

Five UCSD students are recipients of Iranian-American scholarships

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FIVE UCSD STUDENTS ARE RECIPIENTS OF IRANIAN-AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIPS

Three 1998-99 seniors and two sophomore students at the University of California, San Diego, are the first beneficiaries of the Iranian-American Students Scholarship Fund established by a group of citizens and UCSD alumni in the local Persian community.

Shahri Estakhry Aghassi, chair, said that although individual scholarships are awarded by many colleges, this is the first scholarship fund for Iranian students established by an entire Persian community. "We hope our efforts can be an inspiration for other areas to start a similar fund," she noted.

The five recipients were selected from 35 candidates by UCSD's Committee on Undergraduate Scholarships and Honors. Each will receive \$1,000 in scholarship support from donations made to the fund by the Persian Cultural Center, the Association of Iranian American Professionals, and Qualcomm Inc.

The recipients included:

Rambod Amirnovin: Starting his senior year in the fall, Amirnovin is majoring in molecular biology and plans a career in medicine. Active in volunteer work, he is founder and president of United Students for Veterans Health, an organization that assists at the V.A. Hospital. A native of Iran, he hopes one day to be a published poet. His scholarship was made possible through the generosity of the Persian Cultural Center.

Parham Holakouee: Starting his sophomore year in 1998-99, Holakouee is majoring in biology and hopes to become a neurosurgeon. He spent three months last year as a volunteer at Cedar Sinai Hospital. He is an accomplished pianist and was a star basketball player in high school. His scholarship was made possible through the Iranian-American Students Scholarship Fund (also known as the Mother Scholarship Fund).

Ramtin Mahboubian: Starting his senior year this fall, Mahboubian is majoring in computer science and plans a career in programming. Born in Tehran, he moved to Israel, alone and age 17, and 10 years later was reunited with the rest of his family in the U.S. Once here and with very little resources, he strived to learn a new language and culture and achieved outstanding academic honors, first at Mesa College and later at UCSD. His scholarship was made possible through the generosity of Qualcomm Inc.

Sanaz Majd: Starting her senior year in 1998, Majd is majoring in Animal Physiology and Neuroscience. Her volunteer activities include the Choices Teen Clinic, the UCSD Health Center and coordination of food drives and soup kitchens for the homeless. She plans a career in medicine. Her scholarship was made possible through the Association of Iranian American Professionals.

Noureddin Nourbakhsh: Starting his sophomore year this fall, Nourbakhsh is majoring in bioengineering and plans a career in medicine. His volunteer activities have included Model United Nations Conferences from 1993 to 1997 and the Walk for Peace in 1996. He is an accomplished athlete and has a passion for music, working as a

disc jockey for nearly a decade. His scholarship was made possible through the support of the Iranian-American Students Scholarship Fund.

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