of you, the McKinley High School Foundation adjusted our meeting schedule and many of us are learning new ways to communicate with each other. We remain committed to assisting the school get our students prepared for success in life. Thank you for your continued support as we teach our students the concept of “Kahiau Me Ke Aloha”, giving back with love without expectation or reciprocation.

As the DOE prepared for COVID-19 protocols, Principal Ron Okamura shared that the staff and faculty are preparing for the safe return of its students. Successful programs such as McKinley’s Math, Robotics, and Science Olympiad Teams persist in their pursuit of excellence. The Center for Tomorrow’s Leaders (CTL), a unique program, continues to grow and provide opportunities for our students to become the leaders of tomorrow. In addition, the “Ambassadors” and “President’s Society” programs, created to enhance the opportunities to teach leadership, are ongoing.

I understand that there is a movement to change the name of McKinley High School because of President McKinley’s involvement in annexing Hawaii to the United States. If you have any position or concerns, please let us know.

I would like to reiterate that Great Schools awarded McKinley High School the 2019 College Success Awards winner. McKinley competed in a national search for College Success schools. This award honors public high schools in 25 states that are “doing a great job of preparing students to get into and succeed in college. See how this award winning school encourages kids to explore their dreams while also instilling the value of giving back to their community.” 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, noting that 97% of the school population are minority and 57% are categorized as “Economically Disadvantaged”.

The McKinley High School Foundation has supported programs such as Robotics, Band, CTL, College and Career programs, Ignition, Speech and Drama, and other school initiatives and has awarded more than $1,500,000 in scholarships to over 1,000 seniors.

Please visit the McKinley Foundation website at http://mckinleyfoundation.org.

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana,

Neal Takamori
President
Meet the 2020 McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Recipients.

Meet the 2020 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.

**Aileen Chang:** In seventh grade Aileen and two of her classmates participated in the science fair, working after school and on weekends to complete the project. They did not qualify for the state science fair and she was disappointed. In ninth grade she again experienced a similar situation. In tenth grade she entered the fair again, but with a detachment of any emotions due to her past projects. Once more she did not make it past the school science fair. But as luck would have it, a week later, her teacher told her that the judges were allowing a few more projects to compete at the district’s competition and her project was one of them. She had little hope of winning but on the day of the competition she was pleasantly surprised that she enjoyed talking to the judges and actually ran into her 8th grade science teacher. At the Awards Night she went home with Honorable Mention, Best of Category, a Stockholm Water Award, and a spot at the State Science Fair. She was recognized at the State awards ceremony but says the true accomplishment was going home feeling satisfied. Aileen is attending Stanford University with Communication as her major. She is the recipient of the Alexander & Baldwin, Inc./Matson Inc./Robert J. Pfeiffer Community Scholarship in the amount of $4,000.

**Khoa Huynh:** When he was eight Khoa’s family immigrated to the U.S. from Vietnam. It was a very trying time for him. Because he did not know English, he was placed in classes for English as a Second Language program. While he struggled to become fluent in English, his parents struggled to find employment to keep the family together. His father eventually found work and, although the family did not have the so-called fine things in life, they had each other. Walking home from school one day and seeing others who were homeless was a reality check for him and he had a new appreciation for his home and the hard work his parents put forth to make certain they had a roof over their heads and food on the table. He is a great example of what one can accomplish when they put their mind to it. Whenever he faces hardship, he repeats to himself a Vietnamese expression that translates to “with effort sharpening iron, one day a needle will form”. Khoa is attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology majoring in Electrical Engineering. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Eyvinne & Kay Lee in the amount of $4,000.

**Damien Chang:** The day before Damien was to start his first day at McKinley, he was walking to his old elementary school to volunteer and meet with his former teachers when he was hit by a car. He woke up in the hospital in an intensive care unit. He suffered a brain injury as well many other injuries. He spent the next week in the hospital and many months in rehabilitation. He could not participate in sports or any other extracurricular activities. Because of his brain injury he had to study much harder and longer than before his accident. His parents’ love and care for him during his recovery made him understand how blessed he was. While it was a traumatic experience it has been the catalyst for his resilience, determination and belief in a brighter tomorrow. Damien is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where his major is Chemical/Mechanical Engineering. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Eyvinne & Kay Lee in the amount of $4,000.

**Olivia Au:** Olivia lost her grandmother when she was a junior. Each day she would wait for the dismissal bell to ring so she could take the bus to the hospital to visit her. The special bond that she had with her grandmother is something that she truly cherished and hopes to one day have that same bond with any future grandchildren she may have. To make it even harder her grandmother passed away right before Olivia took her AP exams. Trying to concentrate on studying for the exam and her mind still trying to deal with the death of her grandmother made it a very difficult time for her. She came to realize that the events of her grandmother’s illness and passing were out of her control and she needed to focus on what was before. She credits her friends at school for helping her through a very trying time. She states that the whole experience made her reflect on life and realize how much she should cherish people in her life. Olivia is attending Purdue University majoring in Pharmacy. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Abraham & Shin Quon Wong Goo in the amount of $4,000.

**Jordan Lam:** When McKinley implemented a new class called AP Computer Science, Jordan was skeptical because he was concerned he wasn’t prepared enough for his career choice of Software Engineering. Not to be deterred, he did a research paper on the current trend that students are not being prepared academically for the computer science workforce. He interviewed several current workers in the computer science workforce and discovered that students who are prepared if they possess the foundational skills that are learned through experience such as application of knowledge to real-world problems. This research made him more confident that he will be prepared to become a Software Engineer, something that McKinley is doing to prepare students for all walks of life. Jordan is attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology where his major is Computer Science. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Abraham & Shin Quon Wong Goo in the amount of $3,000.
Mancy Huynh: At the age of thirteen Mancy’s mother moved her family to Hawaii, hoping to start a new life with Mancy and her two younger brothers. In the beginning Mancy was resentful because her mother relied on her to watch her two brothers while her mother worked. It was a struggle for the first couple of years but eventually Mancy came to understand why her mother had made such a drastic move. It also gave her a new respect for her mother and a new outlook on life. Instead of feeling sorry for herself she had a change in mindset and looked forward to learning new things and meeting new people. She was able to learn how to adjust to many various situations and now has the background knowledge on how to change things. Mancy is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa and majoring in Business/Management/Accounting. She is the recipient of a Hung Wo & Elizabeth Lau Ching Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

Melanie Yang: For many years Melanie struggled with low self-esteem. She was influenced by other people telling her what she could and could not do. While the words of others disputing her choices on what to do were hurtful, she finally decided to join two extracurricular activities that she longed to do. Dance Club and Judo turned out to be the best thing she had done in many years. Through Dance her body became more agile and flexible - this alone boosted her self-confidence and helped her succeed in other areas. It put her in what she calls her comfort zone and says that she learned to not let anyone or anything stop you from achieving greatness and desires - things will happen if you make it so. Melanie is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Nursing. She is the recipient of a Hung Wo & Elizabeth Lau Ching Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

Mai-Phi Tran-Dang: As a junior at McKinley, Mai-Phi faced the challenge of making time for studying and the extracurricular activities that she truly enjoyed. At first, she thought of giving up the activities because that would free up more time to study. She soon discovered that this had the opposite effect, while studying she would think about the activities she enjoyed. Finally, she implemented a new technique of setting a time schedule for studying and a schedule for the things that she loved and made her happy. She says that from her personal experience it is a balance of work and play, a life-long lesson she plans to use forever. She is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Psychology. She is the recipient of a Hung Wo & Elizabeth Lau Ching Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

Jun Hyung Lee: Jun Hyung and his mother moved many times when he was young. It was a difficult time for both of them. His mother struggled to put food on the table and he would feel bad because he knew his mother was not eating so that he would have enough to eat. He had a hard time making friends because he was always the new kid on campus. Seeing his mother persevere ignited him to do well. He began to read books, many, many books. As a first grader in California his teacher gave him an English test and was astonished to discover that he had the vocabulary of a sixth-grader. In second grade he got a perfect score in math and English on California’s State Standardized test. He would go on to win several regional and writing competitions. The hardships of his youth have not faded, but he has learned to move on and stand strong in the face of adversity. Jun Hyung is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where his major is Computer Science. He is the recipient of a Hung Wo & Elizabeth Lau Ching Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

Ashley Nguyen: Like many youngsters, Ashley struggled to find her own identity and to be comfortable with it. Lisa Panquites, her Needs Assessment Counselor, writes that Ashley was her go-to person when she needed a perspective from a teenager/student because Ashley has the ability to look at situations from both perspectives. She also says that Ashley has a caring nature, a willingness to help others and the ability to show empathy and concern. Choosing a path in the health field is something that did not surprise Ms. Panquites. Ashley is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Nursing/Athletic Health Care. She is the recipient of a Hung Wo & Elizabeth Lau Ching Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

Hien Duong: As a Vietnamese immigrant learning English was not easy for Hien, but she did so to make her mother happy. In life we cannot always predict a happy outcome with situations and Hien is a testament of that. Her parents separated when she was in middle school and her stepdad took over the role of raising her and her two step-siblings. It was when she was a sophomore that the realization of how great her stepdad is that was a turning point for her. She buckled down and studied harder than ever and brought up her GPA to 4.4. She helped around the house and strived to be a great role model for her siblings. Forever grateful to her stepdad, she works to make him proud. She is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Business. She is the recipient of a Kingo Hayashi, Mikako Hayashi & the McKinley Class of 1934 Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

Magnolia Basoc: Immigrating to Hawaii at a young age, Magnolia says that her first day of school as an eighth grader was a challenge. She said making friends proved difficult for her so after school she would go to the Liliha Library and find solace in books. She was intrigued about American history and would not only read books but watch documentary films on it. Her History teacher, Jonathan Loomis, writes that Magnolia is one of McKinley’s bright stars and knows that she will excel in college and that she has a bright future ahead of her. Magnolia is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Molecular and Cellular Biology. She is the recipient of the Steven & Lois Mihaylo Family Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.
Honoring Patsy Young in the amount of $1,500.

where his major is Business-Marketing/Social Work. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship who, with a bright smile on her face, thanked him for spending time with them every week. These experiences sparked personal

they created a senior prom for over 200 seniors. He became comfortable talking/listening to adults and especially remembers Lillian

Fair. This experience inspired her to pursue a major in physics and a future in STEM that now seems within her reach. Jessica is

in the amount of $1,500.

recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Dr. Raymond & Carol Yap in the amount of $1,500.

attending the University of Rochester where her major is Physics or Electrical Engineering. She is the recipient of a Scholarship in

Gayoung Park: When she was only 15, Gayoung jumped at the chance to study in Beijing. Being alone at 15 in a foreign country where you do not speak the language was intimidating. This experience helped to shape her into who she is today – someone who has a strong sense of responsibility and takes pride in assuming leadership roles. Her mother is her role model and when Gayoung has children of her own she wants to have the same kind of relationship that she and her mother share. She is attending Northeastern University where her major is Mechanical Engineering & Robotics. She is the recipient of a Carole Kai Charities Scholarship in the amount of $1,500.

in the amount of $2,000.

Victoria Nhieu: Many of us fear performing in front of an audience - for Victoria, singing is her passion. She would sing behind closed doors and watch countless hours of artists being immersed in what they were doing. She did a You Tube video and learned to accept criticism gracefully and instead of dwelling on the negative aspects of a criticism she took it as sound advice and made the adjustments. A year after her first You Tube video, she performed in front of a live audience of over one hundred people and, though she was terrified, she felt like she was standing on top of the world. Victoria is attending California Lutheran University where her major is Music Production/Recording Arts. She is the recipient of the Cades Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

Joanna Chau: During her first year at McKinley, Joanna joined the band, mainly because her friends and older sister were in the band also. Her friends soon found new friends and although the upperclassmen in the band were friendly, she did not feel comfortable around them. She compensated by practicing more to improve herself. At the end of the school year the freshman class participated in a tradition called Le Piu, which is a party celebrating the senior class to thank them for their service to the program and to congratulate them on graduating. As part of the invitations group she was able to work with her peers and was able to voice her opinion freely. This was a huge boost in her self-confidence and she now is seeking out others to help them come out of their shells. Joanna is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Travel Industry Management. She is the recipient of the Itsuko Takamura Memorial Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

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Hubert Liang: Hubert’s life took a dramatic turn when he was a sophomore - his goals that he envisioned at that time were to get good grades, earn his diploma and attend a university. However, that all changed when his mother got ill and had to retire early. He needed to step up and help out at home along with his father and brother. Taking care of his mother when she need help and making meals took its toll on his studying. He wasn’t prepared for the positive effect this had on his life, instead of following a path he had to build one. He now takes nothing for granted, especially the challenge that changed his life. He is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Computer Science. He is the recipient of the Shigeru Okino Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Miki Kojima: Miki says that her parents were not the “stereotypical Asian parents” they had a realistic academic expectation for her. They allowed her to have freedom and independence, which led her to explore her interest in computer science. From an early age the computer intrigued her. She was able to troubleshoot her computer and by the time she finished elementary school she was determined to pursue a career in computer science. In middle school her friends were competitive and told her of their desire to have a career in medicine or law. Feeling pressured she put on a façade of wanting to pursue medicine. Her parents were somewhat relieved to hear her say nothing for granted, especially the challenge that changed his life. He is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Computer Science. He is the recipient of the Shigeru Okino Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Edward Luyen: Edward states that a real challenge for him was his AP Literature and Composition class. He found the work to be difficult, mainly because it pertained to poems, plays and lots of deep comprehension of these type of writings. While most people are able to find an emotional meaning to them, for Edward they are just words. Through a lot of hard work, he made progress and ended up getting a fairly decent grade for the class. Edward is attending Kapiolani Community College where his major is Kinesiology. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Abraham & Shin Quon Wong Goo in the amount of $1,250.

Kelly Li: Not performing well in a competition as a member of the school’s HOSA club was difficult for Kelly. She had been a member since her freshman year and during her junior year she was competing for the medical assisting event. She did well until she had to perform an AIDET with the patient. She was asked to put the patient in a horizontal recumbent position, her mind drew a blank and she was mortified that she put the patient in a wrong position. She left immediately after that and told herself that this is a reminder for a lifetime. The event motivated her to aim higher and continue to improve herself. She is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Biotechnology and Biomolecular Science. She is the recipient of the Shiro and Jean (Kamishima) Matsuo Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Alexandria Buchanan: Alexandria says that being too hard on herself was difficult to overcome. She played on McKinley’s football team and during her freshman year she did not get very much playing time in. In her sophomore year the football team got a new coaching staff and she was excited for the first game of the season. However, on the first play of the game she got injured from a sack and had to play the rest of the game injured. She was upset with herself and felt like she let the team down. Her teammates, family and coaches talked to her and told her to remember that football is a team sport and she needed to stop blaming herself because that was not helping her teammates. She learned that there will be trials and tribulations in everything you do, but if you stay motivated and look at the bigger picture you will find a solution. Alexandria is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Video Productions/Film. She is the recipient of the Shigeru Okino Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

David Le: After practicing really hard for days on end for the McKinley’s JV volleyball team, he was devastated when he did not make the team. Feeling awful and like a total failure he contemplated what he should do next. Picking himself up he decided even though he wasn’t on the team he would still go to their practices. This allowed him to see the bigger picture and he came to the realization that volleyball is a team sport and his one downfall was he was not a great communicator. This was a light bulb moment for David and he vowed to concentrate on not only volleyball skills but he worked on his communication skills too. He then tried out to join a club that helps to train volleyball players known as Quicksets and was delighted to make it in the club. He tried out for the McKinley Varsity volleyball team and made it too. David says that if you put in the hard work and believe in yourself you can accomplish whatever goal you have in mind. David is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Architecture. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Senator Daniel K. Inouye in the amount of $1,250.

Lisa Vo: Not knowing what she wanted to accomplish in life weighed on Lisa. She had possibilities and opportunities that would have led her life full of riches. That being said, the challenge was that they did not instill a passion in her to gravitate toward them. In her junior year a tee-shirt printing project came up in her Graphic Design class and it sparked her interest. She enjoyed the process of designing and printing shirts. This experience gave her the focus in life she was searching for, she would pursue a career in Graphic Design. During her last year at McKinley she was still somewhat uncertain about the future when she happened to be going through her closet and saw all those tee-shirts from the prior year – it was like an epiphany – she said I am going to start a clothing business with sustainable and charitable features. She now looks forward to the future and is excited about all she can achieve. Lisa is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Graphic Design. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Stanley Seki in the amount of $1,250.
this because they felt it would offer her a stable income. Then her father got injured in a car accident and her family struggled financially. She was taking an AP Chemistry class when she realized her heart was not into medicine as a career. Only after talking to her Japanese teacher did her conflict come into perspective. Her teacher said, “In life, people can change their career more than ten times. You just have to adapt and explore the world to see what’s right for you”. From that day on she was able to redeem her old dream. Miki is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Computer Science. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Dr. Ruth Ono in the amount of $1,250.

Regina Nguyen: Not making the McKinley volleyball team was disappointing for Regina, but the coach saw how much effort she had put in during practice and she was made manager of the team her sophomore year. She enjoyed the camaraderie with the team and also managed to keep up her grades. Then in her junior year she had made an impulsive decision to take four AP classes. She had not considered the extra study time that AP classes required and she soon became overwhelmed. She did make the volleyball team that year so with practice, games and the AP classes her grades slipped in the first quarter. After the volleyball season ended, she worked hard to bring up her grades and learned a valuable lesson— one can push through an obstacle if they face it head on. She is attending California Lutheran University where her major is Performing Arts. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in Memory of Lawrence Hirohata in the amount of $1,250.

Sharmaine Ramirez: Suddenly collapsing in English class her junior year proved to be life changing for Sharmaine. The school nurse thought that she was having an asthma attack and after treating her for asthma with no effect the nurse realized that Sharmaine was actually having a panic attack. Sharmaine had a problem of taking on too many things at one time, whether it be as a member of clubs, projects or exams and competitions—and it was starting to take a toll on her. She never said no to anything that came up, she always felt that she could do it all. After that initial attack she started to eliminate projects and clubs that, although they were interesting, she did not have a passion for. With that one change, life became much easier and she now looks forward to whatever the future will hold. She is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Sociology. She is the recipient of the Island Insurance Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Jordan Quach: Jordan was bullied in elementary school because of his small stature—short and skinny. This bothered him a lot and it was only when he joined tennis that he began to come out of his shell and shine. He would rush to the tennis courts right after school and practice. One day he heard some elderly people talking about him—they said he would never be great because of his size. This weighed heavily on him and he made it his mission to become the best. He went on to win his first tournament by defeating the number one player. He said he proved to the elderly that a small skinny boy could become the best. He learned that no matter how weak or small you are, you’ll be able to achieve whatever you want if you put in the effort. Jordan is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where his major is Computer Engineering. He is the recipient of the McKinley Class of 1954 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Ngoc Nguyen: Ngoc’s mother had an authoritarian parenting style. Ngoc and her mother had a difficult time communicating when Ngoc became a teenager. If things didn’t go well for her, Ngoc would blame her mother and she didn’t have any aspirations. She felt hopeless and alone and only when she was in high school did she come to understand that her mother was acting the way she did because of the culture of her East Asian family history. With this revelation Ngoc talked to her mother and they came to an understanding and have a warm relationship. Ngoc is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Human Resource Management. She is the recipient of the McKinley Class of 1962 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Tingna He: Tingna’s family immigrated to Hawaii from China when she was young. She and her brother did not speak English so school was difficult. She didn’t make friends and because she wasn’t fluent in English she didn’t see the need to do homework. Then when she was in fourth grade her teacher, a strict and caring person, had her stay after school for a conference with him and a Chinese speaking teacher. He asked her what she wanted in the future, she replied “I don’t know”. He told the teacher who spoke Chinese, to tell me that “I better start working hard right now, or else I would be like the homeless people in Chinatown”. This scared her enough to go home and start studying immediately. Any word she did not understand she would translate it with a Chinese translator. In her sophomore year she worked after school at a Japanese restaurant and gained a lot of social experiences. She also worked at a pharmacy which made her more determined to have a future in the health field. She is attending the University of San Francisco where her major is Biology/Psychology. She is the recipient of the McKinley Class of 1965 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.
Gordon Cheung: When Gordon’s parents separated, he went through a challenging period. He had a difficult time making friends and isolated himself until he came to the realization that this was not a healthy lifestyle. He joined the McKinley High School Judo and the Science Olympiad, which put him in a team environment where he had to learn to communicate and work with his peers. It was an enjoyable experience for him and it helped him gain self-confidence. He has a special relationship with both of his parents and says that he has learned valuable skills and grew to be an understanding person. Gordon has enlisted in the United States Army Reserve and when he returns in December, he will be attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where he will major in Chemistry. He is the recipient of the McKinley Class of 1967 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Kylee Lin-Stanek: Not being successful in elementary school was especially hard for Kylee. She needed to take extra classes to move up in her grade and spent the summer catching up on her studies. When she started at a middle school where she did not know anyone, she considered it to be a clean slate and was determined to do well. She stuck to her plan and worked and studied hard. She was pleased that she succeeded in all of her classes but was especially excited to know that she excelled in math, was placed in an advanced math class the following year and took college-level calculus. This gave her the confidence she needed to continue her new-found love of learning. She says that had she not stumbled in the beginning she does not think that she would have pushed as hard as she did. Kylee is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Nursing/Marketing. She is the recipient of the McKinley Class of 1967 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Jayson Ganal: In his sophomore year Jayson and his group advanced to the State Science Fair. In their junior year they were confident that they would progress even further, especially since they placed second in the school competition. A week after the district competition they were told they had not made it. The complete sense of failure overwhelmed him, he thought their hard work was wasted and it was painful to even think about it. Time went by and the total sense of failure was still on the group’s mind. They met and strategized how they could do things better and when the opportunity came for them to compete in the Science Bowl they regrouped and worked even harder. They ended up making it to the quarter-final of the Science Bowl and felt somewhat vindicated. Jayson said in retrospect he learned humility and, while being confident is a good thing, being overconfident can be a downfall. Jayson is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where his major is Electrical Engineering. He is the recipient of the McKinley Class of 1993 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Weishun He: Weishun does not consider himself a math whiz but managed to get A’s and B’s in class. Curiosity got him one day so he signed up to be on the Math Team. To say that the first practice test was challenging would be an understatement. He pondered over the three-point question and with time being short moved on the five-point question and could not even fathom how to approach it. He said it would have been easier to just quit at that point, but he kept trying to solve the problems in his mind. So, he did what was the smart thing to do - he asked his teammates and the team captain for their input and opinions and gained confidence when he realized that they did not look down at him but considered him one of them. Weishun is attending Indiana University majoring in Computer Science. He is the recipient of the McKinley National Honor Society Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Travis Salyphone: Travis credits his father for instilling in him the importance of a good education. His father came to Hawaii as a refugee and could not speak English. Through pure determination and grit, he found a job and eventually became a successful self-employed auto mechanic. With such a great role model to follow, Travis knew from an early age that doing well in school would make his future brighter and financially secure. So, he took AP classes, he joined the Robotics Team and the Math Team, going to one right after the other when school ended. Then he realized that his grades were slipping because he put too much attention on the extracurricular activities. He learned to prioritize and says that this lesson is something he will always adhere to. Travis is attending Illinois Institute of Technology where his major is Mechanical Engineering. He is the recipient of the Jeanette (Lee) Kawamura Memorial Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Yinglin Yu: Yinglin’s parents were lenient in some areas but when it came to education, they emphasized the importance of having an education in a competitive society. Coming to Hawaii when she was nine life seemed obscure. Her parents did not speak English so she had to rely on herself to do homework. Being bullied in school because of her language barrier was difficult. She couldn’t explain to her teachers what was happening because she couldn’t come up with the English translation. On the bright side, this motivated her to learn as much English in as short of time that was physically possible. She would read, write and listen to English conversation channels. By fourth grade she could communicate with classmates and was moved from the English as a Second Language class to a regular class. By these struggles early in life, she learned that hard work pays off. Yinglin is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Psychology. She is the recipient of the Loretta (Lee) Sawai Memorial Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Alexia Fu: In 2019 Alexia and her mother were forced to leave their apartment with only a few items because water damage and mold were discovered and it could have hazardous to their health. For the next few months, she stayed with friends and family while her mother did the same. They stayed separately so that they would not be a burden on the people that housed them. In spite of the upheaval Alexia managed to do well in school and was on the McKinley Honor Roll the first quarter. She also competed in the Hawaii High School Mock Trial Tournament and
won the Outstanding Attorney Award. She states that even though she lived with only the bare essentials for the year, she learned the difference between needs and wants. Alexia is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Journalism. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

**Leemo Taula:** Moving to Hawaii from Samoa her sophomore year was challenging for Leemo. The most obvious one was the language barrier; English was a second language for her and just trying to do homework was difficult. She found the curriculum at McKinley much harder than her school in Samoa. She had to memorize teachers’ names, classrooms and class schedules while trying to improve her English. Every day it got a little better and after five months she felt comfortable enough to ask her teachers for help if she needed it. Leemo is attending Kapiolani Community College majoring in Education. She is the recipient of the Timothy Takaezu Scholarship Honoring the Class of 1976 in the amount of $2,500.

**Karla Sales:** After moving to Hawaii from the Philippines in 2013, Karla had many obstacles to overcome. Attending school was her biggest challenge. She was bullied because of her accent and was teased for being “first off the boat”. Instead of letting the bullies get the better of her, she used the negativety to motivate herself to do the best she could. She recognized that getting a good education would be the most important thing she could do for herself. Eventually she met other students who had recently moved to Hawaii from the Philippines and they shared their dreams and goals with each other. Karla is attending Honolulu Community College where her major is Criminal Justice. She is the recipient of the Timothy Takaezu Scholarship Honoring the Class of 1976 in the amount of $2,500.

**Christian Garay:** As early as middle school Christian became self-conscious of his looks. When he started at McKinley, he made the decision to become healthy and so he joined the McKinley Army JROTC and the Tennis Team. He felt that it would give him an opportunity to meet new people and get some exercise at the same time. What he discovered was so much more, JROTC teaches not only discipline but the importance of service to others. He learned about helping his community, he made new friends and to top it all off his grades also went up. He is now a comfortable, proud graduate of McKinley High School. Christian is attending Honolulu Community College majoring in Electrical Engineering. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Dr. Richard Kosaki in the amount of $1,250.

**Abigail Anne Montero:** Losing her mother from a heart attack at the young age of twelve was heartbreaking for Abigail. Her mother was everything to her and after she passed Abigail fell into a deep depression. Her grades fell because she did not attend classes. Then she came to the realization that the one thing that her mother would want for her would be to get a good education and become the best person she could be. She developed a passion for learning and developed a desire to help others. Abigail is attending Kapiolani Community College where her major is Nursing. She is a recipient of the Shigeru Okino Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

**Emily Sou:** When her parents separated Emily was still a young child and it traumatized her. When she started the first grade, she turned in her homework to the teacher and the teacher told her it looked really good. That one comment was a true motivator for Emily. As young as she was, she knew that doing well in school was something that she could do and it made her proud and she is grateful to that teacher for instilling her with the desire to learn. Emily is attending Honolulu Community College majoring in Travel Industry Management. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

**Jake Tran:** From an early age Jake dealt with excessive anxiety. If there was a new event or situation his anxiety would flare up and would make him freeze up. This continued during his time in elementary school. After enrolling at McKinley he started to come out of his shell and volunteered to help in the classroom and made the decision to look for a part-time job. With the help of family, friends and teachers he worked on his resume and sent it out to some stores. When none of them gave him an offer for a job, he felt the anxiety coming back and he felt his self-confidence slipping away. Then one day he was at a bookstore that he went to frequently and noticed they were hiring. He approached them, gave them his resume and hoped for the best. After a few weeks passed, he got the phone call from the bookstore offering him a position. He knows that he will have to repeat this again in the future but also knows he is better prepared for it. Jake is attending Kapiolani Community College where his major is Accounting/Finance. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

**Lester Sibal:** On top of being very shy, Lester also found English difficult as his family had immigrated from the Philippines and English was their second language. He was especially terrified of speaking in front of the class. To overcome this, he took the Broadcast Media course, making school announcements. He took a special interest in public speaking and when he was interviewed for Ignition, he had to muster up all the self-confidence he could. He credits Ignition for helping him to overcome his fear of speaking in front of others. Lester is attending Kapiolani Community College majoring in Nursing. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.
Hei Tong Lao: Hei Tong's mother moved to Hawaii with Hei Tong who was eight and her older brother. In her family's culture, emphasis and affection are bestowed on the male gender and the female gender is required to do the housework and other chores. Hei Tong had an easier time learning English than her brother and he became resentful of her for that one reason. To compensate her mother had Hei Tong do the housework, feeling that this was more important for Hei Tong than education. While she did the housework, she also studied hard in school so she would get a good education. She knows it won't be easy but she is determined to get her college degree. Hei Tong is attending Kapiolani Community College where her major is Psychology. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Raychelle Tava: Not doing well in her geometry class was a huge challenge for Raychelle. She blamed her teacher for not teaching her well enough. She did not put forth any effort to get better grades and figured she would fail the class. Then one day in her business class her teacher, Mr. Fukuhara, told the class a quote saying, "change your thoughts to change your reality". This quote inspired her to do a self-reflection and knew that if she wanted to get a good grade in Geometry she needed to speak up and ask the teacher questions. She was elated to receive an A in the class at the end of the first quarter, hard work and diligence pays off. Raychelle is attending Northwestern Christian University majoring in Civil Engineering. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Sarah Aburabi: Living in Jordan for two years during her middle school years was a real challenge for Sarah. Her father wanted the family to understand their culture and felt that actually living there would be the best way to accomplish this. She was taught Arabic classes which were Religion, Arabic and Quran. They were tested every day and they would take all classes every day, such as Biology, Chemistry and Physics all at the same time. Her mother supported her and would help her. She helped her school by starting a girls' basketball team and soon her grades got better. Then to her surprise the school told her they were going to have a basketball tournament; she was so happy she cried. Overcoming these challenges has prepared Sarah for the future. She is attending Kapiolani Community College where her major is Nursing. She is the recipient of a Scholarship in Honor of the Class of 1957 in the amount of $1,250.

Moses Dela Torre: Trying out to play football at McKinley was a huge challenge for Moses. His peers gave him negative comments and told him he probably wasn't cut out to play football. Being persistent he joined the team, the coach thought he was a rookie and he had to work harder than his teammates to prove his coach wrong. His teammates had played football before and knew the plays and positions. He practiced hard and by the end of the season made some big plays during games. He credits his coach for helping him improve his skills. Moses is attending Honolulu Community College majoring in Automotive Technology. He is the recipient of a C.A.R.S. Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Kauwela Hawelu: Kauwela writes that being a teen parent is by far her hardest challenge. Being responsible for another human being is not an easy task and even more so if you are a teenager. She loves her daughter and has learned to make sacrifices that all parents do. She needed to learn at a young age how to manage money. She is extremely proud of how far she has come and knows that the future will be brighter. Kauwela is attending Honolulu Community College where her major is Cosmetology. She is the recipient of a C.A.R.S. Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Phuong Ta: During her sophomore and junior years Phuong says she went through a rough spot because she did not know how to speak English. She was bullied in school because of the language barrier so she started skipping classes. She directed her anger at her mother for moving them to Hawaii. Then she came to the realization that her mother only wanted to make a better life for all of them. Phuong knew she was wrong and from that day forward she put her nose to the grindstone and improved her grades immensely. She is attending Kapiolani Community College majoring in Nursing. She is the recipient of the McKinley Class of 1983 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Kai Hattori-Crozier: Although Kai is a US citizen, he attended school in Japan, graduating from a Japanese junior high school. When he enrolled at McKinley, he was told that his English was at a third-grade level. That was such a devastating blow to him that he went into a deep depression. The one thing that helped him overcome this challenge were his friends and the teachers at McKinley. They recognized he needed extra help and he always felt welcomed by the teachers. When he needed someone to talk to his friends were there to listen. Kai is attending Kapiolani Community College where his major is Accounting. He is the recipient of the McKinley Class of 1994 School Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.
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Joyce (Louie) Leung

Class of ’94
Adrian Dhakhwa
Class of 1994 Scholarship Fund
Reko Lin
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Cory Mitsui
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Andy Mounthongdy
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Christine Mounthongdy
Christopher Yagi

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Lancel Lavarias
Cindy Trinh

Class of ’97
Mark Munar

Class of ’98
Kayleen Koashigawa
In honor of the McKinley Judo Team and the McKinley Speech & Debate Team

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Maggie Kwok
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Class of ’15
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