

River Valley High Senior Wins Shopper Scholarship

Jemar Roble Tan won the 2008 Shopper Scholarship at the First River Valley Senior Awards Ceremony May 27.

The Shopper Scholarship was the first scholarship offered to the first graduating class of River Valley High School.

An outstanding musician and student, Jemar plans to become a medical doctor. "I want to thank The Shopper for selecting me for this honor," he said. "Becoming a physician will be a hard journey, and the financial help is greatly appreciated."

Several great universities have invited Jemar to enroll, and he has decided to become a Freshman at UC Davis this fall. He will minor in Music and pursue a rigorous pre-med major that includes Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior.

Shopper publisher and UC Berkeley Alumnus Clark Buschmann urged Jemar to attend Cal, but Jemar said he is interested by the unique career path UC Davis offers. "In a sense, my plan for becoming a physician has something in common with my musical career," Jemar said.

Jemar plays piano and percussion with the Yuba-Sutter Youth Symphony and his church's Music Ministry. He has also accompanied students and placed first at the Kiwanis Tri-Counties Music Competition. This summer, you can hire him to play piano at weddings and funerals.

Being a member of Rotary Interact and Kiwanis Key Club has taught Jemar the value of working on community service projects. "My good experiences have convinced me to continue working as an active community member in college," he said.

River Valley High School Counselor Lal Chima proposed the scholarship idea to The Shopper's publisher Clark Buschmann at a Kiwanis meeting last year. Clark said, "I was excited by the opportunity to offer the historic first scholarship offered to River Valley High School's first graduating class." The Shopper Scholarship intends to honor a college-bound student who shows outstanding achievement at two distinct activities. "Those disciplines could include soccer and science, or literature and basketball," Clark said. "In Jemar's case we couldn't pick a single academic specialty because he excels at all of them, but the combination of academics and music makes Jemar special."

