

## MAA Honors and Awards

The UCLA Medical Alumni Association (MAA) honored three graduating seniors with a \$500 award at the Class of 2013 Senior Sendoff ceremony.



Sybil Nedumchira Zachariah, M.D.'13 and Mark V. Morocco, M.D., MAA Board President

The **Aesculapian Award** was presented to **SYBIL NEDUMCHIRA ZACHARIAH, M.D. '13** for her outstanding class leadership.

Zachariah, who served as the president of both the senior class and the Medical Student Council, had also been the class president of the Medical Student Council since her third year. She served on the board of the Latino Medical Student Association as the coordinator of a biannual health fair that reaches hundreds of individuals in an underserved neighborhood. Zachariah was an Albert Schweitzer Fellow during her second year and committed more than 200 hours to forming a sustainable art program for pediatric patients at UCLA. She was also editor-in-chief of the *BEAT*, the school's annual art-and-literature magazine.

During summer 2010, Zachariah conducted research on melanoma treatment, generating work that contributed to a recently published manuscript. She also has investigated interventional cardiology, looking at treatment outcomes in patients with congenital heart disease. Moreover, Zachariah was second author on an abstract presented at the Pediatric and Adult Cardiology Interventional Cardiac Symposium and the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions Scientific Sessions.

Zachariah matched at Stanford University Medical Center in emergency medicine.

The **William G. Figueroa, M.D. Award** was presented to **KENECHUKWU "KENE" OJUKWU, M.D. '13** for her dedicated service to the medically underserved and strong academic achievement.

During her time in medical school, Ojukwu was committed to social justice and health equity. She completed a dual degree in medicine and public policy with an emphasis in education and nonprofit policy. Ojukwu's strong interest in educational policy is reflected in her involvement in medical-education research, resulting in several abstracts and presentations. She received the prestigious Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Award to develop the Anatomy Academy Program for a local elementary school. Ojukwu also made significant contributions to her medical-student community by being one of the lead organizers who planned and implemented the first UCLA-PRIME retreat for PRIME-program students, and she served as its mentorship coordinator. She has participated on the admissions committee for three of the education programs at the medical school and assisted with organizing activities for the "Second Look" recruitment weekend.



Kenechukwu Ojukwu, M.D.'13 and Mark V. Morocco, M.D., MAA Board President

Ojukwu has also served as one of the student representatives for the education policy and procedure committee. In the spring, she completed a rotation at Partners in Hope in Lilongwe, Malawi.

Ojukwu will be doing her intern year at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

The **Edward A. Langdon, M.D. Award** was presented to **ERIC EUGENE SCHALLERT, M.D. '13** for exemplary compassion and humanitarian qualities.



Eric Eugene Schallert, M.D.'13 and Mark V. Morocco, M.D., MAA Board President

Schallert majored in biological sciences at UC Riverside (UCR), where he graduated *magna cum laude* in three years. His leadership has shown through as a peer mentor, instructor in biochemistry and as director of projects for an international service organization. He planned a trip to Brazil to lay the groundwork to bring medical care to the favelas (slums) and to give shoes to 150 children in an orphanage. The organization was honored as the best led at UCR, and Schallert was runner-up for the individual leadership award at UCR for his impact on campus life and the community.

In medical school, Schallert continued to lead through service, providing healthcare to underserved communities. He was director of laboratory at the Student-Run Health Clinic in Riverside, vice president of Riverside Street Medicine and a regular participant in Flying Samaritans. Schallert was selected to tutor first-year medical students, participated in a summer internship learning about the public health system in Peru and used his spring break to provide medical care to struggling communities in Haiti.

Schallert has matched in emergency medicine at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

