

**Far West Ski Association
Jimmie Heuga Award**

Gordon Cardona

We respectfully nominate Gordon Cardona for the Far West Ski Association's Jimmie Heuga Award. Gordon, like Jimmie, has demonstrated courage and skill in three arenas – the ski slope, the human body, and the courageous heart.

- **The Courageous Heart**

Gordon was born with Cerebral Palsy and, as a result, he is unable to walk or talk. Gordon embraces Jimmie's "Can Do" approach to life allowing him to accomplish great things.

Throughout high school, Gordon used a Canon Communicator to complete most of his class work. He would type his message and out would come a tiny piece of paper which he nicknamed his "Spaghetti Talk." During his final two years of high school, he was able to take regular education classes using this device.

One of Gordon's most challenging accomplishments was graduating from California State University, Los Angeles in 1999 with a Bachelors in Business Administration. While there, he became a member of the "Differently Abled Student Association" and was later elected vice president and then president. He organized activities, fundraisers and various functions for this organization.

Today, Gordon works part time at the Computer Access Center in Los Angeles, a non-profit consumer-based resource center for people with disabilities. He also has his own publishing company and creates layouts for print and websites for the internet. He communicates orally, using a device called a LightWriter and has written an essay, that was published, about his experiences with many such devices.

- **The Human Body**

Gordon started participating in the U.S. Adaptive Recreation Center's (USARC) summer program and adaptive ski program at Big Bear in 1994. These programs have enabled him to ski, swim, water ski, jet ski, parasail, and participate in other competitive and recreational sports. He has reached out to others with disabilities and has promoted this adaptive ski program and helped with fundraisers.

Ten years ago Gordon joined The Unrecables, a Los Angeles Council ski club that is associated with Disabled Sports USA. He has served as their president, vice president and council representative. He is currently both the club's newsletter editor and webmaster. In addition to his extensive club participation, Gordon served as Los Angeles Council's Vice President - Communications for three years.

- **The Ski Slope**

Gordon loves to ski. He has skied at Big Bear, Incline Village, Mammoth Mountain, Snowbird, Alpine Meadows, Sunshine Village and Lake Louise. He was responsible for getting his club involved in the ROKKA Race League.

Gordon was honored as the first recipient of a week of skiing for two during Los Angeles Council Ski Week. In addition to his many accomplishments and awards, Gordon represented the council at the 2001 Far West Ski Association as Councils' Man of the Year.