



Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America

Congratulations to our 2012-2013 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. As always, if there is anything that we can do to help you, please let us know.

We are extremely proud to announce our 2012-2013 MGCAANA Scholars – Taniya Madhushani Pathirana and Lakmini Widanapathirana. Each scholar received a \$250.00 scholarship.

Taniya Pathirana is a doctoral student majoring in chemistry at the University of Texas at Dallas. After successfully completing G.C.E. A/L in biology at Mahamaya, she entered the University of Peradeniya in 2007 and earned a special degree in chemistry. Taniya is passionate about North Indian music and has completed Praveshika, Prathama, Madyama, Visharadh parts I and II at Bhatkhande Sangit Vidyapith in India. She has participated in numerous competitions and has won countless prizes in music. Taniya is a talented violin player. She has won the All Island award and Central Province award at the 16th annual session of Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science in 2004. She has served as a temporary demonstrator at the Peradeniya University Department of Chemistry and currently serves as a teaching assistant at the University of Texas at Dallas. Her research interests are in medicinal chemistry; her work at Peradeniya includes generating biofuels using microbials biofilms. Taniya's career goal is to become a successful researcher in her field of study.

Lakmini Widanapathirana is a doctoral student majoring in organic chemistry, particularly supramolecular chemistry, at Iowa State University (ISU) of Science and Technology in Ames, IA. After successfully completing the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination at Mahamaya, she entered the University of Peradeniya in 2003 and graduated with a B.Sc. degree in chemistry with a first class honors. She has won the Baxter Young Investigator Award for research on medicinal chemistry and an Academic Excellence Award at University of Peradeniya. Her research interests include designing, synthesizing, and applying bio mimetic material for transmembrane transport and fluorescent surfactants used in light harvesting and catalysis. Her research work has been published in several journals. Lakmini serves as a research and teaching assistant in the Department of Chemistry at ISU. At Mahamaya, Lakmini was involved in the Astronomical Society. She is a member of the ISU Sri Lankan Student Association and has participated in many cultural events. Lakmini has served as MGCAANA's treasurer and vice president. She aspires to work as a chemist or a researcher.

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

Best regards,
Dharshani Nanayakkara
Chairperson, Scholarship Selection Committee