

Irving Schools Foundation awards 77 scholarships!

The Irving Schools Foundation held its 19th Annual Breakfast With The Stars event on Thursday, April 13th at the Four Seasons Resort and Club. Over 525 people attended the sold out event as 77 Irving ISD students were recognized and awarded scholarships through the Irving Schools Foundation. For the second year, Nissan North America, was the title sponsor.

John McCaa, WFAA News Anchor and Irving resident, served as the emcee for the fourth year. He received a standing ovation from the audience when he finished introducing the students and was recognized as a 2006 Irving Schools Foundation Fellow by President Phil Sims.

Several new, community supported, scholarships were awarded. The Lance Cpl. Nazario Serrano Memorial Scholarship, honoring the 2003 Irving High graduate and United States Marine killed in Iraq, was presented by his family. The audience stood and applauded to recognize the Serrano family and Nazario's sacrifice to our country. Hoang, too, has suffered a personal loss. In 2004, he lost his father to leukemia. It was a very moving presentation for everyone.

The Jordan Wayne Luddeke Memorial Scholarship was presented to Mason Marchant by Jordan's family. The scholarship is named in memory of Jordan Luddeke who lost his life in a tragic automobile accident last summer while on his way to work. He would have been a 2006 Irving High graduate and member of the Tiger Guard. His father, Brad, has already announced plans to hold the 2nd Annual Jordan Wayne Luddeke Golf Tournament to further endow the scholarship.

Bowie Middle School initiated a scholarship fund to honor their colleague, Larry Parrish, who taught and coached at Bowie for 29 years. His widow, Carla Parrish, was on hand to award the scholarships to two student athletes and graduates of Bowie, Ryan Milligan and Aimee Warth.

Former City Council member and arts patron, Gene Sparks, who died unexpectedly last year, was honored with a scholarship in his name. Entertainment Series of Irving initiated the scholarship fund and asked Lillian Sparks to present the award to Aaron Cobb of Irving High.

The other new scholarships included the Dot Cate Scholarship, Jan Dickson Scholarship, Elaine Free Scholarship, Senator Florence Shapiro Scholarship, Carol Wood Scholarship and Women of Rotary Scholarship.

A very special part of the ceremony is when Irving Schools Foundation Fellows are presented. Fifteen Fellows were honored this year. They included Suzy Beeman, Charles Taylor Bowling, Kay Branch, Jan Dickson, Joy and Ralph Ellis, J. Don George, Nell Anne Hunt, Gerri Kunststadt, Bob Mercer, John McCaa, Byron Nelson, Diana Pfaff, Carol Schober, Phil Sims and Burnie and Shirley Stehman. Their names will be inscribed on the Perpetual Giving Tree in May signifying that the \$1000 donation made in their name will help ensure the perpetuity of the Irving Schools Foundation's mission to enhance the opportunities for students and teachers to excel.



Photo by Ryan Sanders

Lisa Watkins, Breakfast with the Stars co-chair, Elizabeth Philipp (ISF Executive Director), Stefanie De Los Santos of Nissan, Les Hensley of Nissan, Dale Walker of Nissan, Danny Anderson of Nissan and Lisa Mazon (Breakfast With the Stars Co-Chair).



Photo by Allison Vrana

Brad Luddeke, Sherri Marchant, Mason Marchant, Pamela Etheridge Luddeke, Evonne Luddeke and Chelsea Luddeke at the 19th Annual Breakfast with the Stars April 13. Mason Marchant is the first recipient of the Jordan Wayne Luddeke Memorial Scholarship.



Photo by Allison Vrana

Jan Dickson (2006 ISF Fellow) and Margie Stipes (ISF Fellow).