

Angelica, Hiram and Ana at Winter Celebration

# MVLA Community Scholars

College Scholarships and Mentoring



*Vision Statement: MVLA Community Scholars seeks to improve the economic mobility and quality of life of local, high-potential, underserved youth by providing scholarships to make college accessible and individual mentoring to make a four-year degree achievable*

Winter, 2010

Volume 5, No. 2

## Foothill College Scholars Start Club



It started with Scholar Selection Committee member, Julie Cates, volunteering to convene the Foothill College Scholars a few times a year to talk about how classes are going, how to take advantage of all Foothill offers, *Julie Cates* share challenges and successes, and just be social.

The students enjoyed the gathering so much they asked if they could start an on-campus club. Led by Scholars Ana Khutsishvili (mentor Mason Hersey) and Jaime Antonio (Mentors Boo Bue and Susan Sweeley) the group has put together officers and a calendar of meetings.

The calendar includes a recent workshop on career development with Mountain View Chamber of Commerce President Oscar Garcia, mentor and Leadership Mountain View Director Alicia Crank, and Foothill College Career Center Director Karen Oeh.

Garcia and Crank shared their stories about being the first in their families to attend college, and what they learned along the way. These lessons included: being open to new opportunities, taking risks, finding mentors, and looking for how your skills might be transferable to other situations and jobs.

Karen Oeh described what services the Career Center offers and encouraged the students to develop a resume. Following up on Garcia's advice to explore career opportunities, she showed the students how to search for summer jobs and internships, both online and in the office.

Upcoming events include a bowling outing to Palo Alto Bowl, and a workshop on transferring to four-year schools. Meetings are held on the first and third Friday's of the month at noon in the Foothill College Student Council Chambers (Rm 2018).

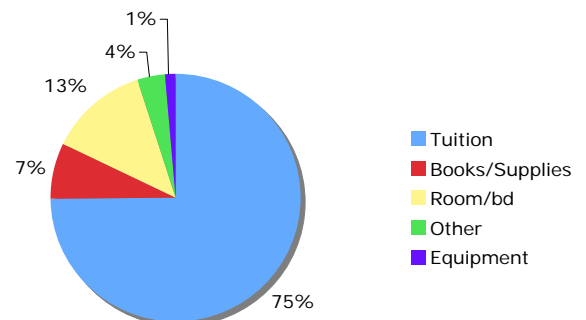
## Scholarships and Mentoring for the Class of 2010

Applications are out and new Scholar selection is just three months away. You can help! Our goal is to raise \$150,000 for 12 new scholarships - we are 75% there. Your gift will fund the remaining three scholarships. Thank you -- college is life-changing!

Our Scholars deeply appreciate your support. As the chart reflects, students use their scholarship money to:

- Reduce debt
- Work fewer hours

How Scholars Use Their Funds



- Focus on school and campus activities
- Pursue more options for school/major selection

Interested in serving on the Scholar Selection Committee?  
Email Nancy Lippe at nancy.lippe@gmail.com!

## News Bites

### Winter Pizza and Bookstore Socials bring Mentors, Scholars, Volunteers and Donors together

Over forty mentors, scholars, volunteers and donors attended our December Winter Celebration of Books at Books, Inc. in Mountain View, with a few dozen attending a pizza dinner at Amici's beforehand. The Books, Inc. event raised over \$500 for scholarships!



### Mentors start Brown Baggers with CHAC's Martha Cravens



Mentors Ginny Strock and Ellen Gonella

Mentors need mentoring, too. On the first Wednesday of every month you can find a gathering of mentors who come together to talk, share their questions and ask for advice. CHAC's Martha Cravens facilitates these meetings, providing outstanding guidance in working through some of the issues that come up. Martha also offers helpful tips on active listening, asking effective questions, and on becoming more aware of how we communicate expectations and judgments. Upcoming special meetings include "Tips for Talking with your Scholar About Financial Aid and Time Management," and "Working with Undocumented Students."

### Alumni News

Scholars Executive Committee Members Twinkie Lyman and Janie Nickel are reaching out to Scholar Alums to collect data and create an alumni network. As Yen-Ven Tran, below, says:

*"I had never dreamed I was going to go to college, but here I sit with a degree to my name and I am very proud I achieved the goals I set. Thank you MVLA Community Scholars."*

A few updates:

**Erin Abrahams (Mountain View High School, '01) graduated from UC Davis in 2006 with a BS in Neurobiology, physiology and behavior.** She now lives in Grafton, MA where she serves as Second Lieutenant, US Army Veterinary Corps, and attends veterinary school at Tufts University. She expects to earn her DVM in 2011, as well as a promotion to Captain.

**Chris Morrison (Mountain View High School, '04),** graduated from Cornell University in 2008 with a BA in Biology. He now attends UCLA Medical School and hopes to graduate in 2012.

**Vince Gao ( Mountain View High School, '03)** graduated from UCSD with a degree in Electrical Engineering in 2008. Currently he works as an Engineer at Qualcomm, Inc and lives in San Diego.

**Yen-Ven Tran (Los Altos High School, '00)** currently lives in San Francisco working two jobs: one as a Support Coordinator for the California Pacific Medical Center, and also as an EMT for American

Medical Response of San Mateo. She graduated in 2006 from San Jose State with a BFA in interior design. Her goal is to attend USF for her masters in Nursing.

**Patience -- website under renovation! [www.mvlacommunityscholars.org](http://www.mvlacommunityscholars.org)**