



SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

*Student of
Distinction Award*

2009

Mariana Abaunza-Quintero



Major: Chemistry

Educational Goal: B.S. in Chemistry; M.S. in Environmental Chemistry.

Life Goals: To make a difference in the process of restoring our planet through means such as environmental sustainability. To have a family and travel around the world.

Special Interests and Achievements: Public Relations Officer of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) SWC Chapter; Math, Chemistry, and Biology tutor.

Nominated by: Peter Herrera, Raga Bakhiet

Remembered as: Passionate and concerned about my surroundings.

Alona Buil-Macarty



Major: Business Administration

Educational Goal: Undergraduate degree or MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Life Goals: There is no greater pleasure in life than to make someone happy. I would like to do that for as many people as I can.

Special Interests and Achievements: Interested in International Finance, ASO Senator for the School of Business and Information Systems, intern at Merrill Lynch in Global Wealth Management Department.

Nominated by: Dick Wasson, Michelle Dawson

Remembered as: Sky is a Limit

Almendra Carpizo



Major: Nursing

Educational Goal: Obtain a master's in Journalism and minor in Spanish

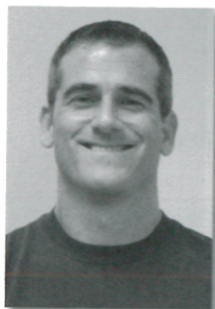
Life Goals: Become a freelance journalist for San Diego newspaper and sports radio broadcaster. I want to grow old in San Diego with my husband and kids.

Special Interests and Achievements: I'm a second time SODA recipient. I have several awards for writing and designing from professional and college media organizations. I am the editor in chief of The Sun. I play on several soccer teams and was captain of the SWC Women's Soccer in 05

Nominated by: Max Branscomb

Remembered as: Someone who they could turn to when they felt alone, someone who could make them smile when they felt down, and for always saying "esports".

Bradford Cushman



Major: Dental Hygiene

Educational Goal: B.S and R.D.H with continuing education

Life Goals: A happy loving family and a long, successful career.

Special Interests and Achievements: Bringing health to the community through volunteer work with "Share the Core Smiles Program", and assistance with recovery programs.

Nominated by: Debra Jo Johnson

Remembered as: As a friendly, helpful and encouraging member of the team that always did his best to insure success in others and himself.

Sheilah Dasher



Major: Journalism

Educational Goal: BA. and MA.

Life Goals: To be a human rights advocate and work in the Navajo Tribal Government

Special Interests and Achievements: Women's rights, indigenous activist, 1st award winning documentary on AIDS by a Native American youth, La Pluma Award winner, Society of Professional Journalists award winner.

Nominated by: Max Branscomb

Remembered as: All I want is to help other people; some people were born to be helped and some were born to help others.

Leticia Diaz



Major: Women's Studies

Educational Goal: Bachelor's in Women's Studies, Master's in Psychology.

Life Goals: To gain increasing insight as to why I do the things I do. I will work to make this world a better place and help others. To never stop growing and learning new things.

Special Interests and Achievements: I love to travel, proud product of Puente Program 06-07. Summer 2007 I was accepted by the Chula Vista Sister City Student Exchange Program as a representative/ambassador to sister city Odawara, Japan. Summer 2008 participant in Summer Intensive Transfer Experience at UCLA.

Nominated by: Laura Ryan, Sylva Felan-Gonzalez, Arlie Ricasa

Remembered as: Kind and passionate person and always willing to help others.

Hersy Joy Enriquez



Major: Civil Engineering

Educational Goal: Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering

Life Goals: Design a bridge that will connect the whole world.

Special Interests and Achievements: SWC SHPE Chapter Officer.

Nominated by: Alex Juden, Shannon Gracey, Raga Bakhiet, Pete Herera

Remembered as: One who would always put a smile on someone's face.

Nestor Espinoza



Major: Education Policy/Chicano Studies

Educational Goal: Ph.D in Education Policy from UCLA Graduate School of Education.

Life Goals: To diminish discrepancies in college admissions policies that impact low income, ethnically diverse students and promote quality education accessible to all.

Special Interests and Achievements: Puente Project Graduate 2006-2007, ASO Senator 2007-2008, ASO Executive VP 2008-2009. Organized/Directed the 1st Annual High School Conference. Recently accepted to UC Santa Barbara, UCLA, and UC Berkeley.

Nominated by: Sylvia Felan-Gonzalez, Laura Ryan, and Arlie Ricasa

Remembered as: Remember me as anyway you would like. But make sure you remember me; I'm going to do amazing things. If you don't know me ask about me.

Jonathan Flores



Major: Business Management

Educational Goal: Bachelor's in Business Studies for Haas School of Business, Ph.D in Management.

Life Goals: Become an educator and a mentor; start a learning community center in Tijuana, Mexico and in other underprivileged communities around the world; develop research in the public education setting and apply my theories to aid young individuals through innovative programs.

Special Interests and Achievements: basketball, philosophy, sociology, mediation, dialoguing. Former ASO Senator, current ASO Treasurer, President's Honor's List, having the opportunity to interact, learn and collaborate with Club members, ASO officers and the wonderful faculty and staff at Southwestern College.

Nominated by: Arlie Ricasa

Remembered as: An individual who approached education with his intellect, and the world with his heart.

Mark Gianino



Major: Chemistry

Educational Goal: Ph.D.

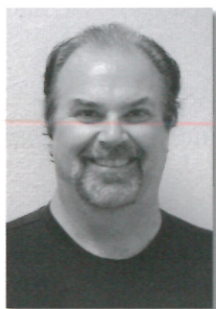
Life Goals: To use my talents/skills to serve others and inspire them to do the same, to contribute to man's knowledge base through research, and to learn how to play the piano

Special Interests and Achievements: running, magic, "Seinfeld", reading

Nominated by: David R. Brown, Rosana Pedroza

Remembered as: I don't know who said it but, "The ability to stay focused is not a skill or a talent, but decision."

Dwain Hathaway



Major: Music

Educational Goal: Music Composition and Performance Degree from SDSU

Life Goals: Graduate from college and be a positive role model to aspiring music artists and young people.

Special Interests and Achievements: Won music awards in Boston and Nashville, did fundraising for Make A Wish Foundation and America Heart Association, and have worked with many well known artists through the years

Nominated by: Sherilyn Salahuddin

Remembered as: I gave everything I had to all with cheerful heart.

Wanda Maxwell



Major: Telemedia

Educational Goal: Transfer to USC

Life Goals: To be a filmmaker; to encourage, motivate, and inspire others through my films.

Special Interests and Achievements: Filmmaking. 2008 SWC Chicano Latino Coalition Classified Scholarship Recipient. California Community Colleges Classified Senate (4CS) 2009 Classified Leadership Scholarship Recipient; 2006-2007 and 2008-2009 SWC Classified Senate President

Nominated by: Janelle Williams

Remembered as: As loving, giving, and inspirational.

Mariela Medina Castellanos



Major: Civil Engineering

Educational Goal: Obtain my Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Life Goals: I believe that Civil Engineering is the Engineering of Humanity. I want my work to contribute to the ongoing process of changing the world.

Special Interests and Achievements: Spent a year in Oaxaca, Mexico teaching English in an underprivileged high school. I discovered the lack of development that some places endure and it awoke a desire in me to do something about it.

Nominated by: Raga Bakhiet

Remembered as: As a happy person and a happy soul. Someone that would put a smile on their faces.

Adriana Meza



Major: Nursing

Educational Goal: Register Nurse and later a Nurse Practitioner

Life Goals: To be successful in life, to be able to help people, to have my children look at me as an example of perseverance.

Special Interests and Achievements: Spending time with my family. I have had the privilege to serve my community and church members for a long time.

Nominated by: Surian Figueroa

Remembered as: A hard working person, one who was persistent, and always loved to learn and care about others.

Pedro Nunez



Major: Paralegal Studies

Educational Goal: Finish Law School and Become a Lawyer

Life Goals: To not forget where I came from, always live in what I'm doing, and don't lose sight of where I want to be.

Special Interests and Achievements: Received Cesar Chavez Scholarship in 2008, SWC representative for SDPA, SWC Paralegal Club President, single father

Nominated by: Victoria Lopez

Remembered as: The son of Ramualdo and father of Mayra and Lourdes who never gave up when it was easier and never stopped working when it was difficult.

Diego Parada



Educational Goal: BA in Theater

Life Goals: Make a career out of my passion for theater and to always be surrounded by my eternally supportive family

Special Interests and Achievements: Worked with my brother on film projects for which we received awards such as the NFFTY Award for Best International Short Film, first prize for the 3C Media Solution contest, and an official selection in the Baja California 4th Film Fest.

Nominated by: Vallo Riberto, Elizabeth Sisco

Remembered as: As a person who always wished the best for those who surrounded him without ever letting go of the selfish feeling of happiness that this gave him.

Mariana Ricalde Fernandez Lafuente



Major: Art and Graphic Design

Educational Goal: M.A. in Curatorial and Museum Studies

Life Goals: To be very successful in everything I do, leave my mark on the world, and make my loved ones proud of me.

Special Interests and Achievements: Photographer and graphic designer for The Sun Newspaper. Received over 20 state and national awards for my work. Community service helping Mexican children.

Nominated by: Max Branscomb

Remembered as: As a happy reliable person who achieved her goals through dedication and passion and loved her family.

Kenslow Smith



Educational Goal: B.A. Communication and M.A. Broadcasting

Life Goals: To play professional football in the NFL and later work as a sportscaster.

Special Interests and Achievements: 2009 National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete, SWC Football Captain, Most Valuable Player, elected to San Diego College Hall of Fame, and a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Nominated by: Max Branscomb

Elan Sorrell



Major: Architecture

Educational Goal: Obtain Bachelor's and Master's Degree from UC Berkeley

Life Goals: After college, ultimately establish my own architectural firm.

Special Interests and Achievements: Member ASO Sustainability Task Force, MESA Student, VP/Treasurer- SWC Environmental Club, External VP the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), Volunteer at Arroyo Vista Charter School in Eastlake.

Nominated by: Peter Herrera, Raga Bakhiet

Remembered as: Environmentalism is a broader unifying human issue; architecture is the tool I choose to create environmental change.

Shannon Tomlinson



Major: Molecular Biology

Educational Goal: Master's and Ph.D.

Life Goals: Biomedical research for awhile, but eventually I want to teach at a university and inspire a new generation of scientists.

Special Interests and Achievements: SWC Scholar Athlete of the Year, SWC Volleyball Team Captain, organized the Dig Pink Breast Cancer Awareness Event for the Volleyball Team.

Nominated by: Angel Rock

Remembered as: I would like to be remembered as someone who cared about others and sought to bring positive change to the world using the gifts and talents God gave me.

**Durra Ink congratulates the Students of
Distinction and scholarship winners at the
Southwestern College Student Awards Ceremony**

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