

“Invest in Leadership Today for Change Tomorrow”

Iu Mien Scholarship Fund Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 1

March 2012

Checking in with our 2011 IMSF Scholarship Recipients

I love it here at UC Davis! The classes I have taken have been interesting and although hard, a good way to challenge myself. I have made so many new friends and have met people from all the over the nation and overseas.

Receiving the IMSF scholarship meant a lot to me. I felt very honored to be chosen amongst all the applicants and a sense of pride of representing the Iu-Mien community as I embark on this 4-year journey at UC Davis.

Education is one of the most important gifts anyone could receive and that is exactly what the IMSF is doing. Many people are not able to reach their goals or dreams without the proper education and financial backing that it requires. So please continue to support the wonderful work of the IMSF.

– Annie Saechao

My college experience at Stanford University has been amazing! I joined a dance group, a spoken word group, and am now running for class president. Within the first few weeks of school, college has taught me responsibility and time management.

IMSF helped me pay for my books! My books totaled up to \$800 that quarter and I didn't want to put more financial burdens on my parents. Getting the scholarship meant so much to me. At the scholarship ceremony, everyone congratulated me and came to speak to me afterwards. I have never felt so connected to the people in my community.

By donating to IMSF, you are guaranteed to help a student succeed. By investing in our education, you are investing in the upward mobility of the whole community.

– Bryant Phan

After finishing my first year at UCLA and nearing the end of my second year, the first word that comes to mind is relief. I'm relieved I've survived and accomplished so many things this far.

As of now, I'm considering double majoring in International Development Studies and Economics. As ambitious as it sounds, I know I wouldn't be here if it weren't for the support of my family and Mien community back home. The IMSF scholarship is just a symbol of that support.

Overall, I'm really glad I chose UCLA. Sure the size and distance from home are intimidating, but I don't think I would go back and change a thing. Each day I go down Bruin Walk I am discovering something new and unique to my experience.

– Michelle Saechao

Continued on page 2



2011 Recipients from left to right: Kimberly Saepan, Annie Saechao, Bryant Phan, Michelle Saechao & Megan Saeteurn

Special points of interest:

- 2012 Scholarship Applications are now available at www.limccenter.org
- Applications must be postmarked by May 7, 2012
- This year's event is on June 22nd in Oakland
- We need your help: Become a supporter of IMSF

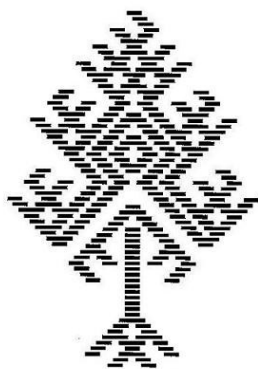
Inside this issue:

- Checking in with our 2011 Recipients 1, 2
- Marilyn Meuychiane Chao, Class of 2008 2
- Nai Cho Saeteurn, Class of 2006 3
- Tzanfow Saelee, Class of 2004 3
- IMSF Mission, IMSF Committee Messages 4



Marilyn Meuychiane Chao

"...the IMSF scholarship... showed that the Lu Mien community genuinely cared about their youth's education..."
- Marilyn Meuychiane Chao



Lu Mien embroidery nyaanh

Marilyn Meuychiane Chao, Class of 2008

Marilyn is a 2008 recipient from Oakland, CA. She is currently a 4th year at the University of California, Santa Cruz and will be graduating with a B.A in Psychology and a minor in Education.

I felt it was very meaningful to have been granted the IMSF scholarship because it showed that the Lu Mien community genuinely cared about their youths' education by providing financial support in obtaining higher education.

Upon receiving the IMSF scholarship, I used the funds

to help me out with my first year of college school supplies and rent.

With my B.A degree I plan on becoming either a college advisor or a program coordinator for the youth advocacy department at a non-profit organization in the Bay Area. Then after a few years of fieldwork and experience I plan on getting a PhD in Social Psychology and conducting empirical research.

I am also an intern in the youth advocacy and children literacy department of the WAWC (Walnut Avenue Women Center) in Santa

Cruz, CA, where I provide assistance and security for "at risk" children and teens.

I feel the theme for this year's banquet applies to the Lu Mien community because it sends the message that in order to see progress one must take action instead of waiting until it's too late.

The theme also resembles the saying "Actions speak louder than words," because individuals can say they want change, but if they don't act upon what they say then their speech becomes nothing but structured sentences.

Checking in with the class of 2011: cont'd

I am currently attending San Diego State University as a Pre-nursing major and it has been a bitter-sweet experience. The classes are challenging and there are days when I barely have time to eat or sleep because of school work, but this has taught me how to manage my time and not to over-stress myself. Overall, college has been an adventurous experience, with something new to explore every day.

Receiving the scholarship means a lot to me. It allowed me to worry less about finding funds to pay for my college tuition. It also represents my accomplishments made in grade school and the beginning of my

college career. But most of all, receiving the IMSF scholarship means representing my family (Thanks for your unconditional love and support, Mom and Dad!) and the Mien community. IMSF is an amazing organization that promotes higher education among Mien youth, like myself, and I hope people continue to donate to the foundation.

- Megan Saeteurn

I am currently attending Azusa Pacific University. So far my college experience has been amazing. I absolutely love my school and couldn't be any happier with my choice.

The classes have truly been great. I am learning more than ever and my professors are very relational and the knowledge that they are instilling in me is priceless.

The things I have been able to experience are once in a lifetime opportunities and it is because of IMSF that I have been able to experience them. IMSF has been a huge part of supporting my education.

As a student you cannot imagine the impact a scholarship like this makes. It honestly gives hope. It is because of scholarships like these that make it capable for me, a Mien student, to go to college.

- Kimberly Saepan

Nai Cho Saeteurn, Class of 2006

Nai Cho is a 2006 recipient from Merced, CA. She graduated from the University of California, Davis in 2010 with a B.S. in Human Development.

I heard about IMSF from a person from the Lu Mien committee in Merced. Education has always been important to me and I was happy to know that IMSF also valued education as I did.

I am currently in Graduate School at Sacramento State for my Master in School Counseling. I plan on becoming a School Counselor and helping students

achieve their goals in higher education. I want to help with any psychological, emotional, and social issues that students may have as they go through school in finding their identity.

I would like to contribute to the Lu Mien community by being a good example for others. I hope that when I become a School Counselor, I can be a role model and advocate for Lu Mien students who may need a voice. I want to motivate students to be strong and know that they can make a difference.

I feel that there needs to be more leadership in the lu

Mien community. Growing up I was not aware of positive roles models who were Lu Mien. I wished there was someone I could have looked up to or asked questions that I may have had growing up. My parents were my role models and they have always been there for me.

Having positive leaders in the Lu Mien community will help the future generations. The theme is perfect for what we need to work on as a community. Changes can be made by people who have support and leadership.



Nai Cho Saeteurn

“Having positive leaders in the Lu Mien community will help the future generations.”

- Nai Cho Saeteurn

Tzanfow Saelee, Class of 2004

Tzanfow is a 2004 recipient from San Francisco, CA. He graduated from the University of California, Davis in 2008 with a B.S. in Biological Sciences.

I was born and raised in San Francisco, California, only 4 years after my parents migrated to the United States. Throughout my elementary and middle school years, my family made it work even though our living situation was pretty bad.

Receiving the IMSF scholarship meant a lot to me because my parents weren't rich and I had to take out loans for college. The extra money I received put a little less financial stress on my

parents who were always supportive of my education.

With the scholarship I received, I purchased books for my first quarter of freshman year and a bicycle to ride to class.

For the past 3 years, I have been working with an Electrical company in San Francisco as a Project Engineer / Superintendent. My career goal is still undecided. Even as a working professional, I feel that I will never have any one career goal in particular because it can all change in a matter of time because of the things that happen around me.

Although there isn't a big Mien community in San Francisco, I would eventually like

to volunteer my time to help Mien students finish high school and college.

I feel that without leadership, there can be no change. In the Mien community, although small, there needs to be people who will take the lead and pave new paths. I believe it is the parents, the scholarship donors, and volunteers who are the ones making the investment for younger generations to make a change.

If we don't invest in the future generations of Mien students, they are less likely to make a positive change for themselves and all of the people around them.



Tzanfow Saelee

Lu Mien Scholarship Fund 2012



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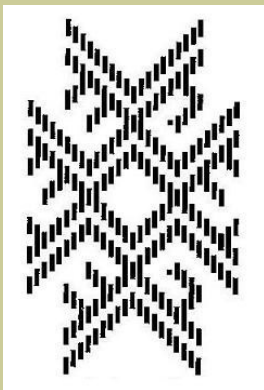
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**Lu Mien
Scholarship
Fund (IMSF)**



Lu Mien embroidery mba'ong don

The Lu Mien Scholarship Fund (IMSF) was formed in May 1997 by the Lao Lu Mien Culture Association to address the educational needs of the Lu Mien community. The purpose of the IMSF is to provide financial support for the Lu Mien students in pursuit of higher education and to encourage Lu Mien youth to take leadership in the Lu Mien community. The scholarship aims to propel students to excel through ways that are not provided by conventional awards.

Since 1997, the Lao Lu Mien Culture Association, Inc. (LIMCA) has been awarding scholarships to graduating high school seniors and G.E.D. students in pursuit of higher education through the Lu Mien Scholarship Fund (IMSF). As of 2011, LIMCA has awarded over 97 scholarships totaling over \$55,000 and this would not be possible without the dedicated individuals of the IMSF Committee and the generosity of our committed donors over the past 14 years.

Please join us in support of this unique program with a donation, attendance at the scholarship event, or both. This year's event will be held on Friday, June 22nd, from 6:00-9:00 PM at Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, 1330 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland, CA.

IMSF Committee

Message from Co-Chairs

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for their generosity in funding our scholarships in the past and future. Thanks to the funding, we were able to provide scholarships for many high school students for over 10 years. We really appreciate the donors who have been contributing ever since the beginning and are still continuing to support our cause. To new potential donors, we would really like to have your support for our cause in helping students achieve higher education and to motivate the younger generation of Lu Mien students to become leaders in the community. Our scholarships have helped many recipients in their journey to earn a college degree by alleviating some of their first year expenses. We all know how tough it can be to start off college, especially since tuition and textbooks can be so expensive. With continued funding we can provide more scholarships for future leaders of our community and help high school students start their paths towards higher education.

Shannon Chao
Member since 1998

Jimmy Chao
Member since 2011

Message from Committee Members

"I got involved with IMSF because it promotes the message that youth should pursue higher education and take leadership in their community. I believe that having a college degree helps open doors and provides more opportunity. I'm proud to be a part of a project that support our youth, not just monetarily through the scholarship but also through encouragement and recognition of their accomplishments as high school graduates and beyond."

- **Michelle Chao, member since 2000**

"I continued to volunteer with IMSF because the expanding of the committee members includes pass recipients and/or candidates. This signifies the success IMSF has brought to the Lu Mien community."

- **Shannon Chao, member since 1998**

"I volunteer with IMSF because it helps me to stay connected to my Lu Mien identity and to know that I am helping to make a positive contribution to the community."

- **Julia Saelee, 2006 recipient, member**