



## *Quest Student Profile:* **Ilisten Jones**

Quest Scholars Program  
www.questscholars.org  
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**Hometown: Inglewood, CA \* Stanford University Class of 2004**

*Ilisten Jones as a participant in the Quest Scholars Program at Stanford in 1998*

Doing homework at Ilisten’s Los Angeles County home was not always peaceful. But the reason was not because she shared a small, two-bedroom home with five siblings and their mother—it’s because she sometimes heard gunshots resounding from the streets outside. Coming home from school on the bus involved navigating those same streets, which sometimes meant creatively avoiding drug deals and other potentially dangerous scenes.

However, Ilisten was determined not to

allow her environment to stop her from achieving her dreams. In high school, she earned a 4.0 grade point average and high scores on standardized tests. She also played tennis and became involved in numerous other school activities. Moreover, Ilisten made good friendships with her classmates of all backgrounds and ethnicities, and warmly embraced other cultures and perspectives.



*Ilisten gives a presentation with classmates Jenny Ahn and Lisa Vargas during Quest 1998*



*Ilisten gets help with her robe from classmate Liz Kwo, now a Stanford student, during their Quest graduation*

Ilisten participated in the Quest Scholars Program in 1998. She believes that Quest focused her interest in serving others with her life. She says, “I am truly grateful for the knowledge I gained at Quest. I am even more appreciative of the inner growth that the program facilitated. The program’s directors stressed the importance of behaving altruistically and of using one’s abilities to assist others.”

After Quest, Ilisten went on to become Valedictorian at her high school. In the fall of 2000, she will be enrolling at Stanford

University as a freshman and Presidential Scholar.

At Stanford, Ilisten will pursue her dream of preparing for medical school. As a reconstructive surgeon, Ilisten hopes to help people who cannot afford surgery on conditions such as cleft palates, burn wounds, and deformities resulting from tragic accidents. She plans to do this both in developing countries and in the U.S. Ultimately, Ilisten hopes to return to her community and perform reconstructive surgery on residents there for little or no charge.

Ilisten is the kind of student for which the Quest Scholars Program was created.



*Ilisten and Jenny Ahn, her roommate from Quest, who also attends Stanford as a freshman.*