



# THE DON DIEGO FUND

A Scholarship Program of the San Diego County Fair and Del Mar Fairgrounds.

# TOMORROW'S SCHOLARS

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## Mamma Mia, What a Night!



*Don Diego Fund Board Member Paul Ecke III and Board Chair Allan Royster congratulate 2009 scholarship recipients Adelaide Dyer, Arianna Lasche, Caylee Falvo, Kelsey Gilmore and Mark Brashear Simpson.*

### An Investment in the Future

*It's been a difficult several months for people at all income strata. We are grateful to those of you who have continued your generous support of The Don Diego Fund during these challenging economic times.*

*Your support, at any level, is more important than ever. The Board will soon designate the 2010 scholarships, both in number and amount. You can establish a scholarship in the name of a loved one or a business and designate who will present the \$1,000-\$10,000 scholarship at the annual Don Diego Gala.*

*The cost of tuition and books at colleges around the country continues to rise. College expenses can be prohibitively expensive for a high school graduate with moderate family means. A donation you can make now will be an investment in both a student's and the community's future.*

Allan Royster  
Chair, The Don Diego Fund

From the singing invitation to exclusive floor seating and dancing in the aisles at the Music of Abba concert, the July 2, 2009 Don Diego Fund Dinner and Concert Gala hit all the high notes.

More than 150 guests, including longtime and new supporters (we welcome you), enjoyed the annual event, reports Executive Director Chana Mannen. She says the event definitely put the fun in fundraising.

"The wine donated by Lisa and Bill Barkett got the evening off to a great start. After a delicious dinner and a scholarship auction conducted by the always witty Del Mar Thoroughbred



*With Joe Harper doing the honors, the Don Diego Fund auction was live and lively.*



*Al and Lisa Stehley with Peggy and Don Durling.*



*The Fletcher party has a backstage ball with the band.*



*Robert and Betty Spanjian with Lisa and Bill Barkett.*

Club CEO, Joe Harper, guests were escorted to their elite seats for the concert. Table sponsors enjoyed backstage passes to meet the gregarious members of the band. Our Board was pleased to recognize the five scholarship recipients, who were excited to participate and thank donors personally.

"Many people said the Gala seemed more like a fun party than a standard fundraiser. We are happy to report that the evening grossed \$61,000!"

## HAVE TALENT, WILL TRAVEL



As a 2005 Don Diego recipient, Ashley Colburn journeyed to Colorado State University, where she majored in broadcast journalism. Having gained the confidence and public speaking skills in 4-H that made her want to pursue a TV career, Ashley rose from a reporter on a local station to producer, multimedia reporter, anchor and then news director ... all while attending college.

"The \$5,000 was very beneficial, especially since I went to school out of state," she says.

During this time, Ashley also worked at the Fair, where she had exhibited lambs and pigs for years; first serving as Media/Marketing intern and then as Fair News editor. In addition, she sat on the 2009 Don Diego selection panel.

Now, Ashley's talents are propelling her worldwide. She is a producer and host on Wealth TV, a lifestyle and entertainment network reaching eight million viewers. She hosts a variety of shows and travels to places such as Croatia and Nicaragua.

When talent, motivation, perseverance and a Don Diego scholarship combine, incredible happens!

## FIVE STELLAR STUDENTS

Our 2009 Don Diego recipients are sure to be making hay, and headlines, in the future, as they pursue exciting careers and give back to their communities. A \$5,000 scholarship was awarded to Adelaide Dyer, FFA; Caylee Falvo, Employee; Kelsey Gilmore, 4-H; and Arianna Lasche, Exhibitor. Mark Brashear Simpson, 4-H, received a \$1,000 scholarship.



Kelsey Gilmore (left) of Mountain Empire High School is majoring in linguistics at UCSD. She says, "Through animal husbandry, I have learned the true meaning of responsibility and commitment. This scholarship will help me move forward."

El Capitan High School graduate Adelaide Dyer (right) is majoring in agricultural communications at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. With her hands-on knowledge and passion for agriculture, Adelaide says, "I am using the scholarship to attain a career as an agricultural lobbyist and considering the pursuit of a law degree to accomplish that goal."



Sunset High School's Caylee Ann Falvo says, "The scholarship is a great help to me at UC Berkeley. I am majoring in biology and plan to pursue a career in sports medicine or physical therapy."



Carlsbad High School's Arianna Lasche is at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. She says, "I hope to work for NASA and study the possibilities of life on Mars and protecting the Earth's environment. The scholarship helps immensely. The Don Diego program can be assured I will put the \$5,000 to good use."



Valley Center High School graduate Mark Brashear Simpson is attending Palomar College and plans to transfer to Chapman University, where he will pursue a career in film production with a focus on directing. Mark reveals, "My career goal is to produce promotional videos for the agricultural industry as well as my own feature films."

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## Invest in the Future – Send a Scholar to College

The Don Diego Fund provides annual college scholarships to outstanding San Diego County high school seniors who have participated in the San Diego County Fair or other Del Mar Fairgrounds events. To date, the Fund has awarded \$513,000 in scholarships and grants; helping 121 students pursue higher education.

We invite you to make a contribution (tax-deductible as allowed by law) by check (payable to The Don Diego Fund) or credit card. Mail to: The Don Diego Fund, Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar, CA 92014.

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