



SOROPTIMIST



President's Corner

My two years as President is coming to an end. It has been an amazing two years for me. We have accomplished so much. Our first Dream It Be It Career Support one day event was a huge success with 47 RVHS girls attending.

Human Trafficking Awareness is being heard by more and more in our town. We've only just begun.

Our fundraising was the best yet at 130% over our budget. Thank you to all our members for their participation.

I can't begin to say how proud I am of our club. Thank you for the honor of being your President these last two years.

Teri Malkin  
President 2017-2018



# Soroptimist of Rio Vista

June 2018

*"A dream you dream alone is only a dream.  
A dream you dream together is reality."*

*Yoko Ono*

**Founder Region Fellowship** advances the Soroptimist mission by giving grants to women in the final phase of their doctoral degree.

**We Make a Difference!**

The bright young women who choose to follow their passion and achieve a doctorate in their area of interest are the world's hope for a healthy world future. Our donation to the women picked already will have achievements well beyond the limits of their thesis, and these *powerful, creative, intelligent, and influential* women will get the financial boost they need to finish their degree and go out and change the world. 10 Recipients were awarded \$100,000 at Founder Region Conference May 5<sup>th</sup>.

2017 Fellowship Recipients



**QIONG (LINDA) WU**  
Civil Engineering

*University of Hawaii, Manoa*

Qiong (Linda) Wu was born in northeastern China. She majored in transportation because highways in China were built quickly while the number of traffic fatalities was rising. She wanted to stop the root cause of traffic congestion and collisions—particularly at intersections. Linda has focused her doctoral research on how to control connected autonomous vehicles, thereby controlling the speed of vehicles at intersections and reducing both the wait time and accidents at these locations. She has had several papers published about her research both in the United States and China.



**NAVIT ZUKERMAN**  
Chiropractic

*Life Chiropractic College West, Hayward*

Navit Zukerman was born to emigrant parents from Belarus. She is studying the natural healing art of Chiropractic. Healing, much like life, is multifaceted and involves harmonizing of the physical body along with the mind and the spirit. As a Chiropractor, Navit will be a doctor of the nervous system, reading and understanding the level of communication between the brain and every tissue, muscle, organ and bone.

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**June  
Meetings**

**6/7 12:00 pm Business Meeting**

**6/14 12:00 pm Winners Lunch MaryEllen Lamothe**

**Our club does not meet until 9/7 our first Business Meeting**

Mark Your Calendar

6/3 Installation of Offices & New Member Induction

2:00-4:00 pm Debra Spinardi's  
215 Edgewater Dr.

6/7 Winners Lunch

MaryEllen Lamothe's  
50 Highland Ave.

June/July/August Birthdays

Pat D. 6/20	Emilia S. 7/2
Meri W. 7/3	Monica A. 7/14
Sue C. 8/1	Greta J. 8/2
Vicky D. 8/11	Lynn O. 8/11
Sue E. 8/26	Wanda A. 8/30



2018 RVHS Scholarship Recipients



Yesennia Santiago  
Val Jackson Scholarship  
\$1600  
Sac State- Nursing



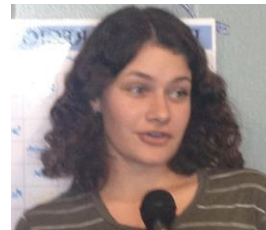
Guadalupe Ruiz  
Stan Rodriguez Scholarship  
\$1226.32  
UOP- Physical Therapy



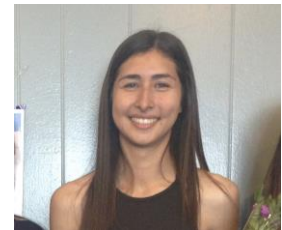
Georgina McTeer  
\$1000  
San Diego State  
Graphic Design



Khaenani Mamea  
\$1000  
Solano CC- Nursing



Heather Stuelke  
\$1000  
Solano CC



Kendra De La Torre  
\$1000  
St Mary's- BioChemistry



Brianna Summit  
\$1000  
San Diego- Bus. Mgmt



Jennie Perez  
\$1000  
Consumnes CC- Acting



Emma Wright  
\$1000  
Chico State- Industry Mgmt

This year we awarded \$9800 in Scholarships to these amazing Rio Vista High School young women. Thank you to all of our members who worked hard to raise the funds so that we could award the most in scholarships since our club chartering in 1956. We make a big difference in our community.

## 2017 Fellowship Recipients



**NIPUNI SIRIMALWATTA**  
**Botany**

*University of Hawaii, Manoa*

Nipuni Sirimalwatta's research focuses on learning more about plant systematics by studying ferns which are important in nutrient cycling and maintaining water balance in her native-borne country of Shri Lanka. Women and girls do not receive as much nutritious food in the male-dominated culture of Shri Lanka which results in many health-related challenges. Nipuni will continue to identify untapped food and medicinal plant resources which will impact women and girls in Sri Lanka and elsewhere.



**NICOLE TARLTON**  
**Infectious Diseases**

*University of California, Berkeley*

Nicole Tarlton is studying antimicrobial resistance in bacteria with the goal of developing new methods to detect and treat infections caused by these organisms—especially bacteria that cause urinary tract infections, which disproportionately affect women. One of the outcomes of her work could be a rapid, inexpensive office-based diagnostic test for detecting urinary tract infections, and their resistance to antibiotics.



**NATALIE NIMMER**  
**Education**

*University of Hawaii, Manoa*

Natalie Nimmer's work on documenting a Marshallese indigenous learning framework will help educators to improve the education experience for generations of students in the Marshall Islands and other similar cultures. She hopes to influence a number of challenging factors facing the most vulnerable Pacific Islanders, including socio-economic status, health, housing stability, and most importantly, the self-esteem of Marshall Islanders who will build an educational system based on their own strengths. She hopes to improve the lives of marginalized students, especially girls.



**EGLE ORTEGA**  
**Biology**

*University of Hawaii, Manoa*

Egle Ortega is studying mice to investigate molecular signaling pathways that result from altered expression of the sex-determinant gene Sox9. Her research at the University of Hawaii should bring a better understanding of genes and gene pathways that are essential for reproductive development, maintenance, and selective control of both male and female fertility in adulthood. Her hope is that this work will uncover technologies that will help with fertility-related issues worldwide.

The funds we raise on the Fellowship Board goes towards our \$1000 donation every year. We then select a Club Fellow who is invited to attend a cocktail party to meet these amazing women at the May Founder Region Conference. It is an honor for our Club Fellows to attend and represent our club.

## 2017 Fellowship Recipients



**LAURA BOUDREAU**  
Business & Public Policy

*University of California, Berkeley*

Laura Boudreau studies the impact of establishing Safety Committees for garment factory workers in Bangladesh in order to increase communication and relations between workers and managers. Safety Committees may indirectly reduce worker absenteeism and increase worker retention, which would generate productivity gains for factories. As the law mandates requirements for female participation in Safety Committees, their establishment will also provide garment workers with their first opportunity to see females participating in decision-making at their factories.



**CAROLYN KIERANS**  
Astrophysics

*University of California, Berkeley*

Carolyn Kierans' dissertation focuses specifically on producing the first direct image of the distribution of antimatter in the galaxy with COSI (Compton Spectrometer and Imager) and to learn all that she can about the source of these positrons with studies of the annihilation emission. The past four years of her PhD have been focused on getting the COSI into the air, which included travel to Antarctica and New Zealand to launch the balloon carrying the COSI.



**KIMBERLY BERGER**  
Epidemiology

*University of California, Berkeley*

Can personal-care product exposure in utero lead to childhood immune dysfunction? To answer this question, Kim Berger chose the field of environmental epidemiology, particularly as it pertains to the health effects of the chemicals in personal care products. Kim wants to be a voice to influence public policy on what ingredients go into the products we use daily—cosmetics, sunscreens, toothpaste, fragrances, and food preservatives—as well as what products people choose to buy.



**RACHEL BERNHARD**  
Political Science

*University of California, Berkeley*

Studying women and gender in politics, Rachel Bernhard hopes to find a way to increase the election of women to office. Eighty other nations have a higher percentage of females in national legislation than the U.S. She is studying what prompts people to vote for male and female candidates in California and Oregon. Through the patterns that have emerged, she has determined what motivates voters to vote for male and female candidates. She is recommending ballot changes that would increase the election of women to office.



We meet on  
1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays  
The Point Restaurant  
120 Marina Drive

Follow us at [siriovista.org](http://siriovista.org) or Soroptimist of Rio Vista on Facebook