SAPA 2011 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 2011 from many states across the country. 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 2011. They are Louis Li, David Zhao and Benjamin Altman.

Louis Li, is a graduate of Monte Vista High School in Danville, CA. As an avid learner, he has received various academic honors, graduating as a National Merit Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, and four year honor roll student. As a high school student, he remained active in scientific research. He has presented his research on ligand selection for targeted delivery of anticancer medicine and a novel nanodiagnostic method for Alzheimer’s disease at numerous research competitions. Louis has also been a five-year competitor in speech and debate, receiving awards on regional, state, and national levels. His accomplishments in a subdivision of public speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, include placing first in the state of California and the top eight nationwide for each of the past two years. Outside of his academic endeavors, Louis has been actively involved in community service. A recipient of two President’s Volunteer Service awards, he has served as a Mathcounts coach for middle school students and a science fair mentor for elementary school students. In addition, he founded a nonprofit organization, SeniorTech, to provide free computer classes to seniors. Louis will be studying Molecular and Cellular Biology at Harvard University, where he will continue to pursue his interests in scientific research.

Acceptance Letter

I am extremely honored to be recognized by the Sino-American Pharmaceutical Professionals Association. I would like to thank its members for awarding me with this scholarship. Throughout the science symposia and fairs of the past four years, I began to grasp the profound impact of scientific research. Just as the SAPA Scholarship
and Excellence in Education Program encourages scientific communication, I hope to continue sharing my passion for science and technology with others. As countless medical problems still remain unsolved, it is the members of organizations like SAPA that stand on the frontier of novel research. I aspire to make my own contribution one day, and I am very grateful for SAPA for its support in my endeavors.

**David Zhao**, is a graduate of Montgomery High School in Skillman, New Jersey. He has not only tackled the most challenging classes his school offers and taken mathematics courses at Princeton University for math majors in his senior year, but also immersed himself in activities that run the gamut. He was a Science Olympiad captain, a Science Bowl co-captain, YMCA Model United Nations Environment and Technology Committee chair, Montgomery High School Model United Nations executive board member, American Regions Mathematics League CJML B team captain, National Honor Society tutoring head, JV tennis captain, and Montgomery High School class historian. Additionally, he was a New Jersey Governor’s School in the Sciences scholar, American Legion Jersey Boys State delegate, and Presidential Scholars Award candidate. Other accolades include Chinese American Chemical Society Young Chemist Award, National AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, and Montgomery High School awards for science, mathematics, and citizenship. Satisfying his love for music, he was the principal saxophonist of the Montgomery High School Wind Ensemble and Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra Wind Symphony and the lead alto in the NJ-IAJE Region II High School Jazz Ensemble as well as the Montgomery High School Wind Ensemble treasurer. During the school year, he volunteered at the local Huaxia Chinese School to teach tennis and, during the summer, he volunteered at the local library to help run the Children’s Summer Reading Club and to help run various programs. David intends to major in chemistry at Princeton University.

**Acceptance Letter**

I would like to thank the Sino-American Pharmaceutical Professionals Association for recognizing me with this prestigious scholarship award. SAPA aims to facilitate communication between fields to promote pharmaceutical science and technology and I hope to meet the expectations of that goal. I would also like to thank my parents for their encouragement, my teachers for their expertise, and the Montgomery Township School District for a great education. As the son of a pair of chemists, I developed an interest in science. Gradually, through my activities and experiences, this curiosity has evolved into an interest in the interactions of chemistry and law. In this way, I
intend to contribute to fulfilling SAPA’s mission. Thank you so much for your support.

Benjamin Altman, is proud to be the 16-year-old valedictorian of Danbury High School in Danbury, Connecticut, ranking first in his class of 664 since freshman year. He is a National Merit scholarship Winner, a Connecticut Governor’s Scholar, and a National AP Scholar with 12 AP courses to his credit. He received the Rensselaer Award for Outstanding Achievement in Science and Mathematics and the Columbia University Book Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement. In school he was President of the Math Team, winning its Top Scorer award, and Captain of the Geography Team which placed 3rd in the 2011 Connecticut Geography Challenge, and 1st regionally and 6th nationally in the Academic WorldQuest competition in 2009. Benjamin has devoted many years to the study of both piano and violin, winning prizes in state piano competitions. He is an All-State violinist who played for six years in the Danbury Community Orchestra, achieving the position of concertmaster. He has also enjoyed pursuing science research, with prize-winning projects in Science Horizons and the Connecticut Science Fair three years in a row, including 1st prize in Computer Science, and awards for Excellence in Physical Science and Analytical Technique. Last summer, he was able to take his passion for research to the next level as an intern at the pharmaceutical company Boehringer Ingelheim. There, he had the privilege of experiencing the drug development process firsthand, and learning the fascinating Chemistry behind the creation of medicine. Following his passion for science and technology, Benjamin has chosen to attend the University of Pennsylvania, in the Jerome Fisher Management and Technology program, and will pursue dual degrees in Engineering and Finance.

Acceptance Letter

I am very grateful to the Sino-American Pharmaceutical Association for awarding me this honor. I am disappointed that I will not be present to express my gratitude in person, as I will be traveling in China at the time of the awards presentation. I would like to thank SAPA for its recognition and for the scholarship. Especially at the present cost of tuition, this financial support is highly appreciated. I would be remiss if I did not also acknowledge SAPA's support for the sciences. As a student pursuing an education in science, I hold SAPA's support for the sciences and for research in the highest regard. I know that this scholarship will help me pursue avenues in science throughout college, and contribute to scientific discovery in the future. Thank you again for your generous recognition.