

SENIOR AWARDS 2009

Throughout your educational journey, you have studied about a number of influential people from all walks of life. In science you might remember Newton and Galileo, in math you studied Pythagoras, in English you read literature written by such authors as Hemingway and Shakespeare, and in history you learned about our presidents and important people in the world such as our school's namesake, Winston Churchill. Such outstanding individuals have touched many lives and are considered to be heroes.

A hero is someone who is admired for his courage, determination, or accomplishments. Each of you being honored tonight has displayed some aspect of heroism through your determination, courage and accomplishments. You have maintained Churchill's reputation of excellence. Among you there are those with a tremendous amount of academic power, physical talent, musical talent, positive attitude and greatness.

Class of '09- allow me to share the successes you have achieved. A few weeks ago we surveyed our seniors- **676** students. **409** students are being honored. **307** are in attendance tonight. This is what our survey results concluded: **614** of you will continue your formal education beyond high school. **30** of you will join the armed forces **32** of you will be employed full time. **528** will attend college in Texas, while **86** of you will leave out of state to pursue your educational dreams. From this class, **80** will attend The University of Texas at San Antonio, **128** will attend one of the Alamo Community Colleges. **17** will attend Texas Tech University, **22** will attend Texas State University, **6** will attend Baylor University, **13** will attend the University of the Incarnate Word, **3** will attend St. Mary's University, **26** will attend Texas A & M, and **43** will attend the University of Texas at Austin.

Among our out of state universities chosen, we can boast Stanford, Yale, Colombia, Princeton, John Hopkins University, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, and the New England Conservatory of Music.

Tonight Mr. Vaughan will recognize **324** honor graduates. These honor graduates will wear a red stole at the graduation ceremony and will also wear the cord they receive tonight. The **122** cum laude graduates (those students with a grade average of 90 – 94) will receive a red cord. The **106** magna cum laude graduates (those students with a grade point average of 95 – 99) will receive a white cord. And finally, the **96** summa cum laude graduates (those students with a 100 grade average) will receive a gold cord to be worn at the graduation ceremony.

Additionally, Churchill's faculty and staff are delighted to recognize the students who have received national recognition by virtue of their PSAT results.

We have **3** National Merit Finalists, **18** National Merit Commended Scholars, and **10** National Hispanic Scholars.

For the class of 2009, **179** students have been offered scholarships totaling \$16,168,711 dollars. This number continues to grow every day. **One** of our **179** students has received a full tuition 4- year United States Army ROTC scholarship. **A second** student has received a full tuition 4- year United States Navy ROTC scholarship.

Tonight 4 scholarships will be announced that have been established in the memory of former students: The Alex Row, Brad Reddy, Caroline Knapp, and the Kim Laurie Memorial Scholarships. The Bubba Moeller Memorial Scholarship is new to Churchill this year and is fully funded by the Charger Sports Association. This scholarship is in honor of Bubba Moeller former president of the Charger Sports Association who passed away in February 2006. Mr. Moeller was known to be the first to volunteer, putting others before himself. He was a true team player and exemplified the Charger spirit.

If there are family members or representatives for any of these scholarships, would you please stand so that we may thank you?

Mr. Vaughan will be making presentations for the Principal's Award and one student from the class of 2009 will be presented with our highest acknowledgement, the Superintendent's Award.

Class of 2009 you have displayed your heroism and have the potential to continue to be that hero who will touch the lives of many more people you will encounter in your journey of life. According to U.S. historian Daniel Boorstein, "A hero is distinguished by achievement." Seniors of 2009, congratulations on your achievements!