



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Gay Smither
LRC Scholarship Committee
Phone: 713-443-0134
E-Mail: gay@smither.net

MOLLY CHEN awarded 2015 Laura Smither Scholarship

The Laura Recovery Center proudly announces that Friendswood High School graduate **Molly Chen** is the 18th recipient of the Laura Smither Scholarship. This annual \$3,000 merit based scholarship honors the memory of *Laura Kate Smither*, who was abducted and murdered in Friendswood, April 3, 1997.

Molly is a young lady of many interests, spanning both the sciences and the arts. She will graduate 4th in her class from Friendswood High School this year. Molly has chosen to study Computer Science and Bioinformatics at Duke University, where she has been accepted. Molly is interested in mental health issues and hopes to bring the power of computer science and databases to help better the lives of patients. As a preview of her university study she placed well in the Friendswood and Galveston county science fairs with an original project which looked at the relationship between DNA abnormalities and mental disorders. Molly intends to continue her studies on mental health issues.

She has volunteered in numerous ways, giving back to our community through church related activities and doing impressive work to combat teen suicide through online resources, including working with 7 Cups of Tea – an active listening online resource for suicide prevention. The compassion Molly exhibits in doing this work will undoubtedly lead to great work in the mental health field.

Molly's accomplishments include tutoring through the Math and Science Clubs, serving as President of the Latin Club, and membership in the National Honor Society, the National English Honor Society, the National Technical Honor Society, and the National Art Honor Society.

Laura's parents, Bob and Gay Smither, are so proud of all past scholarship recipients and the many accomplishments they have made in their lives. The Smithers have no doubt that Molly will represent the scholarship and the memory of Laura well. The Laura Recovery Center and the Laura Smither Scholarship Committee wish Molly Chen every success in her college years and beyond. God Speed Molly!

The Laura Smither Scholarship is a merit based scholarship open to all the children of Friendswood. Application forms can be found on line at www.LRCF.org. The deadline for the scholarship is March 31st annually. Tax exempt donations to the Laura Smither Scholarship Endowment Fund will be gratefully received at Wells Fargo Bank in Friendswood designating the Laura Smither Scholarship in the memo of the check. Donations may also be mailed to: Laura Recovery Center, 2600 Ware Dairy Road, Friendswood, Texas 77546.

Former Recipients of the Laura Smither Scholarship are:

- 1998 Kathryn Klima (Duke University, NC)
- 1999 Laura Byrne (Wheaton College, IL)
- 2000 Jared Bourgeois (Brigham Young University, UT)
- 2001 Tiffany Eppelheimer (Georgetown University, DC)
- 2002 Rachel Kyle (Rice University, TX)
- 2003 Olivia Bartlett (Rice University, TX)
- 2004 Michael Giordano (University of Houston, TX)
- 2005 Jennifer Robicheaux (Trinity University, TX)
- 2006 Trudy Taylor (Pepperdine University, CA)
- 2007 Veronica Arnold (Texas A&M University at Galveston, TX)
- 2008 Erin Ellis (University of Notre Dame)
- 2009 Lena Silva (Rice University)
- 2010 Elizabeth Conger (North Western University)
- 2011 Cody Westphal (Texas Christian University)
- 2012 Ellen Zhou (Princeton University)
- 2013 Ryan Bynum (Auburn University)
- 2014 Caroline Landon (University of Pennsylvania)

Thank you.

"Remember Laura"