

Saint Thomas Academy Senior Earns \$20K College Scholarship

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn., Oct. 15, 2008 – Saint Thomas Academy announced today that senior T. Mealey of Bloomington was one of 11 outstanding high school students from across the country who has received a \$20,000 Samsung-American Legion Scholarship. The American Legion National Committee on Education, with participation from the Samsung Corporation, awarded the scholarships based on academic record, involvement in school and community activities, and financial need. Eligibility for scholarships requires students to be direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans.

“[Mealey] epitomizes the type of man Saint Thomas strives to develop in every boy who attends the Academy,” said Headmaster Dr. Thomas Mich, “a boy who applies himself in academics, co-curricular activities, leadership development, community service and pursuit of his faith to reach his full potential. This scholarship is a testimony to [his] dedication and hard work. It’s a much-deserved honor.”

Mealey became eligible for the Samsung-American Legion Scholarship by serving as a delegate to Minnesota Boys State in June. While at Boys State, he served on the Boys State “State of the Boys” daily newspaper staff, which gave him the opportunity to interview and write about Gov. Tim Pawlenty. He has been a member of the Two Harbors Chapter of the Sons of the American Legion since 1990 and his father, Patrick Mealey, was a charter member of that chapter. Mealey’s grandfather, Bill Mealey of Two Harbors, served with the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War.

“[Mealey] is a fantastic young man who was an outstanding participant at Boys State,” said Mike Bredeck, director, Minnesota Boys State for The American Legion. “He was engaged and responsive, learning all that he could from the program. His scholarship application was like none I’ve ever seen. As the scholarship finalist from Minnesota, we couldn’t be more proud for him to have received one of the Samsung-American Legion Scholarships.”

The Samsung Group, an international electronics company, endowed a scholarship fund of \$5 million to be administered by The American Legion, to show appreciation to U.S. veterans who came to the aid of Korea during its struggle against communist forces during the Korean War. The size and number of scholarships awarded each year is dependent upon the amount of income derived from the fund.

Mealey, son of Patrick and Sarah Mealey, is a four-time recipient of the Academy's Eagle academic award, and a three-time recipient of the Headmaster Scholarship, the Academic Achievement JROTC Ribbon Award and the Athletic Achievement JROTC Ribbon Award. He is currently student council vice president, and served as vice president of his class during both his sophomore and junior years as well. Mealey is among the top 14 class leaders for the 2008-09 Corps of Cadets. He was recently named a National Merit Commended Student. In his junior year, he received the Dartmouth Book Award and the Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award, was named a National Merit Scholar and a Squad Leader of the Corps of Cadets, and served as a peer counselor. He is involved with several co-curricular activities including the nationally-acclaimed Experimental Vehicle Team, VISTA Fine Arts Society, the Citation student newspaper, Spanish Club, football, basketball and lacrosse. He was one of 125 pages from across the country who served at the Republic National Convention in September. He has been an active volunteer with many community nonprofit organizations and political candidate campaigns during high school. He and his family are actively involved with the Church of the Holy Family parish in St. Louis Park. Following graduation from Saint Thomas Academy, Mealey plans to pursue degrees in engineering and Spanish at one of several colleges and universities he is currently exploring.

About Saint Thomas Academy

Founded in 1885, Saint Thomas Academy is an all-male, college preparatory, Catholic, military/leadership school committed to preparing young men to succeed in college and in life. Nationally accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS), the academy challenges young men to excel academically, spiritually, morally and physically in and out of the classroom.

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