SAPA 2010 Scholarship Winners

The SAPA Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program was established by the Sino-American Pharmaceutical Professionals Association (SAPA) in 1999. The SAPA Scholarship and Excellence in Education for Life Sciences Foundation is dedicated to recognize and support excellence on the part of outstanding high school students, and to encourage the finest high school graduates to develop career in Life Sciences. Each scholarship awards a one-time fund of $1000 towards tuition payment. The Trustees intend to award at least two SAPA Scholarships each year. All applicants for SAPA Scholarship must express their interest in pursuing careers related to life sciences.

We received numerous applications from a number of highly qualified high school seniors in 2010. They are from many states across the country, and all demonstrated outstanding academic achievements. Each candidate was evaluated not only on the academic records such as grades, class rank, SAT score, but also on other important factors including awards, personal essay, recommendation letters, leadership and extracurricular activities. Three final winners were selected in 2010. They are Cynthia Deng, Jennifer Huang and Joseph Zhong.

Cynthia Deng, is a graduate of Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, Connecticut. Her interest in the sciences and her enthusiasm for research was further nurtured in the Science Research Program at Choate, where she studied the effects of circadian cycle disruptions on tadpole development. In 2009, she worked in a lab that studied retinal neuron development, immersing herself in research to find the roles of a receptor in neuron development. Her dissertation and school-wide presentation on the results and her commitment to the sciences earned her the school award for greatest potential in the sciences, the CRH award for overall excellence in science, and the Paul Juliff Award for Outstanding Contributions to Both the Arts and the Sciences. Cynthia is also a National Merit Scholarship Winner, AP Scholar with Honor, and junior inductee into the Cum Laude Society. Other academic awards include the school prizes for excellence in advanced mathematics and in Spanish, and the Rassweiler Award for Academic Excellence. Following her passion for singing, she lead the first alto section in Festival and Chamber Choruses and was an active member of an a cappella group, High Fidelity. Her love of the Spanish language and culture led her to spend a term abroad in Spain, tutor students in Spanish, and lead the Spanish Club. She also plays on the Varsity Field Hockey team and earned recognition as a NFHCA High School National Academic Squad Scholar-Athlete as well as the Coaches’ Field Hockey Award. She has taught English at summer camps in China and enjoys volunteering at the local YMCA and High Road learning center for the mentally disabled. Cynthia intends to major in Biology at Yale this coming fall.
Acceptance Speech

As a hopeful young scientist among experienced SAPA members today, I am extremely grateful for the honor of being recognized and awarded by such an influential organization. I want to thank the SAPA committee for contributing to my further education and increasing my research opportunities as I enter college. The support of the SAPA community means a lot to me and continues to encourage me in my scientific endeavors, and I hope to realize the potential that SAPA sees in me. I also hope to join SAPA in contributing to the collaborative process of advancement in science and education.

Jennifer Huang, a graduate of Methacton High School in Eagleville, PA, has pursued a multitude of interests while maintaining outstanding grades. As a four year honor roll student, she has been recognized as a 2009 National Merit Finalist, a recipient of the Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award, and as an AP Scholar. An avid lover of the sciences, she started her scientific interest in second grade with a simple project titled “What does a plant need to grow?” Since then, she has continued to pursue this passion throughout the years. Her achievements in science have earned her the opportunity to serve as the president of her high school’s Science Club, and to represent Pennsylvania at the annual conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She has also been inducted as a lifetime member of the American Junior Academy of Science. In addition to her interest in science, Jennifer is an active member in the community. As vice president of her school’s chapter of Key Club International, she has worked on countless service projects dedicated to assisting others. Her volunteering endeavors include raising over $1100 for the Norristown homeless shelter, answering Santa letters from local second graders, and fundraising for organizations such as Pennies for Patients, UNICEF, and March of Dimes. Additionally, as a member of the National Honor Society, she spent time every week tutoring Chinese immigrant students, helping them attain a better grasp of the English language. Outside of the classroom, Jennifer has been a member of the cross country team for all four years of high school and she organizes soccer games during the summer for the community youth. This fall, Jennifer plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh, majoring in neuroscience, and will pursue a medical career. sciences at Harvard University and continue his contributions to cancer research.

Acceptance speech:

I would like to thank the members of the Sino-American Pharmaceutical Professionals Association for awarding me with this
scholarship. I am honored to be commended by such a distinguished organization committed to promoting scientific progress. As a young child, I was propelled toward the field of medicine when I watched as my best friend’s mother, someone whom I regarded almost as my second mother, lost her battle against cancer. From that moment on, I wished to help cancer patients and others with health problems. Of course, the road toward becoming a doctor will be long and arduous. Thus, I am very grateful to SAPA, for this scholarship will aid me in achieving that dream of becoming a physician. As an aspiring medical practitioner, I look forward to working with SAPA in the future, joining the discussions on public health and collaborating with others on the advancement of science. Thank you again for your support.

Joseph Zhong, is a graduate of Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights, New Jersey. Throughout high school, he has participated in a wide range of activities while maintaining excellent grades in the most challenging classes his school has to offer. He was President of his high school’s JSA chapter, vice president of Computer club and an active participant of Science Olympiad, Future Business Leaders of America and the Junior Engineering Technical Society’s TEAMS competition. Outside of school, he attended Columbia University’s Science Honors Program junior and senior year. During his summer breaks, he has worked on commercial research in microprejectors and scientific research in computational biology. In 2009 he was recognized as an AP Scholar with Distinction. Joseph is most interested in studying Computer Science or Chemical Engineering and Finance in the Jerome Fisher Program of Management and Technology at the University of Pennsylvania.

Acceptance speech:

I would like to thank the Sino-American Pharmaceutical Professionals Association for honoring me with this scholarship. I would also like to thank my family, especially my mom and dad, for their continued support throughout high school. This scholarship is one of SAPA’s most important programs because it shows the organization’s commitment towards the study of life sciences and science in general. I will be sure to uphold SAPA’s standard of excellence at Penn and support its mission towards global scientific cooperation and communication. Thank you again for your support.