

CBA's Atkinson Scholar:

four years later

Katherine Silvia was busy throughout her high school years in Elk Grove, volunteering at the Sacramento Zoo, competing with the golf team, staying active in numerous student clubs and organizations. Yet her main focus was always her studies as she worked towards her goal of attending college.

PHOTO BY SHERRY MARK



Katherine Silvia (center) with Kristen Atkinson (left) and Stan Atkinson (right) at the 2004 CBA banquet

While still a senior at Elk Grove High School, Silvia says her hard work bore fruit when she received the Sacramento State College of Business Administration Lance D. Atkinson Memorial Scholarship. Funding a full four years of education, the scholarship left Silvia speechless, she says: "I was shocked, but happy...it was such an honor to be singled out for recognition like that...and the money secured the next four years [letting me concentrate on my studies] without financial burden and stress."

Absent the necessity of working while attending school, Silvia was able to take full advantage of opportunities such as internships. "I have spent my summers and off-seasons as an intern with the Larkspur Hotel," she explains. "Besides earning extra money, it has given me great work experience in my field."

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Scheduled to graduate with her B.S. in Business with Accounting and Finance concentrations in spring 2008, Silvia says that she knew in high school that business was her future. "I thought at first that I would pursue risk management, my father's field, but I ended up enjoying accounting more," she confides.

She stresses how important the Freshman Seminar class was for her, especially since it introduced her to Professor Stephen Crow who became her advisor and mentor.

Future plans for Silvia include pursuing a graduate degree. "Looking back," she says, "the scholarship was a huge help—I'm so grateful. Without it, I may not have gone to Sac State and then I would have missed out on the wonderful opportunities here like my internship and Professor Crow's mentorship." ■

Lance D. Atkinson Memorial Scholarship

The Lance D. Atkinson Memorial Scholarship is awarded each academic year to an incoming freshman who plans to major in Business Administration at Sacramento State. The scholarship is designed to provide a full four year scholarship for academically gifted students. Candidates must have outstanding academic achievement with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, qualify as a National Merit Scholar, and demonstrate exemplary leadership skills.