

THE Current

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Six UCSB Senior Women Awarded Surprise Cash Academic Prizes

Six graduating women will receive cash awards totaling \$46,000 from the now-defunct Santa Barbara City Club, whose members established the program 27 years ago to reward top female graduates at UC Santa Barbara for "a job well done."

The City Club Prize, believed to be one of the top cash awards for graduating seniors in the nation, is divided annually among the highest academically achieving women majoring in a social science.

A computer identifies the women with the top six grade-point averages, who are then notified by mail about the checks that they will soon receive.

The amount of each award is based on the ranking of the students by grade-point average.

The prizes generally come as a complete surprise to the recipients, who can spend the money any way they wish.

The six 2007 winners, their home towns, academic majors, and prize amounts are:

·Stacey F. Thornberry, Napa, communication: \$10,500

·Colleen Wynne Riley, San Jose, political science:

\$8,500

·Emily Catherine Scudder, Chico, business economics, accounting and financial mathematics and statistics:

\$7,500

·Sonja Maria Beahan, Santa Barbara, global studies:

\$7,000

·Amanda Rose Griffith, San Diego, business economics:

\$6,500

·Victoria Phi-Khanh Nguyen, San Francisco, communication:

\$6,000

The Santa Barbara City Club was established in the 1920s by a group of women who were interested in the political process.

The club disbanded in 1978, sold its property, and donated the proceeds to UCSB with the stipulation that income from the gift be used "to reward the achievements of women who best exemplify the ideals of the club."

About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.