



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Rockville Scholarship Foundation Awards
2008 College Grants to Seven Local Students**
*Winners To Be Honored By Rockville Mayor and Council on May 19
And at Fundraising Social at Glenview Mansion on May 20*

ROCKVILLE, Md., May 13, 2008 - Seven students displaying exceptional academic careers and unique extracurricular involvement have been named winners of college scholarship grants by the Rockville Scholarship Foundation.

The 2008 winners will be honored on Monday, May 19, by Rockville's Mayor and Council as well as at a Rockville Chamber of Commerce Mix and Mingle event at Glenview Mansion on Tuesday, May 20.

The Mix and Mingle will be held from 5-7 p.m. Guests are invited to enjoy guided tours of the mansion and grounds as well as food and drinks for a donation of \$25 to the Foundation. Registration is available at www.rockvillechamber.org/calendar.html.

The Foundation, created in 1985, is a partnership of the Rockville Chamber of Commerce, the City of Rockville and Montgomery College-Rockville. Since its inception, the foundation has granted scholarships in excess of \$160,000 overall to Rockville students pursuing post-secondary education.

For further information regarding the Rockville Scholarship Foundation, visit <http://www.rsfoundation.net/>.

The 2008 scholarship recipients are:

Abiola Laniyounu (\$2,500)

Abiola Laniyonu, an aspiring university professor from Derwood, Md., has excelled at Richard Montgomery High School's International Baccalaureate Program earning straight A's for three semesters and earning near perfect SAT scores and top marks on three AP tests. Abiola also took part in the summer pre-college APEA Program at Carnegie Mellon University and is a tutor for the National Honor Society. Abiola enjoys participating in the It's Academic Team as well as the Drama Club and Shakespeare Club, Mock Trial, Improvisation Club and the Richard Montgomery Liberation Front- a neutral political forum in which students discuss current events and social issues.

Shanbin "Frank" Ding (\$2,000)

Shanbin Ding's dream to become an electrical engineer will begin at Montgomery College this fall. The senior, originally from China and now living in Derwood, Md., has earned high marks at Richard Montgomery High School for the past four years. His passion is electronics. When he is not teaching himself about circuit boards, transistors and diodes, he volunteers part-time at the Richard Montgomery High School Guidance Office helping with translation services and filing. He also has helped to renovate the Lutheran Cross Church, participated in the Run for Life and tutors others at the Hope Chinese School in Rockville.

Ciara Smith (\$2,000)

Ciara Smith looks forward to assisting others through a career in nursing, beginning with her studies at Montgomery College. Ciara has excelled academically at Richard Montgomery High School, achieving honor roll almost every semester. The Varsity cheerleader and track participant enjoys taking part in a variety of student organizations including the student government association, homecoming court and Minds in Motion. In addition, she coaches students as part of the City of Rockville's Track and Field Program, assists with Rockville special events and sports, and has been honored at the African American Festival of Academic Excellence and with the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity African American Book Award and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Martin Luther King, Jr. Citizenship Award.

Michele Nguyen (\$2,000)

Wootton High School's Michele Nguyen chose her career path after a life-changing trip to a Vietnamese orphanage last summer. Nguyen plans to study business and international relations at the University of Maryland, College Park in the fall to help create awareness of the challenges orphans face in other countries. Nguyen, a Tae-Kwon-Do Black Belt, has participated in about 20 different scholastic, community and athletic groups while achieving honor roll throughout her high school career. From the Varsity Field Hockey Team and National Hockey Festival to helping with the Gubernatorial Elections, Shady Grove Hospital and the Interfaith Clothing Center, Nguyen has been honored with several awards for academic and volunteer experience including the Scholar Athlete award and AP Scholar with Distinction Award.

Paul Armstrong (\$2,000)

Paul Armstrong is a triple major in philosophy, history and economics at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. The Rockville resident and native of Poland, is a graduate of Richard Montgomery High School's International Baccalaureate program and passed six AP exams. Along with several part-time jobs, Paul has continued to volunteer in the community including participating in Students Today Leaders Forever, Polish American Congress and serves as a lector at his local parish. He also has volunteered with the Polish Saturday School, the Eastern European Club, Habitat for Humanity and was on the student council at the American School of Warsaw. Paul plans to attend law school and specialize in international law.

Xiaowen Hu (\$2,000)

This is the second year Xiaowen Hu will be honored with a Rockville Scholarship Foundation award for her studies in secondary education (math) at Montgomery College. Inspired by caring teachers who helped her to overcome language barriers while attending Montgomery Blair High School, Xiaowen is a first-generation college student who intends to complete her bachelor's degree in education at the University of Maryland, College Park. She has continued to volunteer her time at Holy Cross Hospital, where she assists with customer relations. In addition, she is a part-time cashier at the Montgomery College Bookstore and participates in the Fashion Club and Teachers of Tomorrow Organization. She is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, the Asian Student Academic Award and has achieved Dean's List since beginning her studies at Montgomery College.

Dam Le (\$2,000)

Inspired by life-long experiences with positive teacher role models, Dam Le, looks forward to sharing those same positive experiences with future generations through a career in Elementary Education beginning at Montgomery College. Dam has achieved Dean's list and Honor Roll at Montgomery College and also has been a new student orientation leader and honored with the Asian Student Academic Award and Who's Who Among Junior Colleges. Dam enjoys serving as an assistant group leader for the Family Services Agency where Dam tutors elementary and middle school students. He also is a senator on the Montgomery College Rockville Student Government and has been a student teacher at Washington Grove Elementary in Gaithersburg and Rock View Elementary in Kensington.

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