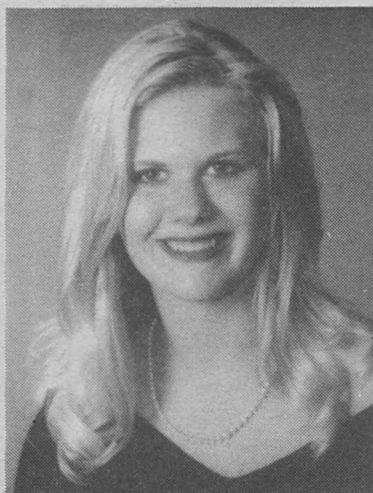


Over \$201K awarded at annual Academic Banquet



Holly Waligura



Shanna K. Waligura

...is the daughter of Boudreaux and Sandy Waligura of Garwood.

While at Rice, she played volleyball for four years, being named to the first team All-District as a senior; and played basketball, softball and golf for two years.

Shanna was a member of the Student Council for four years, serving as its secretary as a senior. She was class reporter for two years and a member of the FTA and FCA for two years.

Following graduation, Shanna plans to attend Wharton County Junior College on a volleyball scholarship, then transfer to Sam Houston State University to study elementary education.

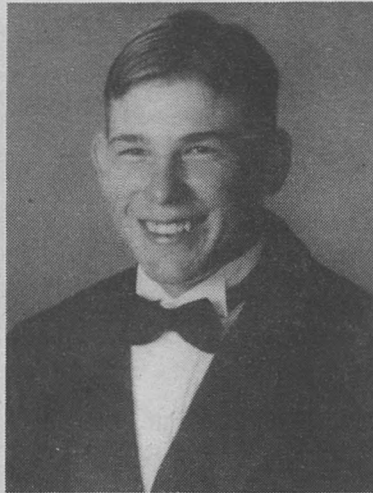


Sharla R. Wauls

...is the daughter of Robert Wauls and Emma Wauls of Garwood.

While at Rice, Sharla was a member of the Raider Band for four years and on the newspaper staff.

After graduation, she plans to get a job, then attend college next spring.

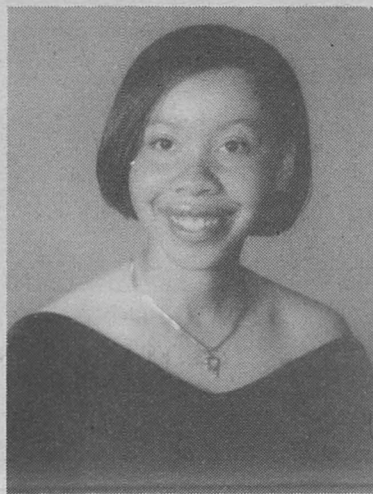


Leslie J. Wilkerson Jr.

...is the son of Susan and Leslie Wilkerson of Rock Island.

Les was a member of the Future Farmers of America and participated in Senior Serve while at Rice.

After graduation, he plans to go into farming or ranching.



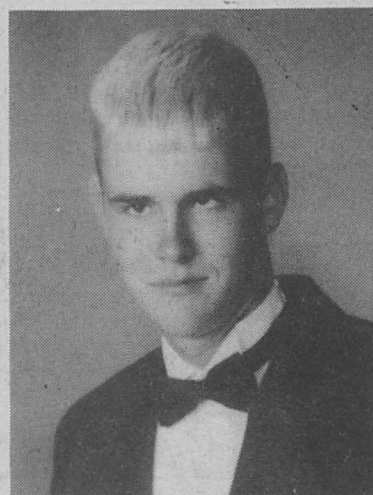
Regina Monique Williams

...is the daughter of Curtis and Beverly Williams of Nada.

While at Rice, she was a member of the Raider Band for four years, playing first chair bass clarinet for three years; was alternate in the Solo & Ensemble contest two years; and section leader two years.

Regina played volleyball and basketball for two years; was a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes one year; and on the Honor Roll as a sophomore.

After graduation, she plans to attend Sam Houston State University to major in business management.



Brad A. Wishert

...is the son of Kenneth Wishert of Garwood.

Brad participated in the work program as a junior and senior.

Following graduation, he plans to continue working, then attend college at a later date.

Thursday, May 18, the Rice High School Commons area was the setting for the annual Academic Awards Banquet where more than \$201,000 in scholarships and educational opportunity awards were offered to the Class of 2000.

The evening began with the welcome by Student Council President D.J. Sosa, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation by Nicole Krennek, Student Council vice president.

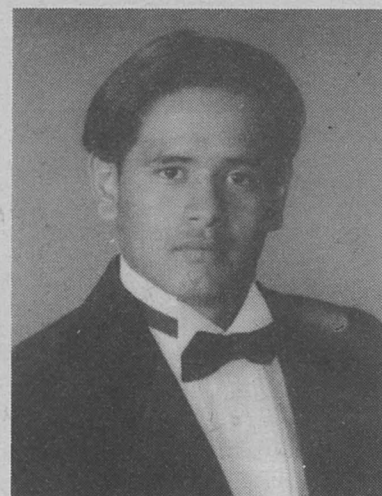
After the meal, catered by Staff's Catering of El Campo, the presentations began with Student Council Sponsor Lee Politsch and Rice High School Principal Michael Lanier recognizing UIL participants, Honor Roll and perfect attendance students and Accelerated Reader winners.

FRESHMEN

Melanie Brown, honor student; Aimee Bubela, honor student; Krystal Buegeler, Accelerated Reader Top 10, #3; Amanda Burrow, honor student; Jose Mario Casas, honor student; Andrea Contreras, UIL One-Act Play cast, advanced to area;

Sarah Foster, Accelerated Reader Top 10, #2; Erin Gold, honor student; Heidi Hammermiller, honor student; Matthew Hentzell, honor student; Vanessa Johnson, honor student, Accelerated Reader Top 10, #1; Amanda Kaiser, honor student, UIL One-Act Play cast, advanced to area; Hannah Kallina, honor student;

Matthew Lloyd, Accelerated Reader Top 10, #5; Jessica Popp, honor student; Nakeisha Parker,



Emmanuel F. Zarate

...is the son of Gabriel and Martina Zarate of Eagle Lake.

Manuel played football for one year; basketball two years; ran cross country one year; played baseball two years; and ran track for Rice for one year.

He was a member of the H.O.M.E. Club for three years and was chosen the student with the Best Sense of Style.

After graduation, Manuel plans to attend Wharton County Junior College, then transfer to Southwest to major in history with the goal of becoming a teacher.

academic honors; Sandra Rodriguez, honor student; Belen Samaniego, honor student; Lauren Spanihel, honor student; Andrew Varley, Accelerated Reader Top 10, #8; Leslie Woolard, honor student.

SOPHOMORES

Crystal Alcaral, honor student; Meiosha Barrow, honor student, UIL One-Act Play cast, advanced to area; Jennifer Biaselli, UIL One-Act Play cast, advanced to area, All-Star Crew, district; Shelley Boenisch, honor student; Olivia Cardenas, honor student;

Francisco Chavira, One-Act Play, home crew; Kimberly Denley, honor student; Lana Engstrom, honor student, Accelerated Reader Top 10, #4; Sarah Fearing, UIL One-Act Play crew, advanced to area, All-Star crew, district and area; Shelley Greak, honor student, perfect attendance;

Robert Hassin, honor student; Amanda Henry, honor student, UIL editorial writing; Brennan Job, UIL One-Act Play cast, advanced to area; Kinsey Hoffman, honor student; Janna Janish, honor student; Chris Jasek-Galvan, honor student, perfect attendance, UIL One-Act Play crew, advanced to area;

Amanda Labay, honor student; Natalie Lenard, honor student, Accelerated Reader Top 10, #7; Rebecca Lopez, honor student, UIL One-Act Play cast, advanced to area; Corissa Mathis, honor student, UIL One-Act Play cast, advanced to area; Brandy Meitzen, honor student;

Tiffany Moore, honor student; Maria Najera, honor student; Heather Shanks, honor student; Stephanie Sommerlatte, honor student; UIL One-Act Play cast, advanced to area, honorable mention All-Star cast, area; Jessica Spanihel, UIL One-Act Play cast, advanced to area; Meagan Staff, honor student;

Tiffany Stern, honor student; Jacqueline Thomas, honor student; Jessica Thomas, honor student; Kristin Thompson, honor student; Jeremy Walker, UIL One-Act Play cast, advanced to area, district Best Actor, area All-Star cast; Herbert Weller, honor student, UIL One-Act Play cast, advanced to area, district and area All-Star crew; Kayce Wilkerson, honor student.

JUNIORS

Anastasia Connor, honor student; Barbara Cooper, Accelerated Reader Top 10, #6; Erica Dunmore, honor student; Sarah Gould, honor student; Clifford Keith, UIL One-Act Play cast, advanced to area, honorable mention All-Star cast area; Debbie Leopold, UIL One-Act Play cast, advanced to area, district honorable mention;

Jacob Little, honor student; Johana Lopez, UIL One-Act Play cast, advanced to area; Patricia Najera, Accelerated Reader Top

10, #9; Christopher Rodriguez, honor student; Martha Rodriguez, honor student; John Michael Rucka, honor student; Lori Smith, honor student; Amber Washington, perfect attendance.

SENIORS

Brett Boenisch, honor student; Stephanie Braden, UIL Scholar; Tabitha Connor, UIL Scholar; Glenn Dromgoole, honor student; Virginia Edds, Accelerated Reader Top 10, #10; Robert Goode, UIL One-Act Play cast, advanced to area, district and area All-Star crew;

James Hassin, honor student, MacPherson College Service Scholar Award; Nicole Krennek, honor student; Chrissy Leopold, honor student, UIL One-Act Play cast, advanced to area, district and area All-Star cast, UIL Feature Writing advanced to regional, UIL Editorial Writing, UIL Scholar; Kimberly Lott, UIL Feature Writing, advanced to regional, UIL Ready Writing, regional alternate;

Julie Mixon, academic honors; Yaneth Najera, UIL Scholar; Jamesangela Phillips, honor student, UIL Scholar; Sarah Rivera, honor student; Brandon Shanks, honor student, UIL Scholar, TASSP Commended Scholar; Cody Thompson, honor student; Levi Zuniga, UIL Scholar.

After a roaring round of applause for the recipients, the program moved to the scholarship and education opportunity awards presented by members of the sponsoring organizations.

The following seniors were honored with these offerings:

Desanie Axel: E.H. Henry Memorial Scholarship.

Brett Boenisch: Rice Raider Booster Club, 2000 San Antonio Livestock Show & Rodeo Champion Commercial Steer Division, Rice Project Graduation, Garwood Association of Parents, Nada Knights of Columbus, Nada Catholic Daughters, Block House Hunters Association Max Martin Scholarship.

Stephanie Braden: University of Texas Tuition Fee Grant, Rice Project Graduation, Wintermann Foundation Nursing Scholarship, Alpha Delta Phi Sorority.

Dustin Brisco: Sheridan School Student Council, Sheridan Lions Club, Coral Energy, a division of Shell.

Ann Capps: U.S. Navy Educational Opportunity Award.

Tabitha Connor: Eagle Lake Rotary Club Scholarship, Eagle Lake 4-H Mothers, Wharton County Junior College High Honors Award, John Everett Chapter of Daughter of the American Revolution.

Chandra Coxwell: Sheridan (See Awards, Page 9)