



**Humanitarian  
Scholarship 2008  
*A Final Account***

# Sydney Chinese Lions Humanitarian Scholarship 2008

## Scholarship Offered for the 6th Year Running — Response Overwhelming

This is the 6th consecutive year that our Club is offering the Sydney Chinese Lions Humanitarian Scholarship. The purpose is to encourage and recognise humanitarian services undertaken by university students. Throughout these years, this scholarship has received very good recognition and acknowledgement from the public. In February, we invited for applications and the response was excellent. The quality of most of the applications received was remarkable.

The adjudicating panel comprises President Dr Anthony Cheung, Vice President Sylvia Chong, Lion Jack Lee, and Lion Arthur Kwan. Three finalists, Jonathan Greenacre, Marianna Leishman and Mimi Zou, were selected and each made a brief presentation at our dinner meeting held in May.

Their presentations were all very impressive, therefore in addition to the original award of one winner receiving a scholarship of \$2,000, two consolation prizes of \$1,000 each will also be awarded. The final results will be announced at the Club's Changeover Dinner on 4 June.



Scholarship Finalists with Adjudicating Panel at May Members Meeting

# The 3 Finalists

**Jonathan Greenacre** is from the University of Sydney. He is founder and President of a non-profit organisation - Step Safe ([www.stepsafe.org.au](http://www.stepsafe.org.au)), a group which raises money for the poor in Cambodia, particularly landmines survivors. His work has included meetings with the then Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, to successfully lobby for \$100 million for the landmines causes; raising over \$50,000 for the organisation's Cambodian beneficiaries; and representing Australia at conferences in Africa, the United Kingdom and Middle East. He was nominated Young Australian of the Year for his efforts. He helps monitor human rights around the world, and has volunteered for the International Commission of Jurists (Australia), the United Nations Society of the University of New South Wales and the Australian Coalition for Transitional Justice in East Timor. He also serves as a committee member of the Grameen Foundation to help provide financial services to the poor in the Philippines. Next year, he aims for Step Safe to raise another \$100,000 for the poor in Cambodia by building relationships with American donors, and will continue his role with the International Commission of Jurists (Australia), and Grameen Foundation. He will also visit a number of Asian countries including Indonesia, the Philippines, China and so on, to further explore how microfinance (that is, granting small loans and other credit services to low income people helping them to start income-generating business) can reach more of the poor in those areas.



**Marianna Leishman** is from the University of Sydney. Whilst studying she has undertaken numerous pro-bono tasks. She has recently returned from a self-funded internship with the United Nations Population Fund in Eritrea, Africa on adolescent sexual and reproductive health programmes. In 2007 she interned with the Kimberley Land Council in Broome assisting with indigenous claims for Native Titles. She volunteered at Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre working on domestic violence and sexual assault cases. She drafted submissions for the Refugee Advice and Casework Service and published articles on experiences of Muslim women as victims of discrimination. In early 2007 she interned with UNIFEM Australia, the National Committee for the United Nations Development Fund for Women, researching expert discussion papers on 'The Elimination of all forms of Discrimination and Violence against the Girl-Child'. In 2006 she founded and edited as a volunteer the 'Sydney University Law Society Women's Journal' to give voice on indigenous studies, economic, social, cultural and gender issues. She also has voluntarily assisted in projects for the Homeless Persons Legal Service, the Stolen Wages Project, the Sydney Children's Hospital, and Cana Communities Darlinghurst Shelter. Next year she will continue her humanitarian services with UNIFEM Australia, Oxfam Australia and other charities or non-profit organisations both local and overseas.



**Mimi Zou** is from the University of Sydney. She has always been passionate about empowering young people in her local community, and working together to meet the challenges of their generation. Over the last decade, upholding the belief of 'Think Globally, Act Locally', she has volunteered for many community organisations that seek to improve access to and equity in the areas of education, employment, housing, health, law and justice for all young Australians - including Indigenous Australians, refugees, migrants, young mothers, people with disabilities among others. The organisations she has volunteered with include Oxfam, Canterbury Youth Council, Chinese Australia Service Society, National Council of Women Australia, NSW Community Relations Canterbury-Bankstown Harmony Roundtable, International Labour Organisation, and various students societies in university. In recognition of her community services, she has been awarded the NSW Community Relations Commission Young Volunteer of the Year Award, Order of Australia Youth Community Service Award, International Year of the Volunteer Award from the Prime Minister, and others. In April this year, she was selected as a delegate to the Australia 2020 Youth Summit held in Canberra. Currently, she is coordinating a project to establish a community legal clinic in the University of Sydney, run entirely by student volunteers on campus, aiming to encourage students to utilise their legal education to assist those who are disadvantaged and marginalised in the community.



# Winners

## of Humanitarian Scholarship 2008

### And the winner is ...

At Changeover 2008 of Sydney Chinese Lions, results of the Sydney Chinese Lions Humanitarian Scholarship were announced. The Scholarship Award Winner was Ms Marianna Leishman. The Consolation Prize Winners were Mr Jonathan Greenacre and Ms Mimi Zou.

Marianna was presented with a \$2,000 cheque while Jonathan and Mimi received \$1,000 each.

A special letter of appreciation was sent to all applicants commending them for the good and valuable humanitarian work they had undertaken for the community, and encouraging them to keep up the good effort.

Another offer for the Scholarship will be made in February/March 2009.



The 3 Scholarship Finalists at Changeover 2008 of Sydney Chinese Lions, awaiting announcement of results

# The Cheque Presentation Ceremony



Lion Rita Kwan,  
Coordinator of  
Humanitarian  
Scholarship 2008  
providing a brief  
account of the ex-  
cellent humanitar-  
ian service records  
of the Finalists



A \$2,000 cheque  
presented to  
Marianna Leishman,  
Winner of the Syd-  
ney Chinese Lions  
Humanitarian  
Scholarship 2008  
by President Dr  
Anthony Cheung,  
accompanied by the  
Scholarship  
adjudicating panel



Marianna Leishman,  
Winner of  
the Sydney  
Chinese Lions  
Humanitarian Scholarship  
2008 delivering  
a Vote of Thanks  
at the Cheque Presentation  
Ceremony