

NEWS RELEASE

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Dunham Fund matches Rosary High School scholarships for two outstanding students

Through the vision of Principal, Sister Patricia Burke, O.P., two very confident and promising young women received matching scholarships from the Dominican Sisters Ministry Fund and the Dunham Fund to complete their educations at Rosary High School. Angelica Ramos, a sophomore, had ended her freshman year at Rosary with a cumulative GPA of 3.29, National Spanish Exam honors, and the title of "Most Improved Dancer" on the Dance Team. Baili Martin, accepted at Rosary in March 2009, had placed in the top quarter of the incoming freshman class, with glowing recommendations from her teachers at St. Joseph's elementary school. Because of family financial difficulties resulting from the current economic downturn, both Angelica and Baili had to temporarily attend local public high schools, while hoping to have an opportunity to complete their studies at Rosary. With the thoughtful intervention of Sr. Patricia, their hopes became a reality. "In her grant request to the Dunham Fund, Sister Patricia convinced the Board of Advisors that *investing in the education of minority women opens opportunities for generations to come.*" said Ryan Maley, the Fund's chairman.

Both young women express their appreciation for faith-based education, the benefits of small class-size, the emphasis on community service, and the sense of relaxed friendship and caring offered at an all-girls, Catholic school. Both have aspirations to attend college, a likely outcome for them since 100% of Rosary's 2009 graduating class were college bound, 22% were Illinois State Scholars, and 72% received a total of \$10.3M in college scholarships.

Angelica's educational interests include a love of reading and a fascination with creative writing. She envisions a career in journalism, but would not rule out the medical profession. She would like to attend college in Illinois, "close to family and friends". Baili enjoys biology class and foresees an education at Harvard, with a medical degree, specializing in orthopedics, or a career in pharmacy. Both are gifted in the arts. Angelica loves dance and the school dance team. Baili plays piano and sax, performs in Rosary's orchestra, and likes acting and singing in school productions. Influenced by her father's passion for the saxophone, she admires improvisational jazz. And both girls jokingly admit that they really "love to eat" . . . the primary hobby of 99.9% of America's teens!

Angelica describes herself as social, spontaneous, determined, open-minded, and family oriented. Baili sees herself as energetic, optimistic, detailed, hard working, and musically inclined. Both are grateful to the Dominican sisters and the Dunham Fund for the opportunity to study at Rosary High School. Baili is "happy that my family doesn't have to worry about tuition anymore" and Angelica sees the scholarship as a means to challenge herself and to "push for an amazing future. I am going to make the best out of it."

The Dunham Fund is a private foundation established in 2006 to honor the legacy of John C. Dunham, businessman and philanthropist, through grants to Aurora, Illinois area organizations that have the vision and programs to help fulfill Mr. Dunham's dream of "making the world a more comfortable, safer place for mankind to live and prosper."

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For more information visit the Dunham Fund at www.dunhamfund.org



Baili Martin and Angelica Ramos
Rosary High School