



Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America

Congratulations to our 2010-2011 Scholarship Recipients!

We received applications from several of our alumnae who have demonstrated excellence in their academic achievements, leadership ability, and participation in extracurricular activities. We would like to thank all our outstanding applicants who took the time and effort to send in their application. It was not an easy task for the Scholarship Selection Committee to select the finalist from this most qualified applicant pool. Our goal is to motivate our student members to shine academically as well as personally, so we truly hope that you will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity in the years to come. For your convenience, we have also made the scholarship application available online. As always, if there is anything that we can do to help you, please let us know.

We are extremely proud to announce our 2010-2011 MGCAANA Scholars – Samantha Prasangika Kumari Abeyrathne and Lahiru Koshalika Narangamma. Each winner received a \$250.00 scholarship.

Samanthi Abeyrathne is a senior undergraduate student majoring in chemistry at the Georgia College and State University (GCSU). After successfully completing the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination in science at Mahamaya in 2004, she got accepted to study agriculture at the Wayamba University. She later decided to come to the U.S. for higher education and entered the Lake Forest College in Illinois. At Mahamaya, she received a Special Progress Certificate for continuously maintaining excellent grades. At the GCSU, she was awarded a four-year research stipend from the Department of Chemistry and Physics. Samanthi is an active member of the International Club at the GCSU and has represented Sri Lanka on several occasions. She is a member of the Catalyst Network, a club for underrepresented minorities in science. She has also participated in many events organized by ANGELS (AIDS Now Grips Every Living Soul), such as the World's AIDS Day and AIDS Awareness Week. Through the YES (Youth Enrichment Services) Program, Samanthi tutors school children. She has also spent time rehabilitating homes damaged by tropical storms and hurricanes in New Orleans and Mississippi through the American Democracy Project at GCSU. She has also worked part-time as a Computer Lab Assistant at the Lake Forest College and GCSU. Upon completing her studies, Samanthi plans to teach and conduct research at a university. She wishes to go back to Sri Lanka in the future and share her knowledge and skills with students there.

Lahiru Narangamma is a graduate student majoring in physics at the University of Connecticut (UConn). After successfully completing the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination in physical science at Mahamaya in 2002, she entered the Faculty of Science at University of Peradeniya to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in physics; she also minored in mathematics and statistics. Lahiru's hard work and dedication earned her an honors degree in physics with a first class. Afterwards, she gained admission to the UConn with a scholarship to pursue a Ph.D. in physics. She has received several prizes at the Annual Prize Giving at Mahamaya. At Peradeniya, she was awarded the University Award for Academic Excellence. Lahiru received the Ruth and Paul Klemens Fellowship at UConn. She is one of the 32 students from North America who was selected to attend the summer school conducted by NIST Center for Neutron Research to study fundamentals of neutron scattering. At Mahamaya, she was an active member in the Writer's Club, Photographic Society, and St. John's Ambulance Service; she has also served as a Junior Prefect (School Monitor). At UConn, she is conducting her thesis research project in experimental condensed matter physics. Her research goals include inventing new superconducting materials and studying interesting electronic and magnetic properties of these materials. Upon successfully completing her Ph.D., Lahiru plans to conduct postdoctoral research in condensed matter physics. She aspires to serve as a faculty member at a Sri Lankan University in the future.

On behalf of MGCAANA, the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and the Scholarship Selection Committee would like to sincerely congratulate Samanthi and Lahiru and wish them continued success in their academic and professional pursuits.

Best regards,
Dharshani Nanayakkara
Chairperson, Scholarship Selection Committee