

2016-2017 GGUSD Valedictorians



Bolsa Grande High School: Alex Nguyen is attending the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and will major in applied mathematics. He is a National Merit Finalist as well as a recipient of the UCLA Stamps Scholarship and Edison Scholarship. His favorite high school activities included drumline, yearbook, and orchestra. His most memorable high school experience was when his drumline team participated in prelims and qualified for the championships. A resident of Westminster, Alex's parents are Luat Nguyen and Truc-Le Nguyen.



Bolsa Grande High School: Kaycee Pham is a National Merit Special Scholarship recipient and ASB Member of the Year. She will be attending the University of California, Berkley as an electrical engineering and computer science major. She hopes to become a programmer for a well-established company. Kaycee was in yearbook and journalism, ASB, and National Honor Society. Her most memorable high school experience is winning second place during the sophomore lip sync because of the cohesion of each and every class member and how they worked so well together. A resident of Garden Grove, Kaycee's parents are Yenthi Pham and Huong Huyen.



Garden Grove High School: Jennifer Ailes will major in mathematics at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She hopes to one day become a high school math teacher. Jennifer is proud of being named one of the Top 26 Most Worthy Argos, making the varsity basketball team, getting accepted to five UC schools, and being named valedictorian. Her favorite high school activities included volleyball, Korean Club, and the international week dance. Her most memorable high school experience was making bubbles for the Advanced Placement Biology Science Fair; she had so much fun while learning. A resident of Garden Grove, her parents are Jack and Joy Ailes.



Garden Grove High School: Marissa Garcia has been accepted into Harvard University and will be majoring in Integrative Biology and English. She would like to become a marine biology professor. Some of her high school accomplishments include placing first in Latin II Grammar at the SCRAM Latin Convention, being an intern at the Ocean Institute, earning Summa Cum Laude in the National Latin Exam, and being a Disneyland Resort Dreamers and Doers Shining Star. Marissa enjoyed playing the cello in the chamber orchestra, and being in the Forward Book Club Latin Program. Her most memorable high school memory was performing cello with her orchestra at Segerstrom Hall, the place where she watched Concert with Campers as a counselor for the summer camp arts-X-press. A resident of Garden Grove, her parents are Sherral and Jaime Garcia.



Hare High School: Jasmyne Contreras will be attending Santa Ana College and will major in science. She was a student of the month and was on the principal's honor roll. She would like to pursue a career in pediatrics. Among her favorite high school activities were ASB, Friday Night Live (FNL), and Thrilling Thursdays. Her most memorable high school experiences include joining ASB and FNL, as well as We Day activities with ASB in April 2017. A resident of Santa Ana, her mother is Jennifer and grandmother Yolanda Ornelas.



La Quinta High School: Caroline Nguyen will be attending the University of California, Irvine as a Biological Sciences major. She is most proud of having one of her stories featured in the top ten romance section of Episode, which helped boost her following on social media. She is also proud of receiving the Regent's Scholarship at three other UC schools and although she will not be attending those schools, she feels honored. Caroline enjoyed volunteering at a hospital, exploring her creative side by publishing shorts stories and making short films, tutoring fellow students, and helping faculty through CSF. Her most memorable high school experience was being able leave her parents speechless when they found out that she had been accepted into UCLA. A resident of Westminster, her parents are Paul Nguyen and Huyen Nguyen.



Los Amigos High School: Kim Hoang Nguyen completed ten Advanced Placement classes and received an AP Scholar with Distinction award. She will attend the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and will be majoring in Biochemistry. She hopes to be a radiologist or an anesthesiologist. She is proud of overcoming the obstacles of fitting in after moving to California from Hawaii at the beginning of high school and being accepted to all six of the UC schools she applied to. She was a part of the tennis team and in orchestra for two years, and enjoyed math classes and going to school dances. Her most memorable high school experiences include juggling five AP classes, filling out college applications, working, and writing her valedictory speech, and walking out of AP testing knowing she did well. She is a resident of Santa Ana. Kim's parents are Triet Nguyen and Linh Pham.



Pacifica High School: Margaret Gallagher will attend Loyola Marymount University and major in English and would like to be a university professor. She was a student athlete, maintaining a 4.0 GPA while playing varsity basketball, received a TOPPS Academic Achievement in Psychology award, was an AP National Scholar Award winner, scored 4 or more on eight AP exams, and received the Mariner of Excellence Award for Social Sciences. Her favorite high school activities included being part of the basketball team, participating in the AP chemistry annual Chemistry Demolition Show, and being involved in campus life. Amongst her most memorable high school moments were winter formal, the AP Chem Demo, the PHS dance show, and fun times with friends and teachers throughout all four years! A resident of Garden Grove, her parents are Thomas

Gallagher and Huonglan Tran.

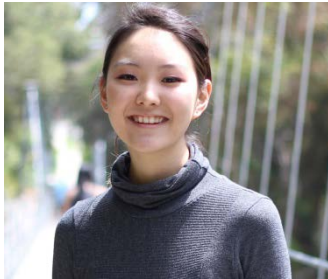


Rancho Alamitos: Cynthia Vu is a Questbridge Scholar, an AP Scholar with Honor and Distinction award recipient, Red Cross Club President, and an English Department award winner as a freshman and Social Science Department winner as a sophomore and junior. She will be attending Princeton University and will either focus on English or economics. Cynthia would like to become a lawyer. Her most memorable high school experience was getting CPR trained and certified through the Red Cross Club. Although the experience was tiring, it was fun and she feels more prepared to help those in need in case of emergencies. A resident of Garden Grove, her parents are Hue and Hieu Vu.



Santiago High School: Sarah Phung is an AP Scholar with Distinction, voted most likely to succeed by her peers, was a scholar of the quarter, and distinguished secretary/project chair. She will be attending the University of California, Berkley as a Biochemistry major and wishes to become a neuro/cardio surgeon. Sarah's favorite high school activities included volunteering, swimming, and going to dances. Her most memorable high school experience was the camaraderie she had with her friends, knowing they would all be entering adulthood together. A resident of Garden Grove, her parents are Thu Hang and Milly Phung.

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Bolsa Grande High School: Erica Jeon earned a 5.0 GPA after completing five AP classes, passing each one with an A. She will attend the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) as a Spanish major. She is proud of getting accepted into UCLA and the Ryman Arts Program for high school students at California State University, Fullerton and earning her black belt in four years. Her favorite high school activities included, going to assemblies, Club Rush and API Day. Her most memorable high school experience is being a junior and having the seniors come into her class to give advice and now being a senior and doing the same thing. Erica is a resident of Garden Grove and her parents are In Seok Jeon and Ki Hon Jeon.



Garden Grove High School: Martin Lu will be majoring in computer science as he attends the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). He is proud of being on the varsity swim team, receiving a Regents Scholarship to UCSD, the James Dunkerly Memorial Scholarship, winning second place in the MESA balsawood glider competition and first place in MESA solo math. His favorite high school activities included swimming, volunteering, and hanging out with friends. Martin's most memorable high school experience was qualifying for the varsity swim finals after making it his goal for his senior season after missing out on the finals his junior year. A resident of Garden Grove, his parents are Nghiep Lu and Lien Dang.



Garden Grove High School: Zoey Chu was chosen to be a part of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Young Scholars Program, received a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation College Scholarship, the OCL ASB Darrell Stillwagon Spirit Award, was voted one of the Top 26 Most Worthy Argonauts, and was ASB Rookie of the Year. Zoey will be going to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and will major in English and Political Science and would like to be an English educator, an author, a journalist, or a screen writer for TV shows. Her favorite high school activities included ASB, St. Columban Catholic Church Youth Ministry, and yearbook. Her most memorable high school experience was starting her novel during her sophomore year. A resident of Garden Grove, her parents are Hung Chu and Thy Pham.



Garden Grove High School: Tricia Viveros will attend Yale University and major in English Literature. She hopes to one day become a writer or a journalist. One of her proudest accomplishments was being able to write book reviews and promote novels for Penguin Press, HarperCollins, Random House, and other publishers. Tricia's favorite high school activities include being a part of National Honor Society, playing the cello in the GGHS Chamber Orchestra, and blogging about books. Her favorite high school experience was discovering the wonders of literature and the incredible power of the written word in her English classes.



Garden Grove High School: David T. Nguyen will attend University of California, Irvine and is hoping to pursue a career in a math or biology field. He is most proud of winning six medals in the Academic Pentathlon during his sixth grade year, earning a 2340 on his SAT, a 4.3 grade point average, and a 34 on his ACT. His top three favorite high school activities include socializing with friends, participating in mock trial, and earning straight A's. His most memorable experience in high school is making friends like he has never done before that have changed him as a person. A resident of Garden Grove, his parents are Michael and Michele Nguyen.



La Quinta High School: Quynh Tran will major in Chemistry at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and would like to be a pharmacist or physician's assistant. She was a Social Science Department Award winner, Garden Grove League champion in Girl's Doubles Tennis junior and senior year, with she and her partner being named Most Valuable Players her senior year, recipient of the 28K Scholarship to UCLA, was on the honor roll, awarded the Principal's Award, and helped raise over \$10,000 for Doctors Without Borders as a part of National Honor Society. Quynh's favorite high school activities included being a part of National Honor Society, playing tennis, Ecology Club, and participating in the Fountain Valley Hospital Junior Volunteering Program. Her most memorable high school experience was building a boat for physics and all the hard work that went into it. A resident of Westminster, her parents are Tai Tran and Kieudung Ta.



Los Amigos High School: Khoi Bui will attend the University of California, Irvine (UCI) and has chosen to major in Biology. Khoi lists one of his greatest accomplishments as his friends and family. His favorite high school activities included playing water polo, swimming, and most importantly participating in C-STEM because ever since he was a kid he wanted to make toys, especially remote control vehicles. Khoi's most memorable high school experience was his junior year AVID trip to San Francisco when he got to visit the most beautiful city on earth for three days, visiting prestigious campuses and learned about how students were very favorable of Prop 64, especially students at UC Berkley. The trip allowed him a glimpse at independence and maturity. A resident of Santa Ana, Khoi's parents are My Nguyen and Hoang Bui.



Pacifica High School: Martin Nguyen is an ACE award recipient for AP U.S. History, a scholar athlete, and scholar of the quarter. He will attend the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) and has chosen to major in Biochemistry. He hopes to one day become a doctor. His three favorite high school activities were helping teachers, playing varsity tennis, and CSF. His most memorable high school experience was hanging out after school with Luann Huang. A resident of Garden Grove, his parents are Minh Nguyen and Lisa Phan.



Rancho Alamitos: Patrick Quach would like to work at either NASA, Boeing, or Northrup-Grumman after he receives his degree in Aerospace Engineering at Cal Poly Pomona. His accomplishments include winning the Annual Department Award during his freshman, sophomore, and junior years and making the varsity tennis team as a sophomore. His favorite high school activities included tennis, being with friends, and math and science. His most memorable experience was meeting his high school sweetheart during his sophomore year. A resident of Garden Grove, his parents are Van and Loan Quach.



Santiago High School: Jaqueline Islas is a Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award recipient, a member of National Honor Society and California Scholarship Federation, and has been named scholar of the quarter. She will be attending the University of California, Irvine (UCI) as a Mechanical Engineering major. Some of her favorite high school activities include school dances, homecoming week, and attending basketball games. Veronica's most memorable high school experience is being involved with ASB. A resident of Garden Grove, her parents are Veronica Cruz and Jose Islas.



Santiago High School: Edith Jimenez was a member of CSF, NHS, received an AVID Scholarship, the Santiago Alumni Scholarship, as well as the Walton Scholarship, completed a total of eight AP classes, and has had straight A's since the 7th grade. She will be studying Computer Engineering at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Edith's favorite high school activities include going to athletic events, dances, and participating in club activities. Her most memorable high school experience was going on the San Francisco AVID trip because it changed her life in many positive ways. A resident of Garden Grove, her parents are Rocelia Bustos and Rodolfo Jimenez.



Santiago High School: Ana Lopez will attend the University of California, Berkeley and has chosen to major in Global Studies. Her goal is to focus on either education or policy and work with nonprofit organizations. Ana's favorite high school activities include participating in cross country invitations, hosting informational immigration sessions, and the AVID trip up north her junior year. Her proudest accomplishment is being named the most valuable runner and being a student athlete. A resident of Garden Grove, her parents are Martha and Marco Romero.



Santiago High School: Vickie Nguyen will be studying music education at California State University, Long Beach and hopes to one day become a choir teacher. Some of the accomplishments she is proudest of include being a part of the student led organization Young Acoustics, student of the quarter, and bringing singing telegrams to the school. Vickie's favorite high school activities include choir, basketball, and Key Club. Her most memorable high school experience was performing *Baby It's Cold Outside*, with her ukulele for the first time at a school winter concert. A resident of Garden Grove, her parents are Quoc Nguyen and Ha Le.



Santiago High School: Lisa Le will attend the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and will major in Business Economics. Her favorite high school activities include being a part of the French and Psychology clubs and volunteering at events. A resident of Garden Grove, her parents are James Trung Le and Luong Thi Pham.



Santiago High School: Newton Peng will be studying Biology (pre-med) at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). He is proud of being on the Honor Roll from 2015-2017 and student of the quarter. Newton's favorite high school activities include playing tennis, being a part of the Red Cross Club, and volunteering.