



Scholarships Presented to 2015 Recipients

August 8, 2015

The Metrolina Phoenician Club is pleased to announce that it has awarded three high school graduates from our community scholarships totaling \$6,000. This year recipients were Tamer Alyateem, Sarah Ghannam and Maen Halawani, each of whom received \$2,000. Additionally, Tamer Alyateem obtained a scholarship of \$2,500 from the Southern Federation of Syrian Lebanese American Clubs (SFSLAC), an umbrella organization that the club proudly belongs to. Both scholarships are given to help young club members achieve their academic goals.

President Lamia Hanna presented the three recipients with certificates at a Scholarship Award Ceremony, held on Friday, August 7 at the Wesley Oaks Clubhouse in Waxhaw. The scholarship money will be sent directly to the academic institutions. Tamer is enrolled as a freshmen at Appalachian State University in Boone; Sarah will attend the University of North Carolina at Charlotte; and Maen is heading to North Carolina State University in Raleigh. Maen was unable to attend the ceremony, so his brother Omar accepted the award on his behalf.

The club invited Wafi ElKara, a 2012 scholarship recipient, to speak about his experience as an undergraduate and how the scholarship helped him. He told this year's recipients to work hard to achieve their goals and at the same time to enjoy their university years. "They are the best years of your life," said Wafi, who is completing his undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering. Also to address the crowd was Tony Bikhazi, State Vice President of the SFSLAC, who impressed upon everyone the importance of helping others through philanthropic work.

The club's scholarship program was introduced in 2007 by Tony and Lakana Bikhazi, who pledged \$2,000 annually to support young people in the community who are club members. In 2012, Charles and Mary Saleh increased the annual funding with a pledge of \$2,000 per annum. This year, three other club members responded to a request for more financial support to the scholarship fund. The Metrolina Phoenician Club extends its gratitude to Joe and Kelly Brais for donating \$1,000, Michael and Mary Shaheen for donating \$500, and Ahmad and Lina Itani for donating \$100. Every contribution is welcome and no amount is too small, as it all goes towards educating our youths.

The Scholarship Committee who reviewed the applications were independent of the sponsors. The committee was made up of Vice President Azad Khuri and board members Joseph Moubarak and Natasha Beathe. Learn more about the two scholarships that are available to our members in this website and www.sfslac.org.