

Five GSB students named Siebel scholars

\$25,000 scholarship recognizes students for academic excellence and community leadership

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By Allison Dencker

To be a Siebel Scholar is to be — in the world of business schools at least — the best of the best. Each year, the deans of America's 11 most prestigious business schools choose five students from their respective universities to receive this \$25,000 scholarship. This year Stanford students Eric Bannasch, Jim Edmunds, Jimmy Price, Sweta Sarnot and Craig Yee were recognized.

"We are proud of this year's Siebel scholars who represent a dynamic and intellectually inspiring group," said Graduate School of Business Dean Robert L. Joss. "We appreciate Siebel Systems' support of this program which recognizes academic excellence and community leadership."

While Edmunds and Sarnot believe that their recognition was based mainly on academic performance, it is evident that academic excellence is not all that set the scholarship recipients apart from the rest. All of the recipients have diverse records of professional and leadership experiences.

Bannasch entered the Business School with a great deal of prior experience in the business world. He worked as an equity analyst at Viking Global Investors in New York and for the mergers and acquisitions group of Cisco Systems. Additionally, Bannasch serves on the Stanford University Board of Trustees Development Committee.

Edmunds has spent time on Wall Street, managed a state representative's re-election campaign in Texas, and is chairman of the Business School's "I Have A Dream Program."

While he considers his work experience to be "invaluable in fully appreciating business school," Edmunds explores his interest in education through the "I Have A Dream Program." This program was established to address poor graduation rates in East Palo Alto and has since adopted two elementary school classes, the original class having just graduated last year. The program is tied to the children from elementary school through tuition assistance in college.

Price has focused on mentoring local entrepreneurs and organizing events for the Black Business Students' Association. This past summer, he worked as an associate specializing in distressed debt investing at Oaktree Capital Management.

Sarnot, who describes the scholarship as "a tremendous honor [and] a great reward for hard work," is very dedicated to furthering technological development in Asian countries. She was selected for the Asia-Pacific Scholars' Program, a discussion forum for Stanford students from Asian countries who consider returning to Asia.

She also works with McKinsey and Co. to lay out strategic aspirations for the Indian Institute of Technology — her alma mater — for the next decade, including working with faculty recruitment and retention and research projects.

Yee worked extensively for nonprofit organizations before coming to the Stanford Graduate School of Business, including co-founding the Living Well Project, which deals with HIV / AIDS in minority

communities. Additionally, Yee consults for private organizations that collect Chinese painting and calligraphy, and is the leader of the Business School's 2002 study trip to China.