

Irving Schools Foundation holds 20th Anniversary Breakfast with the stars

By Allison Vrana

The Irving Schools Foundation held its 20th Anniversary Breakfast with the stars event Thursday April 5. More than 550 people attended the event held at the Four Seasons Resort and Club in Las Colinas. Nissan North America was the Constellation (title) sponsor for the third time this year.

"This 20th Anniversary was all about celebrating the legacy that has been established by past and present donors. Nissan has been a most generous contributor to our legacy of awarding scholarships to these most accomplished students," said Elizabeth Philipp, ISD Executive Director. "Many of the scholarship recipients will be the first in their family to attend college. The Irving Schools Foundation, together with Nissan, is helping to create a cycle of success with these students."

Eighty-one Irving ISD students were recognized by receiving scholarships. Ten new scholarships were awarded including: Baylor Medical Center at Irving Scholarship, Fernando Garcia Memorial Scholarship, Judy Hammond Memorial Athletic Scholarship, Lauralee Hubbard Memorial Scholarship, Jack Singley Scholarship, Regina and George Story Academic Scholarship, Technology Leadership Council Scholarship, Verizon Hispanic Support Organization Scholarship, Women of Irving High Scholarship and the Irving Schools Foundation Achievement Scholarship.

Students were recognized and a small portion of their application was shared with the audience by emcee, John McCaa of WFAA channel 8. This was John McCaa's fifth year to emcee for this event.

The Judy Hammond Memorial Athletic Scholarship was awarded for the first time this year to Jessica Wilson of Irving High School and Vanessa Perla of MacArthur High School. The scholarship is named in

memory of Judy Hammond who lost her life tragically in March of 2006. Judy was the IISD Athletic Secretary for 18 years and the IISD Athletic Office and the Irving Schools Foundation raised more than \$30,000 in the last year to endow this scholarship in memory of Judy.

This year, Jared Hindman of Nimitz High School and recipient of the Nissan/Irving Firefighters 9/11 Memorial Scholarship spoke about what being awarded the scholarship meant to him. Jared remarked that receiving the scholarship meant that other people believed in him and his dream to be an engineer. It also honored his father, an 18 year veteran of the Irving Fire Department, for his brave service each day he reports to duty, as well as all the heroes who put their life on the line for us.

Twenty-one Irving community members were also named 2007 Fellows of the ISF. To be named a Fellow of the ISF, a \$1000 donation is made to the general endowment in honor of an individual or individuals. The contribution is designated for the general endowment, which ensures the perpetuity of the ISF. Only the interest earned is used for continuing operations.

Individuals named 2007 Fellows were Joy Apple, Debbie Burden, Connie Dunn, Four Seasons Resort at Dallas Las Colinas, Ruben Franco, Marty French, Maura Gast, Judy and Roger Hill, Sharon Isringhaus, Cheryl Jennings, Helma Mazon, John Mazon, Nita Patrick, Wayne Pfaff, Almarie and J.W. Schepf, Patty and Charles Schmidt, Barbara and Brock Scott, Carla Smith, Thora Starke, Jason Watkins and Carolyn Wilson.

The annual Breakfast with the Stars event is the ISF's major fundraiser of the year. The Irving Schools Foundation is expected to raise over \$85,000 from the event with an additional \$70,850 raised in scholarship funds.



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