

2012 USTA NorCal Champions of Character Scholarship Recipients

USTA Northern California is proud to announce the **2012 recipients of the Champions of Character Scholarship** program. The scholarship program, administered by the USTA NorCal Diversity Committee, which began in 1999 aims to encourage multicultural tennis student athletes to pursue a higher education and over 25 high school seniors have been awarded to date. "We are immensely proud of all our recipients and impressed with their determination to pursue a higher education despite some very personal obstacles," says Silvia Duenas-Bielser of Diversity and Outreach.

Diversity Committee Chair, Martha Ehrenfeld, "The Diversity Committee looks for applicants who are tennis players and have given something back to their community, but it's not necessary to be the star of the tennis team. They may not play D-1 college tennis but will participate in intramural clubs and Tennis on Campus programs and hopefully will become lifelong tennis players and ambassadors of USTA."



Ryan Nunnery: Althea Gibson Scholarship

My name is Ryan Nunnery, I'm from Oakland, California. I learned tennis at Davie Stadium and attended Skyline High School in Oakland. I am currently a freshman at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi. I am a music performance major and I hope to pursue a career involving music. I also love hiking, playing tennis, playing piano, and learning new things. I primarily live and love music and tennis and cannot see myself living without the two.



Leslie Chan: Michael Chang

My name is Leslie Chan and I'm attending UC Davis as an Economics major with a minor in Computer Science. I started playing tennis at nine years old and have loved the sport ever since. I am honored to have received the Michael Chang Scholarship and I thank USTA NorCal for giving me and other people this opportunity!



Cynthia Lau: Arthur Ashe Scholarship

I just graduated from Alameda High. In the fall I will be attending University of California Santa Cruz this fall and I am currently majoring in Biology. While I am not busy studying, I hope to go out to the school's tennis courts and meet new friends that love playing tennis as much as I do. Playing tennis in high school has taught me to take advantage of all resources available around me and has taught me to become a better student leader.

In Santa Cruz, I intend on bringing the traits I gained from tennis with me to college. I hope to meet new people in college that want me to be a successful just like my tennis coaches in high school did. In addition to playing tennis, I also love giving back to the community. I plan on participating in community service events where I can take time off of schoolwork and meet and help out others in the Santa Cruz community.