

CHRISTY ANH-THU TRINH-MALARNEY STUDENT AWARD

University of California, Santa Cruz

APPLICATION INFORMATION

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Christy Anh-Thu Trinh-Malarney Student Award seeks to reward the achievements of a UC Santa Cruz graduating senior, who in his or her undergraduate years have combined academic excellence with a commitment to increasing the understanding or improving the welfare of people of Vietnamese heritage in the United States, Vietnam, and abroad. The prize particularly seeks to recognize those whose UC Santa Cruz education will provide a foundation for a career that will continue to further serve the goal of improving the lives of people of Vietnamese heritage or enhancing the public awareness of their society, culture and history in all communities worldwide where people of Vietnamese heritage live.

ELIGIBILITY

- a. This is a one-time award that will be awarded only to graduating seniors, enrolled at UCSC, who have an established academic and extracurricular record.
- b. There is no requirement for recipients to be, either fully or in part, of Vietnamese heritage.
- c. Participants in the UCSC Vietnamese Student Association, whose membership is open to all students regardless of ethnicity, may be given special consideration for their active or leadership role.
- d. There will be no need-based considerations in evaluating student applications.

FUNDING

Funding in the amount of \$1,000 will be given to the recipient.

NOTIFICATION OF AWARDS

Award will be presented at the Asian American/Pacific Islander Year-End Ceremony in June.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The major criteria for evaluation of applications include:

- a. Academic excellence.
- b. Demonstrated commitment to increasing the understanding or improving the welfare of people of Vietnamese heritage in the United States, Vietnam, and abroad.
- c. Plans to continue their commitment to educational achievement and to Vietnam and the Vietnamese in their careers.

To be considered, each applicant must submit **1 copy** of a **complete** application, which includes:

- a. Application cover page
- b. Transcripts and evaluations of all college work, up to date. These may be unofficial copies.
- c. Curriculum vitae (academic resumé)
- d. Detailed essay (400-500 words), describing your experience increasing the understanding or improving the welfare of people of Vietnamese heritage, and how your experience will affect your future goals.
- e. A letter of recommendation from an appropriate UC Santa Cruz faculty.

DEADLINE

The Asian American/Pacific Islander Resource Center (AA/PIRC) must receive all application materials no later than 5:00 p.m. **Friday, May 16, 2008**. Incomplete applications will not be considered. AA/PIRC is located on the third floor of the Bay Tree Building.

Asian American/Pacific Islander Resource Center
339 Bay Tree Building
1156 High Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95064
831-459-5349

CHRISTY ANH-THU TRINH-MALARNEY STUDENT PRIZE

Application Cover Page

Name _____

Student ID # _____ Expected Date of Graduation _____

College _____ Major _____

College Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Permanent Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

I give UCSC Asian American/Pacific Islander Resource Center permission to check my academic status. I also give UCSC Asian American/Pacific Islander Resource Center permission to use my name in its promotional materials and publicity efforts. I understand that my name may be used in a publication, print ad, direct mail piece, or other form of promotion. I release the university, their offices, employees, agents, and designees from liability for any violation of any personal or proprietary right I may have in connection with such use. I am 18 years of age or older.

Signature

Date

Christy Anh-Thu Trinh-Malarney

April 25, 1967 - April 29, 2003

Merrill College 1990

By Shaun Malarney

Christy Anh-Thu Trinh-Malarney was born Trinh Ngoc Anh-Thu on April 25th, 1967 in Saigon, Vietnam. The daughter of a family of northern and central Vietnamese ancestry, she spent her early years growing up in both Saigon and Hue. As with thousands of other Vietnamese of her generation, her childhood in Vietnam came to an abrupt end on April 29th, 1975 when her family fled Saigon by boat as the North Vietnamese army approached the city. Although she was only eight years old, she vividly remembered her mother taking her and her sister to the side of the boat and telling them to take one last look at and remember the Vietnamese coast as it faded in the distance.

After several days at sea, she and her family were picked up by a United States Navy vessel and, after several stops, were ultimately transported to Camp Pendleton in southern California. Her father had previously studied in the US and the family had the good fortune of having his doctoral advisor immediately agree to sponsor them in the US. The family moved to Rolla, Missouri, where Christy arrived in late May 1975, speaking not a word of English. As they began settling in her family decided that, given the fact that most Americans could not pronounce her name, she needed to choose an English name. She initially chose Cathy, but after meeting a charismatic young girl on the playground named Christy, she came home and informed her parents that Christy was to be her English name.

Over the next several years her family moved between Missouri and Oklahoma until they finally moved to southern California in January of 1980. In 1985 Christy began her undergraduate studies at Cal Poly Pomona and in 1987 she transferred to the school she had long wanted to attend, UC Santa Cruz. Her years in Santa Cruz gave her the opportunity to develop several interests that she would pursue for the rest of her life. From an early age she had been interested in education, particularly of immigrants, refugees and low-income students who faced challenges in the classroom. Prior to moving to Santa Cruz, she worked as a bilingual teacher's aid helping new immigrants at an elementary school in Rosemead. While in Santa Cruz she worked part-time at a Montessori school and also worked as a University of California SAA/EOP tutor helping minority and low-income students with political science and history coursework. During her late teens she had also become interested in Asia. She took a double major at UCSC in Politics and East Asian studies and received honors in politics. Finally, her years of living as an immigrant in the US had sharpened her interest in her Vietnamese identity and the Vietnamese community in the US. After moving to northern California, she became involved with the Walk for the People Walk-a-Thon in San Francisco to raise money for Vietnamese refugees and in Santa Cruz she became a member of the university's Vietnamese Students Association. She later served as the association's president for two years.

Christy graduated from UCSC in 1990 and in the autumn of 1991 she moved to Hong Kong to find work in the colony's Vietnamese refugee camps. She spent over two years working in Hong Kong for Save the Children, UK, where she served as a pre-school coordinator for refugee children living in the Argyle and Whitehead Detention Centers. Her experiences in the camps re-kindled her interest in continuing her education and in December of 1993 she left Hong Kong to begin a Masters degree in East Asian Studies at Harvard University. She finished her degree in 1995 after writing a thesis on refugee policies applied to Vietnamese asylum seekers fleeing Vietnam in the post-1975 period.

While at Harvard she met her future husband and they married at the end of 1995. In early 1996 she moved to Tokyo to join her husband who had already begun a job there. She later described the next seven years as the happiest of her life as she devoted herself to her family and to being a mother to her two sons, Liem and Kien, born in 1997 and 1999. Her interest in her native country, however, did not fade. While in Tokyo she occasionally worked for the UNHCR as an interpreter for Vietnamese asylum seekers in Japan. Then, in 2001-2002 she and her family moved to Hanoi for her husband's sabbatical leave. When she was a graduate student Christy, who was a skilled cook with a mastery of a wide range of Vietnamese dishes, had become interested in the culture and history of Vietnamese food. During her year in Hanoi she began a research project on Vietnamese food cultures that she hoped to turn into a series of articles and a book that would explain to a popular audience the historical and cultural dimensions of Vietnamese food.

Sadly, a month after returning from Hanoi in the summer of 2002, Christy began to experience a series of debilitating health problems. These intensified to the point that she required hospitalization in October and by early November she was diagnosed with an advanced cancer. She bravely fought through four rounds of chemotherapy, paralysis, and spinal surgery, but the cancer proved intractable and she passed away in Tokyo early on the morning of April 29th, 2003, twenty eight years to the day after her family fled Vietnam. As those who survived her noted, she had lived an extraordinary life in those twenty-eight years.

The Christy Anh-Thu Trinh-Malarney Student Award seeks to recognize a graduating UCSC student who shows a similar commitment to educational achievement and to Vietnam and the Vietnamese. From her late teens onward, Christy had devoted herself to her native country and its people, but her potential contributions to them were never fully realized due to her untimely death. It is hoped that the winners of the award will carry forward in their lives and work the same spirit and commitment that Christy had in hers.