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National Association of Asian American Professionals – New York Announces 2004 Scholarship and Leadership Award Winners

- Three High School Seniors Each Win \$2500
- Three Asian American Professionals Honored for Outstanding Leadership
- Award Dinner Hosted by Stand up Comic Eliot Chang

New York, May 2, 2004 - The New York Chapter of the National Association of Asian American Professionals ("NAAAP-NY") will host its annual Scholarship & Leadership Awards Dinner on Saturday evening, May 15, 2004, in New York City at The Marriott Marquis Hotel where three high school seniors from the metropolitan New York area will each receive a one-time \$2,500 scholarship and three Asian American professionals will be honored for their contributions to their companies and communities at large.

The Award Dinner will be hosted by Eliot Chang. Eliot is a stand up comic from New York City from Comedy Central's "Premium Blend." Also, his "Asians in the Media" workshop has put him high demand as a cultural speaker. For more information, go to <http://www.ECHANG.com>

Scholarship Awards

NAAAP-NY will award high school seniors Lamia Khan from W. Tresper Clarke High School, Samantha Parker from South Side High School, and Jimmy Zhu from Stuyvesant High School with a one-time \$2,500 NAAAP-NY College Scholarship. A ten-person committee, chaired by S. Chau Cheng, evaluated candidates on the basis of academic excellence, community service, and responses to two essay questions. The scholarship program, which began in 1988, is regularly funded by NAAAP-NY through portions of proceeds from its various events and corporate supporters.

- ❑ Lamia Khan is dedicated to serving her school and community. As President of the Clarke Red Cross and a member of the Key Club, she has organized and participated in numerous projects including food, toy, and clothing drives, charity walks, and fundraisers. Lamia also promotes cultural awareness at her school as Co-President of the Multicultural Club and plays the violin for the Clarke Orchestra and Chamber Ensemble.
- ❑ Samantha Parker is founder and president of the school's book club and vice president of Amnesty International. With Amnesty, Samantha has led fund raising efforts to support land mine removal in Cambodia. She is a member of the Debate club and the Asian Cultural Awareness club, and is a trained peer mediator. She is also a National Merit Semifinalist. She was chosen to represent New York State at the 2002 Hugh O'Brien Youth World Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. There, she co-authored the HOBY Doctrine on World Leadership, which addressed issues like world hunger, slavery and poverty. It was sent to President Bush, the United Nations, and various heads of state.
- ❑ Jimmy Zhu's most important accomplishment came after a recent visit to China. Having witnessed the plight of grade school students in one of the poorest regions in rural China, he decided, upon returning to the United States, to join the Rural Education Assistance and Development (READ) fund, a volunteered based, non-profit, non-political foundation whose goal is to offer scholarships to students facing financial hardships. As their Executive Director, Jimmy is instrumental behind READ in promoting its awareness and raising fund from corporations and private donors. To date, the fund has granted scholarships to 386 children attending 139 schools in 25 cities in 11 provinces in China.

Recent past recipients of the NAAAP-NY Scholarship Award include: Kitty Chen, Stuyvesant High School in

New York (2003); Vijay Chaudhuri, Glen Ridge High School in New Jersey (2003); Yin Zhao, Lehman High School in New York (2002); and Wendy Cheung, Stuyvesant High School in New York (2002).

Leadership Awards

That same evening, NAAAP-NY will also present the prestigious Leadership Awards to Maykin Ho, from Goldman Sachs & Co, Jenny Low from JPMorgan Chase Bank, and Lydia Wong from the Chinese Center on Long Island.

- ❑ Maykin Ho, PhD is the Biotechnology analyst and Co-head of Healthcare for Global Investment Research at Goldman, Sachs & Co. She joined the firm in 1992 and became a managing director in 1998. Institutional Investor Magazine has ranked Maykin the First or Second Team in Biotechnology since 1995.
- ❑ Jenny Low is a Vice President and Manager in the Commercial Lending & Investing Department (CL&I) of the Community Development Group (CDG) at JPMorgan Chase. She has worked at JPMorgan Chase for over 17 years. Jenny served as Chairperson of the firm's Asians In MorganChase (AIM) Employee Networking Group from 2002 to 2003. Jenny is active in the Asian-American community and is currently a Vice Chair of the Board and Chair of the Finance Committee for the Chinese-American Planning Council.
- ❑ Lydia Wong has been a volunteer since 1986 for the Chinese Center on Long Island which is a non-profit organization focusing on promoting Chinese culture and heritage. She was the President and Chairperson of the Board of Directors between 1993 and 1999. She is currently a Director and Advisor to the Board of Directors, and superintendent of Center's Chinese School. Under her leadership, the Center expanded its capabilities and size in many aspects. As a result of her dedication, leadership, and contribution to the community, Lydia was selected as the recipient of citations from the Nassau County Executive Office and the Proclamation from the Town of North Hempstead. Lydia has been working in the banking industry for over 17 years and is currently employed by Citigroup as a Client Financial Analyst.

"We are excited to witness the growth in the number of Asian Pacific American (APA) groups. NAAAP-NY sees these networks as invaluable opportunities, which allows APA professionals to build their networks and make their respective marks on society. NAAAP-NY is committed to raising the visibility of these networks to the public and most importantly to the next generation of APA leaders. NAAAP-NY's annual Scholarship & Leadership Awards Dinner was established to celebrate such achievements," said Trusha Mehta, NAAAP-NY President.

Previous recipients of the NAAAP-NY Leadership Award include: Moon-Bae Chung of Prudential Financial (2003); Suk-Mei Mui of Verizon Communications (2003); Karen Na of JP Morgan Chase (2003); June Jee of Verizon Communications (2002); Veronica Tsang of JP Morgan Chase (2002).

More information on the NAAAP-NY's Scholarship and Leadership programs can be found at <http://www.naaapny.org/jfk/scholarship.asp>

Additional bio information for this year's scholarship and award recipients may be found at <http://www.naaapny.org/JFK/programs/2004Factsheet.pdf> or <http://www.naaapny.org/jfk/scholarship.asp> under "References"/2004...Fact Sheet.

NAAAP-NY's Scholarship & Leadership Awards Dinner will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2004 at 6 PM, at The Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City. Tickets for the dinner are priced at \$110 for NAAAP-NY members and \$145 for non-members and may be purchased by going to <http://www.naaapny.org/JFK/Events.asp?EventCountID=1162>

If you are a member of the press and would like to arrange for a press pass to the Scholarship and Leadership Award Dinner at the Marriott Marquis on Saturday, May 15th, please contact Julie Huang at (212) 850-5628, or email: jhuang@fd-us.com

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