



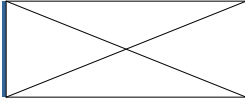
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## Thousands of dollars awarded to help Oak Park's graduating seniors

By **Sophia Fischer** [sfischer@theacorn.com](mailto:sfischer@theacorn.com)

Community groups recognized Oak Park High School seniors last week for achievements in academics, athletics, the arts, service and leadership.

Scholarships were presented by the National Charity League, a nonprofit organization of mothers and daughters; Westlake Women's Club; Oak Park Baha'i, and Prudential Realty.

The Agoura Youth Basketball Association's scholarship was awarded in memory of Cody Badalato, an Oak Park teen who died suddenly in December

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Sports	of leukemia.
Pets	"It never ceases to amaze me how the accomplishments of our students keep getting greater," said Principal Andi Mallen. "The awards are so generous and well-deserved."
Police	
Faith	Erin Walker, Sara Veliz and Mateen Saffarian were commended by Oak Park school board member Cindy Vinson for caring for homeless and working-poor patients at the Westminster Free Clinic.
Family	
Dining & Entertainment	"They've given hundreds of hours to patients. We will greatly miss their services," Vinson said.
Letters	
Columns	Of the 650 volunteers at Los Robles Hospital and Medical Center in Thousand Oaks, 250 are high school students, said presenter Irene Brennick. The helpers discharge patients, deliver blood to the lab and man the nonprofit gift shop. The hospital presented 18 scholarships to Conejo students, including David Reid and Jesse Chen for 300 service hours, and Ryan Chan for 250 hours.
Editorials	
Archive	
Special Section Archive	The Conejo Valley Association of Realtors presented scholarships to students in 11 local schools. Oak Park's recipient was Jesse Chen.
Advertising	"Just reading everything they accomplished in academics, athletics, everything, was amazing. It was hard to choose," presenter Aleksandra Hunt said.
Private Party	The Democratic Women's Council gave scholarships to five Conejo Valley students. Oak Park's winner was Alice Wang.
Classifieds	Calling her a "sincere and enthusiastic learner," Oak Park counselor Cheryl DiSpaltro presented Alana Drucker with the Oak Park Classified Teachers Association award. Oak Park counselor Debi Fries recognized Jesse Chen and Amanda Cox on behalf of the association.
Private Party Order	
Rentals Order	
Rentals	Oak Park choir director Heidi Cissell presented Kerry Anderson and Lauren Rudner with scholarships for their chorus involvement. The Oak Park Performing Arts Association, represented by Susan Berman, recognized Jordan Stidham, Gretchen Waldron and Justin Michel for dedication to the drama
Real Estate	

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program.

Tiana Dafesh received a scholarship for her visual art contributions. Robin Stidham recognized Chris Pigozzi, Lauren Rudner and Jordan Stidham for their ComedySportz team leadership. Seth Kaplan and Teddy Yu earned scholarships for instrumental music program involvement.

Oak Park Parent-Faculty Club president Gloria Morl presented eight scholarships: Seth Kaplan, Adam Kinberg, Jordan Stidham, Julia Robinson, Ilana Kaye, Brianna Fischer, Alice Wang and Ben Pyle.

Michael Brinkley and Amanda Cox were honored as scholarathletes by the Army Reserve.

The Conejo Valley Chinese Cultural Association recognized Tiffany Wang, Carl Chen, Jesse Chen, Maize Wang, Alice Wang and Shirley Young for service to the Chinese language and cultural education program. The Oak Park community was commended for its commitment to the high school's Chinese program, helping to raise \$12,000 to add a third year of Chinese language. A grant application is under way to obtain funding to expand the program to the middle and elementary schools and add a fourth year at the high school.

The Rotary Club of Westlake Village presented scholarships to seniors Ben Pyle and Brianna Fischer.

"These students put service above self, giving back to those who've given to them," said presenter Larry McLaughlin.

Lauren Barglowski was honored by Lili Rahmati of Empowered Bookkeeping LLC. Rahmati is an Oak Park resident and business owner who seeks to inspire young women to pursue business careers.

Rahmati described Lauren as "an exemplary young lady who has overcome numerous challenges to become a pillar in the community and in her school."

Michael Brinkley earned a \$50,000 UCLA ROTC scholarship.

Lt. Col. Kramer described meeting Michael last fall: "In that few minutes I saw

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something in that individual that we need in our country for our future," Kramer said. "He's done some outstanding things as a scholar, athlete and leader."

Athletic scholarships were presented by Oak Park High athletic directors Ann Pettit and Dick Billingsley to Grayson Phillips, Julia Rice, Lauren Kawamoto, Kyle Andrus, Jake Hagen, Lauren Rosen, Trevor Goehring and Sarah Kiner.

"We are extremely proud of our athletic program and our athletes," Pettit said.

Additional scholarships were awarded to Corey Jacoby by the Kiwanis Club; Stephen Lamm from Best Buy; Mateen Saffarian from State Farm; Cody Petersen from Chapman University; Derek Green from Indiana University; Brittany Thompson from UC Santa Barbara, and Meghan Toomayan from the University of San Diego.

Maize Wang was announced as the 2009 class salutatorian and Alice Wang as valedictorian. Maize will attend Cornell University in New York and Alice will attend the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.