



SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

*Student of
Distinction Award
2014*



Saira Araiza

Major: Journalism

Main Educational Goal: To earn a BA in Journalism and a Minor in Public Relations. After that, pursue a master's degree.

Life Goal: I'd like to become an editor of a magazine. I want to buy a house for my mom. I believe in family, so I would like to have a family one day.

Significant Achievements:

- Vice President of ASTRA
- President's List for Academic Achievement
- Assistant Arts Editor at the *Sun* (2 semesters)

How would you like others to remember you?

As someone who didn't give up, and someone who always spoke with the truth.

Nominated by: Dr. Max Branscomb



Thomas Jose Barski

Major: Exercise Science

Main Educational Goal: Accepted to Point Loma Nazarene.

Life Goals: Own my own business as a fitness instructor focusing on strength and conditioning for athletes.

Significant Achievements:

- Vice President's List (twice)
- 2013 ASO club of the year, Student Veterans Organization
- Student Veteran Organization member
- Helped in opening the Veterans Resource Center
- Volunteers with the Warrior Foundation, and helped raised money for the wounded warriors returning from overseas.

How would you like others to remember you?

He's a go getter.

Thomas is also receiving the ASO Academic Excellence Scholarship.

Nominated by: Robert Valerio, Dr. Malia M. Flood, and Sherilyn Salahuddin



Consuelo Beltran

Major: Sociology

Main Educational Goal: At this point in my life my main educational goal is to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and keep looking forward to achieving higher educational goals in the future. I am considering pursuing Family Therapy Certification.

Life Goal: I want to have the capacity to work at a public or private organization that helps others during difficult situations in their lives.

Significant Achievements:

- Spring 2013 President's List for academic achievement
- Member of Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society
- Volunteered at a variety of elementary schools and pre-schools for the past six years.

How would you like others to remember you?

As a loving and resilient woman who made this world better.

Consuelo is also receiving the SWC Foundation Transfer & Vocational Scholarship.

Nominated by: Valentina Goldberg



Daniel Cordero

Major: Animation Major

Main Educational Goal: To transfer and graduate from an art school with a degree in animation and a minor in sequential art.

Life Goal: To do my part to level the comic book and animation playing field, going the extra mile for all those out there who don't always get to see themselves represented positively or respectfully in these mediums as a whole. I want to see people pick up comics or watch films with fantastic stories and an array of diverse characters and have the privilege to say that my name is on that piece of art.

Significant Achievements:

- Vice President's Honor List for the fall 2013 semester
- Executive Vice President of Nighthood Comics

How would you like others to remember you?

As a storyteller whose worlds and characters continue to instill imagination, hope, and wonder to all who explore them.

Daniel is also receiving the ASO Academic Excellence Scholarship and SWC Foundation John & Adeline Valenzuela Scholarship.

Nominated by: Professor Laura Ryan and Dr. Max Branscomb



Catherine Cruz

Major: Nursing

Main Educational Goal: To finish college, earn a bachelor's degree and eventually a master's degree.

Life Goal: To become successful in the medical field, to support my family, to help children in poor countries get an education.

Significant Achievements:

- SWC President's List
- Angel Tree Foundation volunteer
- Bonita Learning Academy volunteer

How would you like others to remember you?

As an altruist who is always willing to help those in need to restore people's faith in humanity.

Catherine is also receiving the George Weston Memorial Scholarship.

Nominated by: Ed Cosio



Jina P. Deutsch

Major: Social Work

Main Educational Goal: To transfer to a four-year university to obtain both Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree in Social Work.

Life Goal: To become a State Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

Significant Achievements:

- Volunteered weekly at the South Bay Glenner Memory Center
- CHOC Hospital Feeding Team support group member
- La Jolla Soroptimist Women's Opportunity Award recipient
- Soroptimist International Women's Opportunity Award District Honoree
- Member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

How would you like others to remember you?

I'd like others to remember me as a strong/resilient, hard worker and compassionate individual.

Jina is also receiving the ASO Higher Scholastic Scholarship and Doris Appel Memorial Scholarship.

Nominated by: Diana Avila



Gabriel Douglas

Major: Business Management Economics

Main Educational Goal: To transfer to UC Santa Cruz, earn my Bachelor's Degree in Economics, and then an MBA.

Life Goals: To work in the non-profit sector, become an entrepreneur, and ultimately become a small business development director.

Significant Achievements:

- ASO Vice President of Club Affairs
- UCLA CCCP Scholar
- 2011-12 Puente Treasurer
- SSSCC Region X Treasurer

How would you like others to remember you?

Hard worker, dedicated to his community and constituents. He inspired countless students to achieve their potential.

Gabriel is also receiving ASO Academic Excellence Scholarship and SWC Foundation-Walmart Stores Scholarship.

Nominated by: Larry Lambert



Juan Luis Espinoza

Major: Sociology

Main Educational Goal: To obtain a Doctor of Education Leadership Degree from Harvard.

Life Goals: To become a college professor.

Significant Achievements:

- Graduating and making my family proud
- 2010-2011 Puente Club Co-President
- 2012 and 2013 Co-Leader/Coordinator for the "Pathway To Success Conference"
- 2012-2013 Associated Student Organization President/Student Trustee
- 2014 S.O.D.A. award recipient

How would you like others to remember you?

As the student leader that had a vision to uplift others and made a positive impact for his peers at Southwestern College.

Nominated by: Sylvia Felan-Gonzales



Laura Estela Gonzalez

Major: Psychology

Main Educational Goal: To transfer to the University of California, Los Angeles, graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, and attend medical school at the University of California, San Diego.

Life Goals: To become a psychiatrist who offers both counseling and psychiatric help. In my efforts, I hope my practice is with children and teenagers with mental challenges. To specialize in patients who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Significant Achievements:

- ASO Senator at Large
- Student Representative for the Counselors Hiring Committee
- A student researcher for Dr. Christopher Hayashi

How would you like others to remember you?

As someone who believes in love and happy endings, believes that a smile changes the world, and believes that living in the moment is what makes life worth living, because longing for tomorrow is a lifetime away.

Laura is also receiving the ASO Campus Involvement Scholarship

Nominated by: Dr. Christopher Hayashi



Wendy Gracia

Major: Art and Liberal Arts (two Associates)

Main Educational Goal: To transfer in the fall to Laguna College of Art & Design and to complete a B.A. in Fine Arts. I hope to complete a Master's Degree in Psychology from U.C. Berkeley.

Life Goals: Write/illustrate a series of children's books, write and publish poetry collections, and work as a freelance artist. Establish food and shower trucks for poor and homeless people in Mexican poblados. Use my art to promote social justice.

Significant Achievements:

- Published poet
- Published writer and cartoonist
- Service Learning certificates (two)
- Assistant Campus Editor of the Sun
- President's List for Academic Achievement

How would you like others to remember you?

I hope to have made a difference in the world by providing inspiration to others, through my art and other activities.

Nominated by: Dr. Max Branscomb



Caleb D. Henderson

Major: Bioengineering

Main Educational Goal: To transfer to California Polytechnic University Pomona or Stanford University, graduate from an oriental medicine college, and earn a Bachelor's Degree in Biotech.

Life Goals: To become a holistic health therapist and health nutritionist. I plan to open my family business, where people can be educated about the option of natural homeopathic remedies and personal fitness and nutrition tips.

Significant Achievements:

- Black Student Union Secretary
- Global Studies Club (Club Officer)
- Worship Singer and Youth Ministry Leader at Reach International for Christ
- Grossmont Healthcare District Scholarship Award for Healthcare Education

How would you like others to remember you?

As a person who is humble, motivating, coachable, and happy spirited.

Caleb is also receiving the ASO Campus Involvement Scholarship, Garden of Giving: Roy Olson Biology Academic Excellence - SWC Foundation Scholarship, and the LIPP Foundation - Biology Academic Excellence Scholarship.

Nominated by: Dr. Nouna Bakhiet



Marco Hermosillo

Major: Visual Arts

Main Educational Goal: Transfer to UCSD Visual Arts Program, and obtain a PhD in Psychology of Aesthetics.

Life Goals: To obtain a PhD in Psychology of Aesthetics in order to be able to conduct research that contributes to this area of study, and hopefully, become a part of the faculty staff at a prestigious university or at an important cultural institution that cultivates the role of art in our diverse community.

Significant Achievements:

- Volunteer at the San Diego Museum of Art
- Martin Luther King Scholarship Award recipient
- Phi Theta Kappa member of the International Honors Society
- Part of the official's committee at SWC Art Collective Club
- Volunteer at the New Children's Museum

How would you like others to remember you?

As someone who challenged the limitations of our society by creating bridges of knowledge between the Hispanic community and the cultural life of our country.

Nominated by: Roger A. (Rusty) Nichols



Felipe Huicochea

Major: Anthropology

Main Educational Goal: To obtain a PhD in Anthropology.

Life Goals: To become a college professor.

Significant Achievements:

- 2012 First Annual Research Symposium for Anthropology Scholar
- 2012-13 UCLA CCCP Scholar
- Co-Founder of the Pathway to Success Conference
- 2011-12 Senator at Large for the Associated Student Organization
- 2012 Crescenzo Memorial Scholarship

How would you like others to remember you?

As someone who followed his ideals.

Felipe is also receiving the ASO Campus Involvement Scholarship.

Nominated by: Dr. Maria Jelaca-Tavakoli



Abel Meza

Major: Business Major

Main Educational Goal: To be admitted to the HAAS School of Business at UC Berkeley or USC School of Business for fall 2014. I have a 3.9 GPA, and I am completing the SWC Honors Certificate to be listed on my Associate of Arts: Liberal Arts: Math and Science. Upon completion of my bachelor's degree I will pursue an MBA at Harvard University.

Life Goals: To become the CEO of a non-profit social justice agency in hopes of bridging the gap between third world countries and developed countries such as the U.S. My accomplishments and goals would not be possible without the unfaltering support of my parents to whom I love and give much thanks.

Significant Achievements:

- 2013 Union Tribune Latino Champions Finalist
- Puentista of the Year
- Senator at Large
- Puente Statewide Leadership member
- President's List for Academic Achievement
- Phi Theta Kappa

How would you like others to remember you?

As someone who always did his best, and put others before himself.

Abel is also receiving the ASO Academic Excellence Scholarship, the Doug Tatreau Memorial Scholarship, and Robert Madden Memorial Scholarship.

Nominated by: Alexander G. Juden, Sylvia Felan-Gonzales, Noreen Maddox



Kimberly Ortiz

Major: Communication

Main Educational Goal: Transfer to a university and earn a Master's Degree in Communication and a Minor in Broadcast Journalism.

Life Goals: Become a reporter and inform my community of things that matter. Create my own non-profit organization that helps Latino parents be better informed about their kid's education and the importance of school.

Significant Achievements:

- Miss San Diego Latina 2013 and Miss California Latina 2014 finalist
- Phi Theta Kappa member
- Online Multimedia Assistant Editor for the SWC Sun
- Broadcast News Writing Award - 2nd place, from Journalism Association of Community Colleges
- Got hired by Uniradio after an internship of five months

How would you like others to remember you?

Human rights activist, a leader who made a change in my community and inspired others who come from nothing that anything is possible as long as you work hard for it.

Nominated by: Dr. Max Branscomb



Anna Pryor

Major: Journalism

Main Educational Goal: To transfer to a university and eventually get a master's degree.

Life Goals: To start a home for abused children that leave home, and to create my own line of inexpensive and eco-friendly clothes for the underprivileged.

Significant Achievements:

- ASTRA Club president (volunteer)
- Southwestern College Sun, Viewpoints Editor
- Secretary of the Big Bang Planetarium Club
- Vice President's List
- First Place Advertisement from the Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC)

How would you like others to remember you?

As someone who left this college and world a better place than when I found it.

Anna is also receiving the ASO Campus Involvement Scholarship, Altrusa Club - Foundation Scholarship, Nadia Smit Memorial Journalism Scholarship, and the SWC Book Club's Semester Quell Scholarship.

Nominated by: Dr. Max Branscomb



Jose Luis Roman

Major: Computer Science

Main Educational Goal: Transfer with honors to UC Berkeley and obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science.

Life Goals: To create a software company in order to fund my own non-profit organization.

Significant Achievements:

- President of the Computer Science & Engineering Club
- Senator for Associated Student Organization
- Student Representative of the School of Mathematics, Science & Engineering
- Chair of the Information & Technology Solutions ASO Ad Hoc Committee
- 500 hours of community service at "Hospital Infantil de las Californias" in Mexico

How would you like others to remember you?

As a source of inspiration to achieve happiness and tolerance of each other.

Jose is also receiving the ASO Campus Involvement Scholarship, and SWC District Administrators' Association (SCCDAA) Scholarship.

Nominated by: Dr. Carl Scarbnick



Benjamin Schumacher

Major: Biology

Main Educational Goal: Come September, I will be studying Human Biology at the University of California San Diego, Muir College.

Life Goals: To become an orthopedic surgeon with the U.S. Navy.

Significant Achievements:

- Southwest District Vice President of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society
- President of Southwestern College Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, Alpha Pi Epsilon
- Associate Justice and Chair Pro Tempore of Southwestern College's Student Judicial Review Board
- Served as both Secretary and Vice President of Southwestern College's Biology Club
- Math Science and Engineering Academic Excellence Scholarship Award Recipient

How would you like others to remember you?

As a God-fearing individual that offered acts of kindness, compassion, inspiration, love, and help to anyone who needed it. *

Nominated by: Dr. Nouna Bakhiet and Cynthia McDaniel



Andrea Janelle Shropshire

Major: Accounting

Main Educational Goal: To earn a Master's Degree in Accounting

Life Goals: To complete my accounting degree and apply my knowledge to help others.

Significant Achievements:

- Vice Treasurer to the Business Club
- President's List for fall 2013
- Excellence in Prevention Award from the San Diego County Office of Education
- Accounting tutor at the Academic Success Center

How would you like others to remember you?

As someone who paid it forward.

Nominated by: Elisabeth Shapiro, Sandra Sands, and Maria E. Martinez-Sanabria



Jessica A. Turner

Major: Nursing

Main Educational Goal: Associate's Degree in Nursing from SWC and transfer to USC and become an RN.

Life Goals: Make enough money to take care of my family.

Significant Achievements:

- Teaching and tutoring for three years
- Assistant manager at work

How would you like others to remember you?

As a hard worker with a kind heart.

Nominated by: Lillian Leopold