UC SANTA BARBARA

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Surprise Prize

Seven graduating women from UC Santa Barbara will receive cash prizes totaling $45,000 from the defunct Santa Barbara City Club, whose members decades ago created the program out of a desire to reward the campus's top female grads for their academic efforts and achievements.

The City Club Prize, believed to be one of the largest undergraduate cash awards in the nation, is divided annually among the highest academically achieving women majoring in a social science at UCSB. As identified by a computer, the women with the top six grade-point averages in the social sciences receive the cash prizes, in amounts based on their individual rankings. The awards generally come as a complete surprise to the recipients, who may spend the money however they wish.

The winners for 2014, their hometowns, majors and prize amounts are:

Bethany Stetson, Carpinteria, global studies: $8,000

Lindsay Appell, Thousand Oaks, economics and accounting: $7,500

Isadora Parnell-Wolfe, San Anselmo, global studies: $7,000

Lindsey Schwarze, Novato, communication: $6,500

Negeen Amuzegar, Woodland Hills, communication: $6,000

Sarah Alami Gouraftei, Goleta, anthropology: $5,000

Rita Hurlbut, West Hills, sociology: $5,000

The Santa Barbara City Club was established in the 1920s by a group of women who were interested in the political process and wanted to become more involved. When the club disbanded in 1978 and sold its property, it gifted the proceeds to UCSB with the stipulation that interest income from the gift be used annually “to reward the achievements of women who best exemplify the ideals of the club.”

About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.