



Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America

Congratulations to our 2018-2019 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 applicants who took the time and effort to send in their application. 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, if you did not receive a scholarship this year. As always, if there is anything that we can do to help you, please let us know.

We are extremely proud to announce our 2018-2019 MGCAANA Scholars – Manushi Welandawe and Kavisha Silva. As this year's MGCAANA scholars, they will each receive a \$500.00 scholarship.

Manushi Welandawe is currently an MS candidate in Statistics at the University of Rhode Island (URI). She completed her G.C.E. O/L education at Mahamaya Girls' College before entering Devi Balika Vidyalaya, Colombo. She graduated from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura with first-class honors in 2015 under the specialization of Statistics. She was a temporary Teaching Assistant with the Department of Statistics at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and later held a Junior Analyst position in Peppercube Consultants Pvt. Ltd. During her Master's education at URI, she worked as a Teaching Assistant and she is currently working as a Graduate Administrative Assistant. Her research contributions at URI includes collaborating with URI's College of Nursing on developing a statistical model to identify the relationship between early life stress of infants and their developing gut microbiomes. Her thesis research involves developing a new statistical model to analyze missing data in gut microbiome compositions. She has been recently awarded a Ph.D. position from the University of Connecticut's Department of Statistics. Currently, she holds the Treasurer position of the American Statistical Association's URI Student Chapter.

Kavisha Silva is an undergraduate student at the University of Maryland College Park, majoring in Cell Biology. She was a student at Mahamaya Girls' College until grade 10. Kavisha was part of Mahamaya Swim team for 10 years. During that time she received Special Awards in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2014 for her All Island performance in swimming. She was also a member of Mahamaya's Girl Guide Association and the Art Society. Kavisha moved to the USA in 2014 and graduated from Wheaton High school in 2018 with honors. At Wheaton High school she was a member of school's Varsity Swim Team and Biomedicine Academy. She has been interning at National Institutes of Health during summer for the past two years, studying about gene expression levels of the kidney transplant patients' adipose tissue.

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

Best regards,
Vihara Dharmaratne
Chair, Selection Committee
MGCAANA Undergraduate & Graduate Scholarship Program