



# FCBA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The FCBA Foundation is pleased to announce the award of eleven scholarships (including a laptop computer) to graduating seniors from four District of Columbia high schools to assist these students as they move forward in their educational careers. The Foundation is committing more than \$135,000 to this year's scholarship recipients, the largest amount ever. The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the support of **BellSouth, CBS, Cingular, Comcast Corporation, Cox Enterprises, CTIA Wireless Foundation, Lucent, Microsoft, Motorola, News Corp., Sprint, T-Mobile, Verizon, Verizon Wireless, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, Fletcher Heald & Hildreth PLC, Lampert & O'Connor PC, Lawler, Metzger, Milkman & Keeney, LLC, Morrison & Foerster LLP, Sidley Austin Brown & Wood, and Swidler Berlin LLP**, in helping to make this year's scholarships and laptops possible.

*Photos by Mark Van Bergb*

## BEZA ABEBE

Bell Multicultural High School  
\$12,000 Comcast/FCBA

Born in Ethiopia, Beza has been in the U.S. for only two years. He emigrated here after his parents became political targets of the Ethiopian government, and after his mother and older sister received political asylum. Beza is an outstanding high school student (4.25 GPA) who has taken numerous AP classes, along with college-level classes in biomedical engineering, mathematical modeling, and calculus II at the University of Maryland, College Park. He tutors other students in math and received glowing recommendations from his teachers. Beza plans on majoring in biomedical engineering, with a minor in computer programming at Johns Hopkins.



## HILINA AGERGIZAT

Roosevelt Senior High  
\$20,000 Motorola/FCBA

Hilina, who was born in Ethiopia, hopes to become a medical research writer after studying biology and journalism at Virginia Commonwealth University. She is an outstanding student (ranked second) and the managing editor of Roosevelt's award-winning school newspaper. Some of her other activities include radio and television production in Roosevelt's communications program, President of the National Honor Society, advocating against substance abuse for the youth LEAD organization, editor of the yearbook, and Vice President of the school's peer mediation program. Hilina also works four days per week at Rite Aid.



## MOHAMED DIOUF

Bell Multicultural High School  
\$12,000 FCBA

Mohamed stopped playing basketball after his sophomore year to improve his grades. He succeeded; receiving straight A's his senior year, including several AP classes. He speaks three languages, Wolof (a dialect from his native Senegal), French, and now English, has taken science classes at Northern Virginia Community College (commuting 3-4 hours for each class twice a week), worked on a radio program addressing teen issues, tutored math at school, and won numerous awards and honors for scholastic achievement and volunteer activities. He plans on attending Olivet College to study computer science and/or electrical engineering.



## LORENA HARPER

Cardozo Senior High  
\$8,000 Microsoft

Lorena plans to attend the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore and study computer science and programming. This will allow her to be independent while remaining close to her large, extended family. Lorena is a top student at Cardozo who also writes poetry and participated in the Women's Art Museum Writing Program in D.C. She is a member of the National Honor Society, student government, her church choir, Vice President of the Math Club, and volunteered at a neighborhood day care facility. She has received a medal from George Washington University for outstanding math and science achievement.



## YU JING LIN

Bell Multicultural High School  
\$10,000 CTIA

"Jing" as she likes to be called, had completed her first year of pre-med college in China when her family decided to emigrate to the U.S. in 2002. To allow Jing to learn English, her parents decided she should start over and attend high school. She has achieved outstanding grades, including many AP classes. When she first arrived, she worked 30 hours a week in a restaurant to help support her family, in addition to her studies. Hoping to become a doctor, Jing participated in an internship at George Washington University "Health Professionals of Tomorrow." She plans on attending St. Mary's College in Maryland to study biochemistry.





# FCBA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

## ALPHA SARR

Bell Multicultural High School  
\$12,000 FCBA

Alpha, whose parents still reside in his native Senegal, made his way to Washington to fulfill his parent's desire that he have a better education and life. Incredibly self-motivated, he has achieved excellent grades while engaging in numerous school and volunteer activities (including teacher assistant, African Club, Model UN, soccer, baseball and track), and doing construction work. He participated in the Early College Program, taking anatomy and physiology and computer literacy classes at Northern Virginia Community College. Alpha wants to attend St. John's College in Minnesota to become a doctor and also study political science.



## ANDREA URENA

Bell Multicultural High School  
\$20,000 FCBA

Andrea came from Costa Rica to the U.S. four years ago with her family speaking no English. Now, she is the valedictorian at Bell and has more than 500 extra community service hours beyond the requirements for all D.C. students, including: Focus on Kids, Youth Leadership, non-violent conflict resolution at the Latin Youth Center, National Honor Society, Youth Advocacy Initiative, and an intern at the National Parks Conservation Association. She also captained Bell's volleyball team to 2d place in the city championship. Andrea plans on attending Susquehanna University to study engineering or physics, and then become a high school teacher.



## SHONNELL SHELTON

Roosevelt Senior High  
\$15,000 News Corp.

Shonnell, the eldest of eight children, has persevered through family difficulties to accomplish much. She is involved in student government; received the "most valuable defense attorney" award in a mock trial program; is a weekly host of her school's radio program "Lyric Café;" was a LEAP intern at the National Geographic (photojournalism); shadowed an administrator at the NAB and WRC-TV; and led a student effort raising \$2,000 from fellow students and teachers for Asian Tsunami Disaster relief. Shonnell wants to major in communications and journalism at Cheyney University to pursue a career in mass communications.



## REGINALD WILLIAMS

Spingarn Senior High  
\$10,000 BellSouth

Reginald, the eldest of six children, has achieved excellent grades since attending Spingarn (ranks 5th), while excelling in school and community activities. He was a finalist in an oratorical competition discussing Brown vs. Board of Education; is one of two students elected to represent students on the DC Board of Education; is President of the National Honor Society and Student Government Association; participates in Key Club, Metcon, track and a youth choir, among others; and works part-time for a local attorney. Reginald has also received a one-year U.S. Senate Youth Program scholarship. He plans on attending Texas Southern University.



## SEWIT TESFAMICHAEL

Bell Multicultural High School  
\$8,000 Lucent

Sewit and her family came to the U.S. in 2002 from Ethiopia, and in that short time she has learned English and become the fourth ranked student at Bell. She has taken a challenging evening physics class at George Washington University; has tutored other students in algebra, geometry, trigonometry, pre-calculus and chemistry; assists new immigrants in their transition at school; is a member of the National Honor Society, Future Nursing Club, Ethiopian Community Service Drama Club, African Club, and Science Club; and interned at the IMF in 2004. Sewit plans on attending Mary Washington College to study nursing and ultimately become a doctor.



## YA QIN ZHANG

Bell Multicultural High School  
\$8,000 Sprint

Ya's parents were farmers in China. They brought the family to the U.S. four years ago to give her a better opportunity. Speaking no English upon her arrival, Ya has excelled in school, ranking 3rd in her class and taking all AP classes her senior year. She was one of 6 D.C. students invited to attend the Model UN in Quito, Ecuador in 2004. She has received numerous academic and volunteer awards, including "Student of the Week - Most Precocious Student." Ya plans on attending George Mason University to study accounting, while continuing to assist her parents who speak no English. She wants to become the first "Asian Finance Minister" in the U.S.

