Ethan shared with the scholarship committee about serving his community in areas where his specific interests and skills can help others. He volunteered as an assistant soccer coach for Jubilee’s after school program at Tyee Middle School, seeing it as a “way to give back to others what I loved most about middle school extra-curricular activities.” He also worked at the NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle, collecting data to examine trends in predator-prey interactions in Marmot Bay. Ethan brings a wise perspective to the value of community service. In his words, “Volunteering is about strengthening our community and making it a vibrant and sustainable place for all of us. It’s about giving our time and lending our expertise to benefit others, and it’s about nourishing our neighborhoods.” Ethan will attend Eckerd College, in St. Petersburg Florida, studying Marine Science/Biology.

Yuka described how the frustrations she experienced after moving to the US from Japan at age five motivated her to help young English language learners. For the past four years, she has given time to Newport High’s ECL Homework Club. Club participants go to Somerset Elementary every week to tutor young English language learners. She served as a tutor and club President. Yuka found that she was able to contribute not only linguistic knowledge to her tutees, but also serve as a listening ear to kids who might otherwise feel uncomfortable attempting to communicate with their peers.

As a freshman in college, she “hope[s] to continue to serve ELL students and provide them a support system better than the one that I had through implementing what I learned from tutoring at ECL Homework Club for the past four years.” Yuka will attend UCLA and major in pre-business economics.