

May 16 Awards Ceremony

Congratulations to everyone here. You have worked hard at Tracy High and have a bright future ahead of you. This is a great night. A time of joy and happiness. We all celebrate your success.

[Pause]

One year ago tonight, Carol Phan sat over there.....[point].....with all the hopes and dreams that you have now.

Four months later, on September 18th, 2010, her dreams, goals, hopes, passions, and life were gone in an instant.

Her shining light was extinguished, and **our** lives changed.....forever.

It is our hope (and Carol's Mother's hope) that the “Carol Phan College Scholarship” will encourage students, like you, to ignite your own shining light....to help you pursue, and achieve, your dreams, goals, hopes, and passions.

Carol was planning to go see the Dalai Lama in San Jose last November, she never made it...this is a quote from him...for you:

“With **realization** of **one's own potential**,
and **self-confidence** in **one's ability**, one
can build a better world.”

As you leave Tracy High....do your best to build that better world!! Whether you are going to college, joining the military, or starting a new job...have fun, be smart, **drive safe**, study hard, but, most of all....enjoy the next few years as they **will be** the best times of your life!

That said: I am pleased to announce the recipient (chosen from 6 outstanding applicants) of the 2011, \$1000, Carol Phan College Scholarship.

Caitlin Dong