

**HILTON HEAD ISLAND ROTARY**

**STUDENT RECOGNITION**

**APRIL 28, 2011**

**GUEST SPEAKER MICK ZAIS**

**STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION**

## **MIDDLE SCHOOLS:**

### **HILTON HEAD MIDDLE:**

**CAROLANNE O'FEE:** Some of my personal and academic achievements so far are getting all A's through school, being a member of the National Junior Honor Society, and being a South Carolina Junior Scholar. I have been involved in basketball and now play junior varsity soccer, even though I am still in middle school. I am recognized by the school in the gifted and talented dance program. I was a member of Odyssey of the Mind and was the only female on the team. I am also a National Young Scholar and a member of Duke Tips.

**RACHEL WILBOURNE:** During the course of my time as a student at Hilton Head Island Middle School, I have served twice on the Student Council. This year I was elected by my peers to be the President of the Student Council. I have also been selected this year to be a member of the Hilton Head Island Middle School chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. During the 2010-2011 school year I also qualified as a South Carolina Junior Scholar because of my high scores on the Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS) and the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT). In the fall of this year, I competed on the school's Model United Nations team at their annual conference in Statesboro, Georgia for the third consecutive year. This has also been my second year as a member of the Hilton Head Island Middle School Stingray Concert Chorus, which competes in Orlando, Florida every year. I was the winner of the American History Essay Contest of the Captain William Hilton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. During my time as a student at Hilton Head Island Middle School, I placed on the Honor Roll and Principal's Honor Roll every semester, which means that I never received a grade lower than a B in any course. Often, I received all A's.

**MARIEL ZMARZLY:** I am a Junior Scholar and a member of the National Junior Honor Society. My essay, "Together We Can ..." received a first place award this year in the PTA Reflections contest. I also received first place in the school wide science fair in the medicine and zoology category for my project titled "Pitch Perfect". I have been working two years ahead in math, receiving straight A's in both algebra and geometry. I have studied voice for the past three years, and am a soloist in the middle school choir. I am very active in the local youth theatre and was in the ensemble of the professional production of *Les Miserables* at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina. I am an active member of St. Francis by the Sea Catholic Church and volunteer at the St. Francis Thrift shop.

## **HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY:**

**SABRINA SMITH:** Being at Hilton Head Christian Academy has truly been an incredible experience, providing new opportunities for me. I am involved in many activities and sports. Some examples are swimming, basketball, and band. I enjoy playing basketball the most and love always being there for my team. At every game, whether we won or lost, I always had fun. Swimming and band are also some things I enjoy in my free time. Flute has always been something I love to play and am glad to be part of the band. School is always a challenge, but some subjects come naturally easy such as English and writing. I love to read realistic fiction and science fiction in my free time; reading has always been a favorite of mine. I may also write my own poems or short stories just for the fun of it.

**LUKE HIGGS:** I have been on the A honor roll all my life at Hilton Head Christian Academy. I have gone there since kindergarten. In middle school I have been on Student Council and Beta Club each year. Out of school I have played football this year and am currently playing varsity baseball.

## **HILTON HEAD PREPARATORY SCHOOL:**

**ELLERY NEWCOMER:** I always try my hardest in school. Knowing things really gets me excited and makes me want to keep going and delve into the subject deeper.

This year in 8<sup>th</sup> grade I ran varsity cross country. Last year I was on the middle school cheerleading squad for about five minutes when I noticed the cross country team practicing in the gym. I immediately thought that that was the sport for me and knew that I could stick with it and give all of my effort into something that I will improve on forever.

At the fall sports award ceremony this year I was honored with the coach's award. I am looking forward to inspiring my coach even more and hopefully inspiring the rest of my team and becoming captain in the future.

When I think about what jobs would be best for me, I think that interior design would be a great job. I enjoy both math and design elements so they would fit really well together in this career.

**ADAM SCHAUSS:** During my 8<sup>th</sup> grade year I have obtained many achievements in the classroom and beyond the classroom that will carry with me for a lifetime. I played middle school football in the positions of offensive tackle and defensive end. When the middle school football season concluded, I was moved to the varsity team and played the position of left offensive guard. I received the award for Outstanding Team Contribution in Middle School Football.

I currently hold the rank of Star Scout in Boy Scouts and I am the leader of my patrol. I plan to be working towards and obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout during my high school years.

I am always attempting to improve on my grades because I know it will play a key factor in my adult life.

I enjoy designing and making small, rudimentary mechanical devices at my father's machine shop. I hope to have a career in the field of mechanical engineering.

### **SAINT FRANCIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL:**

**D.J. GREEN:** D.J. Green, daughter of Nat Green and Michelle Green, has attended St. Francis Catholic School for six years. During that time she has demonstrated dedication to academics, the arts, and assisting others. She has also proven to be an exceptional leader.

D.J. has been on the Academic Honor Roll throughout Middle School. She is the president of the school's BETA Club and a member of the yearbook staff. She has also been active in the school as a member of the Middle School Choir, playing various roles in school musicals, and representing the school at numerous SCISA competitions.

Outside of school, D.J. dances with the Senior Company of the Bluffton School of Dance. Over the last three years, she has won numerous dance competitions and scholarships, including several for professional training in Hollywood. Locally, she has been featured in local recitals and performances.

In spite of her busy schedule, she finds time for service. D.J. has been an altar server and regularly assists the school's Dominican Sisters after school. She has developed a close bond with them and traveled to visit the Mother House in Michigan, where D.J. was interviewed by Lisa Ling and appeared on the Oprah Show, speaking about the influence the sisters have had on her life. D.J. is active in the Red Cross, Right for Life Group, and volunteers to help younger students at the Bluffton School of Dance.

## HIGH SCHOOLS

### HILTON HEAD HIGH:

SARA MANESIOTIS: My name is Sara Manesiotis. I am 18 years old and I am proud to say that I am a senior at Hilton Head Island High School. I am an island girl; I was born and raised on Hilton Head Island. My family consists of my two brothers Jack and Mike, ages 16 and 20, my mother and father, and our black cat, Jimmy.

Growing up on Hilton Head I attended school, played sports, and never missed church on Sunday. My current GPA is 3.6. I am a member of Yearbook, Teacher Cadet, Seahawk Role Models, Student Ambassadors, and a Homecoming Court Representative for three years. I also served as Vice President of the Junior Class for Student Government Association (SGA), and was a Wendy's High School Heisman nominee.

I have excelled in sports as well. On any given week, I run anywhere from 40 to 60 miles a week. I am truly blessed and love being a four sport varsity athlete.

Cross Country: 5 year varsity letter winner. MVP 5 times, 4 time all Region, 3 time All-State, 2 time State Champion, All South, Captain, record holder for the fastest 5k at HHIHS and member of the fastest CC team in school history.

Track and Field: 5 year varsity letter winner, Region Champion, 3 time All State, State Runners up and member of fastest 4x8 team, 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest in the mile, and fastest 2 mile and 8<sup>th</sup> fastest 800 time.

Soccer: 4 year varsity letter winner and starter, 4 Region Championships, State Champion, captain on the team, 32 goals since 9<sup>th</sup> grade, 16 assists.

Basketball: 2 year varsity letter winner and starter, Region Champion, team leader in assists and steals, best winning record ever in HHIHS history, selected to play in the NC vs. SC game.

As a community member I volunteer at Hilton Head Humane Association, delivered food baskets during the holidays and served on the altar with Holy Family Catholic Church, babysit, helped with Campus Clean UP, spend time with middle schoolers talking to them about being a good role model and staying away from drugs and alcohol. I am in the process of initiating a program called "Seahawks for Seniors." It will involve students volunteering at nursing homes, reading the sports page to them, calling out Bingo numbers, playing cards and chess, and even pushing their wheel chairs down the hall. Every year I help with the four legged frolic setting up for the Humane Association's main fund raiser.

I plan on attending college next year and will run at a NCAA Division 1 school for cross country and track and major in either Food and Nutrition or Elementary Education.

As of today, I am blessed with several offers to attend college on a track scholarship and have opportunities to play basketball and soccer as well and will make my decision very soon.

**HALEY STULIGROSS:** My name is Haley Stuligross, and I am a senior at Hilton Head Island High School. I transferred for my junior and senior years from Hilton Head Christian Academy, and I am currently pursuing an International Baccalaureat Programme diploma.

At school, I serve as the Secretary of the Senior Class through the Student Government Association. I am a member of National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and the Quill and Scroll Society. This year, I am a copy editor for our newspaper, *The Seahawk*. I also perform with the Seahawk Theatre Department, and sing with the advanced choral ensemble *Out of the Blue*. We just got back on Monday night from a trip to New York City, where we performed at Carnegie Hall under the direction of composer John Rutter.

In the community, I am active at First Presbyterian Church, where I sing at the CrossRoads contemporary service and have participated in service projects, most recently a trip to Asheville, North Carolina. I have performed with Main Street Youth Theater extensively since I was in sixth grade, and I was also cast in the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina's production of *Hello, Dolly* this past winter.

I was honored as a Senior Scholar by Beaufort County along with some of my peers. I also found out in March that I am a National Merit Scholarship winner. I will be attending Vanderbilt University next year to major in Human and Organizational Development.

**MATT TRUSZ:** I came to Hilton Head in 2003, moving from Colchester, Connecticut where I had cultivated a passion for literature, mathematics, and sports such as baseball. I spent the majority of my first four years on Hilton Head engrossed in the martial arts, studying hung gar kung fu – my room is still littered with trophies almost as tall as I. But this passion was soon consumed by a yet greater passion – music. I began by playing the trombone in fourth grade – by sixth grade, I had substituted bass guitar and soon after I began to even more earnestly pursue electric guitar. Originally I focused on playing hard rock music, but my horizons expanded rapidly to fusion and jazz under the exceptional tutelage of Jevon Daly. I spent three summers – those of 2007, 2008, and 2009 – at the National Guitar Workshop in New York or Connecticut. There I had the privilege to play with celebrities such as Paul Gilbert, and learn from guitar greats such as Trans Siberian Orchestra's Terry Syrek. In 2009, I also played guitar in the regionally acclaimed band Silicone Sister as a substitute for their lead guitarist.

However, my musical career really took off in 2010, when I played in three consecutive musicals for the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina. In the spring, I played as a guitar sub for multiple shows in Elton John's *Aida*. Afterwards, I was professionally contracted to perform in the summer-long production of The Who's *Tommy*, which entailed nearly 50 performances without counting rehearsals. Next, I had the privilege to perform as a sub in *Man of La Mancha*,

and am pleased to say that I will also be performing as a sub for first guitar in *Hairspray* – beginning this Sunday.

More exciting of late have been my achievements in the Model United Nations. In 2005, I attended my first MUN conference and won Outstanding Delegate – I ended my legacy in similar fashion in February of this year, winning Outstanding Delegate again at Georgia Southern University's MUN conference. GSU then selected me as their high school designee, making me a full member of their college MUN team which would be attending the National collegiate MUN in New York City this spring. Last week, I had the privilege to attend the NMUN conference in New York, an eight day trip in which I competed as a delegate from Chile in the NPT RevCon, which is short for the Review Conference of the Treaty for the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It is my pleasure to inform you that of the more than 5,000 competitors, many of whom were from universities outside of the United States, our delegation won the highest possible awards, and were recognized in the Great Hall of the United Nations for both the Outstanding Position Paper and Outstanding Delegation award. I intend to pursue a position on the NMUN Staff next year.

I am also excited to say that I will be attending the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania next fall. For those of you who may not be familiar with Wharton or Penn, Penn is the oldest university in the nation and an Ivy League institution; Wharton is the premiere business institution in the nation. I was accepted via early decision, and have been nominated for the University Scholars program, which selected only a couple dozen students from the pool of over 31,000 applications that Penn fielded this year. At Wharton, I intend to pursue a degree in Economics.

### **HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY:**

**BAILEY DAVIS:** I am involved in many activities in and outside of Hilton Head Christian Academy. I volunteer with community service organizations. I also play sports, am involved in the arts, and work during spring break and the summer. I enjoy everything that I do and want to continue these activities as long as I can.

I am a member of the National Honors Society, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the Zonta Club. With the NHS, I tutor fellow students, have collected money to buy M&Ms for soldiers, and have raised money to educate students in Belize through ROWKids. I am the vice-president of FCA and was the secretary last year. We have collected canned goods for Bluffton Self-Help, collected shoes for children in the Dominican Republic, and have raised money for the Ret Thomas Memorial Basketball Tournament. Through the Zonta Club, I have volunteered with the Program for Exceptional People and with Relay for Life. I have also volunteered with the Boys and Girls Club and Habitat for Humanity on my own time. I enjoy helping others and hope that what we did changed someone's life.

I have played Junior Varsity and Varsity Volleyball and Varsity Basketball in my time at Hilton Head Christian Academy. I enjoyed being a part of the teams and encouraging my teammates. I also enjoyed working in the arts, specifically Drama and Chorus. Through these two activities, I was able to express myself. I always encourage people to participate in the arts because it is a great outlet for expression and creativity. I won the 2011 Thespian Award for my role as Margaret in *Father Knows Best* and my other roles in HHCA Drama Department productions. I also won gold medals in 2010 and 2008 at the SCISA Music Festival with chorus.

I work at A Shore Thing, a locally owned retail store on Hilton Head Island. I am a Sales Associate and I only work during the summer and spring breaks. Working has taught me many things about how to deal with people and get along with different types of people. I enjoy all of the people with whom I work. I have learned to be even more responsible and deal with things by myself. It has been interesting and worthwhile. I am so glad that I work at A Shore Thing. I will move on from A Shore Thing someday, but, for now, I am staying put.

**J.D. MEEDER:** J.D. has attended Hilton Head Christian Academy for four years. In that time he has consistently been on B Honor Roll and has participated in a number of activities. He has participated in a number of sports, including four years of basketball, two years of soccer, and one year of golf. He has also been involved in a number of clubs; he's the vice president of the Student Council, the co-founder and president of the HHCA Pep Squad, and the president of the Key Club at HHCA. He also enjoys volunteering, especially at his local church and with Relay for life.

### **HILTON HEAD PREPARATORY SCHOOL:**

**KATHLEEN BLUM:** I have been attending Hilton Head Preparatory School since the first grade. As a lifer, I feel Prep has become a second family, allowing me to thrive throughout the years. Because of Prep's small community, I have had the opportunity to compete as a varsity athlete since 7<sup>th</sup> grade. During my career, I was fortunate enough to be a part of six state championship teams, including three basketball state championships and three soccer state championships. I have also captained both varsity teams for the past three years, learning along the way the responsibilities of being a leader. But as a student-athlete, I truly believe that academics come first, and I look forward to continuing my education at Duke University next fall where I plan to major in economics. Balancing academics, athletics, and extracurriculars has allowed me to thrive in high school, but more importantly has prepared me for what lies ahead.

**PATRICK ANDREWS:** Patrick Andrews has been attending Hilton Head Prep since the first grade. He has been on Honor Roll all four years in high school and attended the 2008 and 2009 INTEL International Science Fair. He has been a member of varsity baseball, basketball, and football since his sophomore year. Patrick has received All-State honors in baseball since his sophomore year and received a baseball scholarship to Clemson University.

### **HERITAGE ACADEMY:**

**BRIAN WHITE:** I am Brian White, a senior at Heritage Academy. My passion is living my life to the fullest, and dancing. For the past four years, I have focused entirely on Irish Dance, ballet, and academics. My dream has been to become a professional dancer, and I have trained twenty hours a week throughout high school. My dedication and talent have allowed me to participate in competitions and performances in Ireland, Scotland, Canada, and across the United States. I was ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in the world at the World Irish Dance Competition in 2009, and I have since performed with professional bands, including Celtic Crossroads and Eileen Ivers. I also love to volunteer to teach dance classes twice a week at the Boys and Girls Club. These small children have helped me learn that I am most happy when teaching others.

I have attended Heritage Academy for seven years, where school has remained an important aspect of my life. I am fascinated by the sciences and by literature and the arts equally and seem to be on an endless human search for knowledge. I was Junior Class president, a position from which I was able to lead school participation in Deep Well and Relay for Life fund raisers. After sitting for six AP exams thus far, I was named an AP Scholar with Honors last fall. This winter I was also named as a National Merit Scholarship Finalist.

Next year, I will be attending Princeton University and discover more about the beautiful universe in which we live.

### **HOME SCHOOL:**

**GIOIA LIA DIBARTOLOMEO:** I have always held a deep abiding love for knowledge – not necessarily knowledge garnered through academics – but learning through travel and experience. I have visited four out of seven Central American countries: Panama, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. I have been to Mexico twice, both times on working mission trips. Having been given the opportunity to see how less fortunate people live was a rare privilege. I have also visited England, France and Italy. Traveling has sparked in me a love of languages. I am fluent

in Italian and Spanish. Currently, I am attempting to learn Mandarin Chinese and French. I believe that learning French will help me in my aspirations toward fashion editing. Mandarin will be an advantageous tool in the business world. I am Co-President of the Low Country Junior Toastmasters, have been a Girl Scout for nine years, and have held three part-time jobs for three years. I have also been active in my church as altar server, religious education helper, sacristan (paid position), and on mission trips to North Carolina through my parish Catholic Youth Group to help improve living conditions and to help at Holy Angels, a home where people with mental and physical hindrances live and work. In the last national election, I enjoyed being a poll worker. Presently, I am working on my Girl Scout Gold Award, the only high school achievement which stays on one's resume forever. The project I have started involves making or refurbishing formal dresses for economically less fortunate girls. I also love ballroom dance, horseback riding and have taken karate. I have received an academic scholarship for the St. Thomas More program at Belmont Abbey College and hope to receive a Master of Arts which will enable me to potentially make a difference in someone's life using the knowledge I have gained through my education and experiences.