

Office of Scholarships & Student Employment  
Berklee Achievement-Based Scholarships  
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To The BAS Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for your assistance and consideration. I am very grateful to have been the recipient of a BAS scholarship for the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 semesters. During the Fall and Spring semesters I've been working hard to make a difference at Berklee and in communities outside of Berklee. I hope to leave a legacy behind that will benefit future incoming students and the community at large. I will be graduating at the end of August 2008 and am hoping for a renewal or increase of my BAS scholarship for the Summer 2008 semester. This will be my final semester at Berklee.

As a songwriting major and piano principle my goals as a Berklee student and working professional have been to maintain the highest level of academic achievement as student; to find unique ways to assist other Berklee students by developing new campus clubs that 1. Provide social and support networks for marginalized groups such as Asian, LGBT, women, and international students, 2. Raise awareness about diversity, multicultural, and political/social issues, 3. Assist students in discovering ways to make a living as musicians while still in school.

I have been providing a voice that for these marginalized groups through writing relevant articles for The Groove. I have also been working closely with Joanne Whitaker from the Office of the President, Myra Hindus and Kevin Johnson from the office of Cultural Diversity, and Toshie Suzuki from the Counseling and Advising Center to achieve tandem goals that benefit the Berklee Asian community.

While attending Berklee I've continued to hone my skills as songwriter, producer/engineer, pianist, vocalist, guitarist, and arranger to the highest degree; developing my new career as producer and professional songwriter, while furthering my career as performing-songwriter/cultural activist through my ongoing tours which raise awareness about diversity and multicultural issues at colleges throughout the US.

The Jack Maher Scholarship and BAS Scholarships I received this Fall & Spring allowed me to focus more completely on my studies and/or gave me a tremendous boost of moral support. It's difficult to tour consistently at a high level while maintaining a full time academic schedule and 3.934 GPA, yet I was still able to increase my involvement at the school.

This fall I co-founded the Asian Students at Berklee Club with Simon Lee and am currently serving as the president of the club. The purpose of the club is to provide a link between the school and Asian and international students population, assisting with their transition to campus, and providing continuous performance, support, and networking opportunities for them. This semester I am working closely with the Joanne Whitaker (our advisor) from the Office of the President, Myra Hindus and Kevin Johnson from the Office of Cultural Diversity, and Toshie Suzuki from the Counseling & Advising Center on hosting our biggest event of the year on March 31, 2008 - "Asian Students @ Berklee's Spring Concert, Reception, & Social Mixer". This event is open to the entire Berklee community and will showcase performances by Asian students from many different musical perspectives. The concert will provide performance opportunities for international students who cannot perform off campus due to their international status, and provide social and networking opportunities for Berklee's Asian community. Early this spring I was interviewed by Toshie Suzuki from the Counseling & Advising center regarding Asian student needs. Now the Counseling & Advising center is co-

sponsoring our Spring concert event. Toshie will be utilizing the event's group activities as a way to further assess Asian student needs at the school. We hope to make this concert an annual event at Berklee. In addition a meeting for Asian students, faculty, and staff is planned for April 14, 2008 in the Davis Room to help encourage dialogue and discussion within Berklee's Asian community.

Our presence as a club was felt at the Fall Welcome Back BBQ, and the Asian and International Students Welcome Receptions. The first meeting of the Asian Students @ Berklee Club (ASAB) was on November 8, 2007. The well-attended meeting brought the Asian students and Asian faculty together for the first time in dialogue and discussion. A good number of first semester Asian students attended. Members of Global Students Network attended and were interested in doing collaborations with ASAB. Key issues for Asian and international students were highlighted. Many faculty and staff stepped forward to offer their services as mentors, counselors, and advisers. Students expressed their wishes to socialize, meet more Asian students, and to have a big celebration on campus. Some students wanted more on-campus performance opportunities as their off-campus performance opportunities were limited because of their being international status. Plans were set in motion to create an event that would begin to address these concerns. The result of the first meeting was an event held on December 1, 2007 called, "CULTURE JAM 2007 - Music, Open Mic, Jam, and Party". All Berklee students were welcome to attend this 4 hour long extravaganza of cultural diversity & music with free food from Teriyaki House, Bhindi Bazaar, Crazy Dough's, Pan Thai and Whole Foods. The event was sponsored by Asian Students @ Berklee, Global Students Network, & Jams @ Berklee and was well attended.

Last Fall I co-founded the Democrats at Berklee Club with Ann Driscoll and was appointed as Secretary of Berklee's BUGLE Club. I've also been helping organize events for the Global Students Network working with Arooj Aftab and Keppie Coutts. I am currently an active member of the following organizations: Asian Students @ Berklee, Global Students Network, BUGLE, Piano Club, Women Musicians Network, Jams @ Berklee, and Democrats @ Berklee.

As contributing writer for the Groove my goal has been to provide a voice for diversity issues on campus bringing the focus to marginalized groups such as LGBT, Asian, Women, and International students. Stories I've written include: "Freedom of Speech - Are We Using It?" from the October 2007 issue, "BUGLE - Voices From Berklee's LGBT Community" and "Culture Jam:" in the November 2007 issues. This Spring I wrote a student profile on Simon Lee to commemorate his work as a student leader. Other topics I plan to write about in The Groove include: "Diversity at Berklee", "Asian & International Students at Berklee", or "The International Student Experience - Entering Berklee" and "Making a Living from Music (While You're Still In School)". I am available to write about issues that offices at Berklee need brought to students attention or serve as a liaison between those offices and The Groove.

Recently I was invited to become a member of the President's Club Leadership Development Program at Berklee. And as an ongoing member of the Diversity Initiative Task Force and I have been proud to serve as a liaison between The Groove and Myra Hindus and the Office of Cultural Diversity. It's been wonderful being a part of the DITF group and its storytelling initiative, contributing what I can and witnessing the plan for the next series of years.

My activities with other Berklee students include: performing on Hammond organ on Sung Ho Seo's original music recording project, performing on voice on Adam Dias's midterm recording project, performing on piano, guitar, and voice for Jesse Coutu's (MP&E) recording projects; working on an album-songwriting project with Nick Brandes, co-writing with Adam Dias, and featuring Adam Dias as a guest artist/opening act on my 2007-2008 Fall & Spring Tours.

My community service outside of the school includes assisting Boston Based Status Quo dance crew (who are currently competing on MTV's America's Best Dance Crew show) as a volunteer publicist. I garnered feature articles and media coverage in the Boston Globe and Boston Metro, to help raise their level of visibility in the Boston metro region. I am currently working on garnering an appearance on Channel 7 for Status Quo as well as a feature article for them in Boston Magazine.

I also spoke to and performed for Asian and LGBT students on the Virginia Tech campus and personally discussing the cultural & social issues they have faced since the shootings last April, speaking to and performing for 300 student leaders at the North Carolina Triad Leadership Academy to help advance

leadership development and multicultural awareness among college students leaders in the NC Triad area, speaking to 200+ faculty and staff on Pluralism Day at Bellevue Community College regarding diversity issues on and outside of their campus, & speaking to and performing for 300+ psychology, multicultural studies students, and students from various classes at Delaware Community College and meeting with the Faculty Diversity Committee regarding issues of raising awareness on the DCCC campus.

My musical and academic accomplishments as a Berklee student include; being awarded the Jack Maher Scholarship for outstanding achievement in songwriting at the Writing Division Spring 2008 award ceremony, being awarded a BAS Scholarship for Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 semesters, being on the Deans List for Summer & Fall 2006, Spring & Summer 2007, and Fall 2008 semesters, being invited to be in the Berklee College of Music Presidents Club Leadership Development Program, and booking a national tour and conducting a publicity & radio campaign during the Summer & Fall 2006, Spring & Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 semesters. For this tour I booked all shows, arranged and advanced musicians, travel, backline, & tour logistics, flew, drove, and performed over 90+ concerts and lectures while maintaining a high GPA (3.934). The ongoing tour garnered a substantial amount of national publicity some of which specifically focused on promoting Berklee. (See the articles & photos section of my website) Many of my teachers who were skeptical at first in regards to my missing occasional classes now intrinsically trust me as I always “take care of business” and show up prepared for classes and tests.

I feel I've made significant progress as an instrumentalist since beginning my studies at Berklee. (Listen to audio samples of “Dawn”, Alice in Wonderland”, and “Love’s Design” on my website) Since I began my studies at Berklee, all my levels of ability from sight-reading, ear training, improvisation, technique, harmonic knowledge, voicings, and technological acuity have made a substantial leap forward. I also feel I've made significant strides as a professional songwriter. Since arriving at Berklee I co-wrote “No More” in R&B style (a style that was new to me) with Berklee student Nick Brandes and wrote “When the Loving Ends” (Listen to audio samples on my website) I also made advancements as a songwriter-producer working as a co-writer, lyricist, and producer on former Berklee students Adam Dias’ and Steven Staneck’s original songs.

Lastly the technological advancements I have made in learning Pro-tools, Logic, Digital Performer, Finale, I-Web, and other programs have been integral to my becoming a producer and prepared me to be able to be more competitive in the digital age.

I hope these additional accomplishments will further support my application for a renewal or increase of my BAS scholarship for the Summer 2008 semester. With your help I can accomplish more for the school and find ways to help future students for years to come. In particular I hope that the “Asian Students at Berklee” club become the legacy that continues on after I graduate.

Bright Blessings,



Magdalen Hsu-Li