

FCBA Foundation SCHOLARSHIPS

FCBA Foundation Awards Record 18 College Scholarships

The FCBA Foundation, celebrating its 15th Anniversary, is pleased to announce that it has awarded a record 18 college scholarships to graduating seniors from four District of Columbia high schools. The scholarships (funded over four years) will assist these students as they move forward in their educational careers. The Foundation also is giving the scholarship winners a laptop computer to assist with their studies.

Thanks to the generosity of FCBA member companies and law firms, as well as FCBA members, the Foundation is committing more than \$200,000 in funds to this year's scholarship program. This is, by far, the largest amount of scholarships and funds the Foundation has ever awarded (exceeding last year's record amount by more than 50%). In addition to direct donations, funds for the Scholarship Program also are raised through the annual Chairman's Dinner and Golf Tournament, and Casino Night at the Annual Seminar.

The Foundation received 27 applications from students of diverse backgrounds from Anacostia, Bell Multicultural, Cardozo, Roosevelt and Spingarn High Schools in the District of Columbia. 20 of these students were then selected for interviews. All of the applicants were deserving of assistance, which made the selection process particularly difficult despite the record number of scholarships awarded. Information about each of the scholarship recipients appears on the following pages.

The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the support of the following companies, law firms and individuals, who made significant contributions to this year's Scholarship Program: **AT&T, BellSouth, BET Holdings, CBS, Cingular Wireless, Comcast Corporation, Cox Enterprises, DirecTV, eBay Inc., Gannett Company, NBC Universal, News Corporation, T-Mobile, Time Warner, Qwest, Verizon, Verizon Wireless, XO Communications, Bingham McCutchen LLP, Cole Raywid & Braverman LLP, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, Fletcher Heald & Hildreth PLC, Harris Wiltshire & Grannis LLP, Hogan & Hartson LLP, Levine Blaszak Block & Boothby LLP, Morrison & Foerster LLP, Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP, Wiley Rein & Fielding LLP, Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, WilmerHale, Seth and Diane Davidson, and Susan Lynner.**

The Foundation thanks Board members Laura Holloway Carter, Maureen O'Connell, Lee Petro, Loretta Polk, Mark Van Bergh and Cara Voth, and non-Board members Adam Kirschenbaum and Howard Weiss, for reviewing the written scholarship applications, and Board members Laura Holloway Carter, Joseph DiScipio, Jack Goodman, Dee May, Lee Petro, Loretta Polk, Mark Van Bergh, Cara Voth and Amy Wolverton,

for participating in the applicant interviews. The Foundation also thanks James Coltharp, Jack Goodman, Dee May and Maureen O'Connell, who coordinated the Foundation's fundraising efforts this year. Thank you also to Cingular Wireless for making its offices available over the May 19-21 weekend for the applicant interviews.

Photos by Mark Van Bergh (except M. Ayalew)

OLUTOSIN AKINYODE Roosevelt High School \$10,000 CBS Corporation

Olutosin, often called Tosin, is a native of Nigeria. She moved to California and then relocated to Washington, D.C. Olutosin is an extraordinary student and scholar, whose exceptional academic performance led to her induction into Pharos National Honor Society in February 2006. She has been admitted to five major colleges, and has selected Amherst. In addition to her studies, Olutosin has pursued her interest in international affairs, receiving a certification for international diplomacy from the National Student Leadership conference and leading her school's International Club. She also completed a six-week internship in Urban Forestry, including developing a plan of action to restore green areas to the nation's capital. Her dedication to extracurricular activities and volunteer service is remarkable. She was segment producer and lead voice for Roosevelt's radio production program in partnership with George Washington University and National Public Radio and Editor-in-chief of a religious youth newsletter. She participated in the Widening Horizons Leadership Development program, Students Against Drunk Driving, volunteered with the Shakespeare Theater, Walter Reed Institute, and the Maryland Literacy Council, and regularly prepares meals for the needy and homeless.



MASTEWAL D. AYALEW Cardozo High School \$4,000 Cingular Wireless

Mastewal emigrated from Ethiopia shortly before her freshman year of high school, at which time she started to learn English. In addition to playing on the Cardozo Girl's basketball team, and participating in the school's Science Club, Mastewal has worked more than 423 community service hours, far exceeding the requirement for graduation. Her activities have included Youth Service Opportunities, Teen Women in Action, as a senior citizen aid, librarian assistant and in the nurse's office. She also has received Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) &



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Automated External Defibrillation (AED) Training. One of Mastewal's counselors describes her as an "ambitious, motivated, self-directed young lady with the tenacity to realize her goal to attend college." Mastewal, who is interested in science and technology, will be attending the University of the District of Columbia majoring in computer and information systems.

DORELLA BROWN

Spingarn High School
\$8,000 BET Holdings

Dorella will be the first in her family to graduate high school. She states that "growing up college was never an option" and that going to college "is not expected" in her community. All that changed for Dorella in ninth grade when she participated in the College Board Upward Bound Program at Catholic University. Since then, Dorella's grades improved dramatically (English and math are her favorite classes) and she can't wait to go to college. She plans on attending Benedict College in South Carolina, and majoring in social work. One of six children of a single mother, Dorella hopes to serve as a role model for her two younger brothers. Dorella has tutored children ages 9-12 in reading and math, and has participated in Passport to Summer Works and R.I.S.E. Inc.



JESSICA Y. CAMPOS CASTRO

Bell Multicultural High School
\$8,000 Harris, Wiltshire
& Grannis LLP

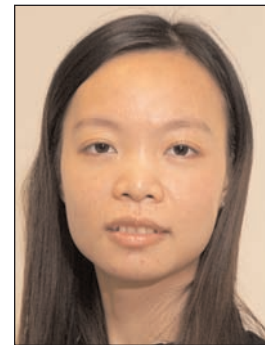
Of her many achievements, Jessica is particularly proud of her participation in the National Cathedral Scholars program for three years. She is also happy to be the president of the National Honor Society for her school—something Jessica never thought she could do. Considering her excellent grades and winning attitude, her achievements are not a surprise to those who know her. Drawing strength from Alice Paul's efforts in the suffragist movement, Jessica is determined to never give up and help those who follow in her footsteps, especially students coming to America from other countries. Jessica is excited to be the first one in her family to attend college, and she says her "dreams revolve around getting a higher education." Jessica plans on attending the University of Maryland in College Park this fall.



HUA NIAO CHEN

Bell Multicultural High School
\$10,000 BellSouth Corporation

Hua came to the United States in 2002 from her native China. Although she has had to learn English, she has excelled academically in every subject area and consistently made the honor roll. She has received particular recognition for her accomplishments in advanced placement statistics, calculus and English. Hua is now tutoring other new Chinese immigrants during and after school as a member of the Asian Club. And she is working in a restaurant to help support her family. She is a great dancer, often performing traditional Asian dance at Bell. Hua plans to attend George Mason University and pursue a career in medicine.



QING MIAO CHEN

Bell Multicultural High School
\$12,000 Gannett Company

Qing, a native of China, was recognized by her teachers for her dedication and commitment to achieving academic success despite language obstacles. She now has an impressive 3.8 G.P.A. and has taken advanced placement courses in a variety of subjects. She consistently produces the best written work in her class, while working 25 hours a week to help support her family. She has enrolled in an Early College Program at Northern Virginia Community College to prepare her for a four-year college. She is a member of Bell's Asian Club and performed dances at the school's Asian cultural assembly and Arena Stage. Last summer, she interned at the World Bank. Qing plans to attend James Madison University and become a teacher.



SHANITA CONLEY

Bell Multicultural High School
\$15,000 Comcast Corporation

Shanita will attend Marymount University in the fall where she will study forensic science. Shanita is one of six children raised by a single mother and currently lives with her mother and two of her siblings. While at Bell, Shanita took part in the Early College Program where she took courses at UDC. Shanita is the Student Government Association Vice President, she was President of the Bell High School Model UN Club, led a venture called Manos Unidas to provide assistance to low-income HIV/AIDS patients and



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volunteers with Food and Friends, an organization that prepares and delivers food to people with illnesses. Shanita also won the National Poetry Recitation Award her junior and senior years at Bell.

NIMATOULAYE CONTE

Bell Multicultural High School
\$8,000 Skadden Arps Slate
Meagher & Flom, LLP

Nima, as she is called, is originally from Guinea in Africa. She came to the US only a few years ago. Granted political asylum by the US government, Nima lives with her sister in Washington, DC and is active in the African Club, the French Club, Outward Bound, and the Model United Nations while also taking pre-college courses at the University of Maryland and UDC, playing basketball, working outside school and maintaining almost exclusively As and Bs in her course work. As a result of her experiences in Guinea, Nima has plans to study International Relations, work at the United Nations and focus her skills, talent and training on helping developing countries around the world obtain access to improved technology and education, as well as better health care. Nima will attend McDaniel College in the fall.



GARRETT CRENSHAW

Bell Multicultural High School
\$20,000 News Corporation

Garrett is a Senior at Bell Multicultural High School, and hopes to be able to attend University of MD-Eastern Shore upon graduation. Since the age of six, Garrett and his siblings were bounced around between family members and friends. He is currently living with his high school basketball coach and his family. Despite these overwhelming personal difficulties, and working part-time throughout high school, Garrett managed to turn his life around in the 12th grade, receiving A's and B's in most subjects. He represented his school at the Shakespeare Theatre, playing the lead (Antipholus of Ephesus) in "A Comedy of Errors." Based on his life experiences, he was selected to give a speech to the Virginia State Chapter of Social Work, discussing some of the problems foster care children face. He performed a speech to his school on homelessness. Garrett has also played on his school's basketball team for 3 years. Hoping to overcome his familial legacy, he is determined to go to college, obtain a degree in social work, and dedicate his life to helping other children who struggle with homelessness.



MERON DEBELA

Bell Multicultural High School
\$8,000 Time Warner Inc.

Meron dreams of becoming a pharmacist. This dream requires an undergraduate education and two additional years of post-graduate school. A dream one of her teachers feels is achievable since "Meron is remarkably talented in Mathematics." Meron arrived in the United States in 2002 from Ethiopia. She and her two sisters are supported by her mother and, without financial aid, Meron's dream may not be attainable. Meron intends to start her education in the fall at the University of the District of Columbia and then transfer to the University of Maryland Baltimore County in the Spring. Despite working part time, Meron has been active in both school and community outreach activities. She has participated in activities at the Ethiopian Community Development Center, as well as performing during the African Heritage Assembly at Bell Multicultural. Meron also participated in the Shakespeare Theater's Text Alive! production of "The Tempest." Her English teacher's comment, "Meron's determination is matched by her intelligence and wisdom beyond her years," confirms that Meron is a worthy recipient of this scholarship.



MILTON HERNANDEZ

Bell Multicultural High School
\$15,000 AT&T

Milton arrived in the United States from El Salvador in July 2001, speaking very little English. Apart from his mother, his family thinks he should be working full time. Despite these obstacles, and working a significant number of hours a week while in school in order to support his family both here and in El Salvador, Milton has compiled an impressive academic record. Milton is a straight "A" student with multiple academic honors, a remarkable achievement given that English is his second language, and given that he has worked for Odyssey cruises throughout his four years of high school. Despite this challenging schedule, Milton found time to volunteer with a non-profit organization called "Identity" that helps prevent sexually transmitted diseases. He also participated in the photography club, the DJ Club at the Latino Youth Center, and CHILL, a snowboarding club. Milton's goal is to acquire a degree in Business Administration that he could use to start his own business, ultimately using the profits to start a non-profit organization in El Salvador. This non-profit would help students of low-income families pursue higher education. Milton hopes to attend Bentley College upon graduation.



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YU WEI LIN

Bell Multicultural High School
\$8,000 DirecTV

Born in China, Yu came to the United States in 2000. He emigrated with his parents who hoped to build a better life for their children here. Yu is known among his teachers for his mantra "I'm just trying to survive". Yu will attend West Virginia University in the fall and plans to study finance. While attending Bell, Yu worked to support his parents, is a member of the National Honor Society, participated in the Robot Building Contest, and is a member of the Tennis club.



helping others. She even hopes to travel to Africa and other countries to work with children and teenagers. Heidi has excelled in her academic courses at school and landed on the National Honor Roll for 5 years straight. In addition, she has relished in artistic opportunities including theatre, poetry, and photography. Heidi will be the first person in her family to attend college. She will be attending George Mason University.

JASMINE O. STITH

Cardozo High School
\$8,000 eBay Inc.

Jasmine is the oldest of three children, and is the first member of her family to graduate from high school, let alone attend college. She will be attending Morgan State University to major in management information systems. Despite a difficult home life, Jasmine has received good academic grades (including several AP classes) while participating in numerous community activities, including the DC Urban Up-Lifters (serving on a youth-led grant-making council providing more than \$100,000 for other youth-led organizations and as Communications Chairperson), the Columbia Heights Youth Club (mentoring and tutoring children during the school year, and as a camp counselor in the summer), and Feed the Homeless. Jasmine also was a member of the planning committee for a March 2006 forum of D.C. mayoral candidates sponsored by the DC Alliance of Youth Advocates.



DANIELLE LOPEZ-LEZAMA

Cardozo High School
\$20,000 Wiley Rein & Fielding LLP

Danielle is a native of Trinidad. She has an outstanding record of academic achievement and has consistently been on the honor roll. At her young age, she has already demonstrated a strong commitment to a variety of social causes and community service activities. She received an outstanding service award from the Model United Nations Club and been recognized for her leadership in Brainfood, a non-profit organization that teaches kids life skills through cooking food for the needy. Danielle also has participated in Close Up Foundation's government studies program to increase citizen involvement in the democratic process and the National Capital Coalition for the Prevention of Underage Drinking and Federal Highway Works Administration internship programs. In addition to her community service activities, she has received Cardozo's softball team award. She plans to attend St. Mary's College of Maryland and pursue a career in communications and information technology. She believes higher education dares the individual to step out of their comfort zone and embrace something new.



PHILMONA TESSEMA

Roosevelt High School
\$20,000 Verizon

Philmona will be attending Buffalo State University in the fall, far from her native country of Ethiopia. Meron was granted political asylum in the United States in 2005 and resides here with her mother, an older sister and her 11 year old brother. Greatly inspired by her father, fondly referred to as "Big Man", she often reminisces how he instilled in Philmona the importance of education and the unlimited opportunities it offers. Philmona is driven to demonstrate to Big Man, who remains in her native country, how much his scholarship influenced her to excel. An honor student, Philmona is a committed volunteer at her church where she began as a volunteer financial record-keeper and has graduated to the role of financial secretary of the church. One of the many recognition awards that Philmona has received is the Certificate of Merit from the Washington Post's Young Journalists Development Program. Her community and school activities include: a school newspaper staff



HEIDY G. ROMERO-ALVAREZ

Bell Multicultural High School
\$8,000 NBC Universal, Inc.

Heidy describes herself as "a woman full of goals, dreaming to become a good Sociologist to help people who desperately need a hand or sign of hope." Heidy's teachers commend her continued efforts to welcome and mentor new students at the school, evidencing her true commitment to



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member, a Future Leader of America, the Friendship News Network Pilot Radio Project and an intern for the DC Public Schools Cable Channel—DSTV Channel 99. Philmona hopes to study broadcast media as an undergraduate student and has long term aspirations of becoming an international law attorney.

LONG YANG

Bell Multicultural High School
\$6,000

Long moved to the United States from China just four years ago and, although he could not speak English at that time, he has managed to achieve a GPA of over 3.3. While not only having to learn a new language and a new way of life, Long also has found many other activities that keep him busy, including the Asian Culture Club where he volunteers to help other students for whom English is their second language; the Mouse Squad, which is a group of students who help the school's teachers and staff with their computer needs; and serving as a teacher's assistant for AP calculus. Long also has worked as a summer intern at the World Bank and maintained a job during the school year at a bus station. Long's desire for higher education is motivated by his belief that not only will it bring him a better life, but that it also will increase his – and others' – appreciation for cultural



diversity. According to Long, “the more education and experiences that you have, you will lose your racial biases.” In the Fall, Long plans to attend George Mason University and study Finance.

JIAN ZHENG

Bell Multicultural High School
\$4,000 Cingular Wireless

Upon arriving in Washington, D.C., Jian was touched by the poverty and homelessness he saw in what is perceived to be an affluent country. So, he took an internship at the World Bank, a place that tries to create “a world without poverty.” Jian wants to study Computer Science and return to the World Bank, where he can assist the Bank in its efforts to eradicate poverty. In pursuit of higher education, Jian has overcome the hurdle of learning a new language while simultaneously excelling in classes. He has also been involved in the Arena Stage Playwright Program and is a member of the Robotics Club. Jian even has given 244 community service hours beyond what is required for graduation, and he intends to continue that service through his work and academic endeavors. And, last but not least, Jian wants to be a role model for his younger brother: “If I can do it, he can do it, too.”



FCBA Foundation 2006 High School Scholarship Recipients