

For Immediate Release

**SCHOLARSHIP GIVEN TO CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS  
FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE**

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**CARSON, CALIFORNIA - Alex Aragon and Paul Macatran won the 2006 Robert Hashimoto Memorial Scholarship. The Rancho Dominguez Alumni Association (RDAA) awards this scholarship annually to California State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) student(s) that have a record of campus leadership, community involvement, and academic achievement. The proceeds can be used to pay tuition or purchase textbooks.**

**The Hashimoto Scholarship is funded by earnings from an endowment with the University's Foundation. The endowment is invested in a conservative portfolio of bonds and stocks. RDAA established the scholarship in 2000 to honor the memory of Sigma Pi Fraternity Brother Robert Hashimoto. He was a CSUDH student studying business and accounting. Robert is remembered for being a positive force in the community while he attended college. Thus, one of the guiding principles of the scholarship is that students, who are a positive force for improving the community, should be recognized.**

Alumnus Walter Lopez served on the scholarship selection committee found it “difficult to choose a winner because we had a lot of great applicants. In addition to succeeding in their coursework, many applicants worked part time, were very involved with campus organizations, and volunteered with charity. It is clear the Paul and Alex are involved to help others rather than just to build their resumes.” RDAA President David Parikh agreed noting that “I was also very impressed with the applicants. Fortunately, our decision was easier because we had enough funds to sponsor two scholarships this year.”

Alex Aragon is involved with student organizations on campus. He is developing his leadership skills and helping enrich the campus experience of other CSUDH students. Alex laments the fact that many people perceive the campus as just a facility to hold classes; it has the stigma of *Commuter College*. To help build a sense of community, Alex has helped organized dinners out with his fellow classmates, camping trips, and also assisted on campus fairs.

Aragon has been involved with campus activities since high school. He spearheaded the collection of over \$1,000 worth of aluminum cans for

the Earth Club. He has also volunteered to clean up our local beaches and parks. Currently, Alex is a member of Sigma Pi Fraternity and the Latino Student Business Association. These groups have helped him hone his critical thinking, taught him how to manage group meetings, and improved his public speaking skills. While at CSUDH, the sophomore vows to remain involved in campus life with the goal of becoming treasurer of his Fraternity.

The scholarship committee also felt that Paul Macatran deserved recognition this year. Paul has volunteered with the YMCA for the past eight years, and has also volunteered for his church's youth group for the eighteen months. He hopes the bachelor's degree in sociology he is working toward will allow him to help children in our local schools as a teacher or councilor. In addition to working part-time, volunteering at his church, and attending classes, Paul is also philanthropy chairman of his Fraternity—Sigma Pi. The sophomore explains his dedication to this student group can be attributed to the fraternity's vision of helping others through community service. "I am involved in Sigma Pi not just to be part of another organization on campus, but to make a difference."

Scholarships will be presented May 20<sup>th</sup> at the prestigious Orchid Ball. RDAA's Steve Silbiger explained the importance of the scholarship. "The Rancho Dominguez Alumni Association of Sigma Pi considers the presentation of the Robert Hashimoto Scholarship the highlight of our year. It provides our organization the opportunity to honor our fraternal brother's memory as well as provide support in the form of educational support for two worthy scholarship recipients." Rene Sabio, former CSUDH ASB President stressed that students with these qualities should be recognized. "Paul and Alex are the kind of students that exemplify the Sigma Pi tradition. They are our future leaders. I am proud we can honor Brother Hashimoto's memory by awarding scholarships to these high caliber students. I wish them well with their studies."