STRAUSS FOUNDATION AWARDS KAUSALYA RAMAN

$15,000 PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP TO CARRY OUT PROJECT

IN HER JUNIOR YEAR

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The Donald A. Strauss Public Service Scholarship Foundation, established as a memorial to the late Don Strauss of Newport Beach and now designed to award $15,000 scholarships to as many as 15 California college sophomores and juniors annually, has announced that among the foundation's new group of recipients is UC Davis student Kausalya Raman.

The Strauss scholarships fund public-service projects that the students have proposed and will carry out during their junior or senior year. Raman, who hails from Pleasanton, CA, founded the nonprofit organization English Kadhavu (www.englishkadhavu.org) to develop and distribute English learning resources to schools in India, where English has become a required language for most job sectors and in seeking higher education.

Don Strauss demonstrated a strong, life-long commitment to public service and education, reflected by his serving 10 years on the Newport-Mesa Unified School District Board, and 12 years on the Newport Beach City Council, including one as mayor.

He also founded summer internships in Washington, D.C., for students at Cornell University, Stanford University, the University of Rhode Island, the California Institute of Technology and Harvey Mudd College, and he endowed scholarships at Stanford, U.C. Irvine and Harvey Mudd. He died in 1995 at the age of 79.

Strauss' widow, Dorothy M.R. Strauss, established the foundation in January of 1997 as a "tribute to the vision, ideals and leadership of Donald A. Strauss." In its first year, the foundation board invited 10 universities to nominate up to three students each for Strauss scholarships, with the board making the final selection of the 10 winners. (Dorothy Strauss saw her vision for the Foundation realized--she phoned each of the 10 first-year winners to notify them personally--before she passed away in October of 1997 at the age of 83.)

In the second year, the Foundation was able to broaden its reach and award 15 $10,000 scholarships—increased this year to $15,000--and now gives 10-15 each year. This represents the Foundation's 22st group of recipients—since its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than 280 scholarships--and like their counterparts in the past, all of these new recipients have extensive records of community and public service, as well as a demonstrated desire to "make a difference."

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