



Rotary District Gov. **Roger Hassler** congratulates student speech participants **Helen Pun** (winner), **Kairay Sinha**, **Gaby Lorenzo**, **Bill Nguyen** and **Calvin Nguyen**. Photos by *Jeanne C. Carbone*

Rotary holds speech contest for local students

By **Jeanne C. Carbone**
Executive Editor

The Almaden Valley Rotary Club held their annual speech contest for high school students at the Boulder Creek Golf Club on Feb. 10.

"It is always a thrill to host this event," said Rotary Club Speech Contest Chair Joe Pileggi. "Today's contest was no exception. We had five students from our area high schools. Each had a unique perspective on the Rotary theme this year 'Building Communities, Bridging Continents' and The Rotary Four Way Test."

The Rotary four way test follows the guidelines of is it the truth, is it fair to all concerned, will it build goodwill and better friendships, and will it be beneficial to all concerned? The questions were communicated in five minute dialogues by Leland seniors Helen Pun, Kairay Sinha; Oakgrove juniors Calvin Nguyen, Bill Nguyen; and Gunderson junior Gaby Lorenzo. Each brought their own unique dialog during their five minute speech.

The oratories ranged from Nguyen's sharing Rotary's guiding principals in the world, Calvin Nguyen's tribute to Sacred Heart Community Service to Pun's rhetoric about the inspiration her grandmother gave to her.

"Some say that this generation will have trouble communicating because they spend so much time texting and on computers, but today proved that they have exceptional communication skills," said Pileggi. "I only wish that more of our community could see these great students in action. I commend their advisors and

teachers for the great work they are doing."

Bill Nguyen and Lorenzo received participation awards; Calvin Nguyen was third place and Sinha second place award, winning \$25 and \$50, respectively. Pun won the \$100 award and will represent the Almaden Valley Rotary at the Area 6 contest. If she wins there, then it's off to the district and then Rotary Regional.

"I was very surprised," said Pun who has been a member of Leland's Speech and Debate for four years. "I was happy they laughed at my jokes. I always wanted to give a speech about my grandmother and this was the perfect opportunity."



Leland senior **Helen Pun** took first place at the Almaden Valley Rotary Club speech contest on Feb. 10.