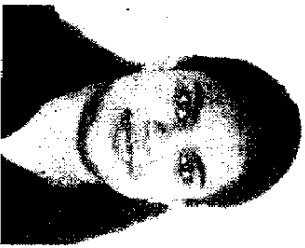


# Treesa Anthony, Jay Dave win Upkar scholarship awards

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IN WASHINGTON, DC

Treesa Anthony of Novi, Michigan, and Jay Dave of Bettendorf, Iowa, are the 2009 scholarship award winners from the Upkar Foundation.

The Foundation was established in 1997 by entrepreneurs Sreedhar Potarazu and Shekar Narasimhan to provide scholarships to students with a high grade point



Treesa Anthony



Jay Dave

average from low-income Indian-American families struggling to finance a college education. Potarazu and Narasimhan argued that 12 percent of Indian Americans lived below the poverty line. Since its inception, the scholarship program has provided financial assistance to 103 scholars from 30 states across the country over the past 11 years.

Treesa and Jay complement 21 other Indian-American students who will be renewed for scholarship grants for the

2009-2010 academic year.

Treesa, who has lived in the United States for only four years, while excelling in the classroom, has also been a community activist. In addition to volunteering at local hospitals, she has started a mentoring program at her high school and has enlisted a group of 15 freshmen to take it over when she goes to college. She has also spent summers volunteering in health clinics in her native Kerala. She will attend Wayne State University in Detroit in the fall to pursue a degree in biology.

"This scholarship," she said, "will be an asset toward my dreams and goals, because the one thing I wanted is to be successful in this land of opportunities."

She said the scholarship "will ease my worries about the financial burden on how to pursue my higher education. Moreover, it will be a reward for all of the hard work that I did for the past few years that has made me who I am, particularly all of the volunteering and mentoring. I am truly grateful to Upkar and I know I will make Upkar proud."

Jay has attended three high schools after moving from Bangkok, Thailand, at age 16, and spent a year in South Carolina and the last two in Iowa. He graduated first in his class of over 300 students and also excelled in extracurricular activities. He will attend the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia in the fall, but has not yet decided on a career path.

"I feel blessed to be associated with a

group of people who care so much about my dreams and ambitions," he said.

"One of the most satisfying feelings," he continued, "is being offered a helping hand by a stranger is because a stranger has no obligation to help you. And, earlier, this summer, I luckily found this wonderful stranger in Upkar."

Nirupma Rohatgi, chairwoman, Upkar, said, "Giving talented Indian Americans like Treesa and Jay an opportunity to obtain a quality higher education is what Upkar is all about."

Jyotsna Gupta Jali, vice president, Upkar, said, "Most of our community is focused on helping back in India, but there

is also a significant need here, and education is the best investment in our community's future, and we are proud that Upkar has filled this unmet need for more than a decade."

The scholarship requires students to have at least one parent born in India, or the student him or herself. The student must be either an American citizen or green card holder. There is a strict cap on family adjusted gross income so that scholarships target most in need. Applicants must have a cumulative unweighted GPA in high school above 3.6 and submit recommendation forms, test scores, and associated paperwork.



## Faces of the world

The Society for the Promotion of Indian Culture and Experience (SPICE-Indian Club) presents *Portraits of Power* at the United Nations headquarters South Exhibit Gallery, August 4 to 14 in New York, NY.

The event showcases portraits of about 30 world leaders by former Indian diplomat Placido D'Souza, left, India's consul general in New York in the early 1980s.

"Drawing has been for me, a way to have an activity different from my work as a diplomat that I was for 34 years. I have had the opportunity to meet well-known personalities all over the world. I have sketched them and obtained their autographs on the sketches, which helped me get closer to them and transformed the meetings into memorable moments," D'Souza, who has also been a journalist, said in a television interview in Belgium where he has showcased his work twice.

The SPICE-Indian Club was established under the United Nations Staff Recreation Council.