

**Speech by Annie Kim, 2007 APIASF Scholarship Recipient
@ May 14, 2007 Reception in Washington, DC**

Many times when I feel discouraged, something suddenly inspires me and I am reminded why I work and pursue my goals. This scholarship is a push, or a shove, in the right direction; it is inspiration to continue and excel in all I do. Upon receiving the little white envelope announcing the award, my parents and I felt the large burden of the cost of a college education lifted off our shoulders. With my brother still in college at UCLA and my father the pastor of a new, small church, my family's financial situation is at its most fragile state. After my father gave up a successful business in South Korea to move to America and pursue ministry, financial troubles have always followed like a shadow. Even in financial difficulty however, every member of my family from my 14 year old sister to my father understands and accepts the circumstances and sacrifices that need to be made. This honor reduced substantially our anxiety over money and loans. More than simply alleviating my financial burden, APIASF has shown faith in me, which is something that every student leaving home for the first time needs more than anything.

I am thrilled to be attending the University of Notre Dame in Indiana this August. I hope to pursue the pre-med track working toward a major in either biology or psychology. I have worked with children in my after-school job and with the many families I baby-sit for, and have found I have a passion for children. My strong interest in medicine and my almost obsessive love for the show Grey's Anatomy combine with that passion to form my challenging dream. After my undergraduate years, I plan on enrolling in a medical school with hopes of becoming a pediatric surgeon.

The invaluable contributions of the corporate and individual sponsors show the strong faith that has been put into APIASF recipients. APIASF and its sponsors believe in the future and potential of us students, of this generation, and of all young Asian Americans striving to do well. It is a confidence that is most comforting and assuring. I realize that by accepting this scholarship and pursuing higher education, I become part of a community that, as shown here, is a community that reaches out to one another and that I am most honored and excited to join.