

Cummins valedictorian, Thacker named salutatorian

BY ASHLEY COTTRELL

Each year there are two seniors that shine out above the rest; that are praised for their accomplishments and their high standing within the graduating senior class. Those two people are the students who fill the position of valedictorian and salutatorian. This year the young ladies that get to be honored with this award are Amanda Cummins, as Valedictorian, and Jessica Thacker, as Salutatorian.

Amanda Cummins, known to most students as Brain, has a 4.2 GPA, a 30 on her ACT, and she is involved in many clubs, such as Y-Club, Key Club, French Club, National Honor Society, Young Republicans, and EKEN. Also this summer, Brain will be involved in the PEPP program, a five week pre-med internship at the University of Kentucky. In the fall she will be going on to attend college at Georgetown where she may decide to pursue a career in medicine. For now she is undecided.

As for Jessica Thacker, a.k.a. Thacker, she has a 4.05 and a 24 on her ACT. Thacker has been involved in many clubs in her four years like Y-Club, Key Club, National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Rocket Club. Thacker has decided to attend Georgetown College this fall to pursue a career in pre-law. She is also a very active softball player and has been captain for two years.



Amanda Cummins
Valedictorian

Here is what they have to say as I asked them about there quest to reach this point in their life.

AC: What motivated you to put forth the desire to become Valedictorian/ Salutatorian?

Brain: I have always enjoyed academics and so I continually push myself to excel. My family also encouraged me to do my best.

Thacker: My mother always pushed me to do the best that I could which drove me to do all that I could to make the grade.

AC: How does it make you feel to receive this award?

Brain: I feel proud because I know that my hard work and long grueling hours of studying has finally paid off.

Thacker: I feel so pleased to finally be rewarded for what I have worked for.



Jessica Thacker
Salutatorian

AC: What does your family and friends think about your honors?

Brain: My family is so happy that I finally achieved my goals. My friends are proud and support all my efforts.

Thacker: My little cousins now see that they too can achieve anything they put their minds to and my friends are extremely proud of me.

AC: How do you feel this honor will help you in the future?

Brain: Being valedictorian has opened many doors for colleges and scholarships. Fortunately, I have received enough scholarship money to pay for my freshman year at Georgetown College.

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Several seniors find non-traditional schools fulfill their educational career needs

BY JENNY SMITH

Have you decided which college interests you? Some seniors are still trying to decide the direction their future lies, but there are many seniors who have. And they've chosen not to attend a traditional 4-year college.

Chris Graves, who plans to double major in Computer Engineering Technology and Electronic Engineering Technology, has been accepted to Spencerian College, which boasts a 98% graduate employment rate.

"I was very excited to hear that I got accepted to Spencerian," he said. "It's close to home, and Spencerian links to my personal career interests."

Spencerian offers numerous computer related majors, such as

Civil Computer Aided Design, as well as Computer Repair. Classes are normally held Monday through Thursday on four 11-week sessions, which means students have every Friday to catch up from the previous week, or just relax with friends.

Vanessa Childress has also chosen an alternative to the 4 year degree.

She'll attending Lexington Beauty College, a private 13 month college for anyone who is interested in cosmetology.

"I'm real excited about going because it's something I've always been interested in, and I'm anxious to see what it's like."

There are also seniors who plan on pursuing their post-high school

education out of state, such as senior Daniel Dobbs, who is planning on attending Nashville Auto and Diesel College (NADC), a 2 year college which focuses exclusively on students training in the career he/she plans on having.

"I feel Nashville Auto and Diesel College is a great opportunity set before me," said Dobbs.

NADC students don't have to worry about selecting and buying books, since the college provides students with books they'll need.

There are many different colleges to choose from, but whether your interest is cosmetology, computers, or any other field, it is easy to find the college that's right for you.

DON'T BECOME A VICTIM

Use these tactics to help you stay safe on campus

BY ASHLEY COTTRELL

Living on campus, away from your parents, can sound like a lot of fun to most of the seniors about ready to travel off to college next fall. Campus life can be great, meeting new people, living on your own, no parents, no one telling you what to do.

However, being on your own means that you have to watch out for yourself and take responsibility for your own campus safety. There have been many crimes committed on campuses across the country from muggings, to robbery, to burglary, to even rape. Most notable are the rapes that occurred this fall at Morehead State University.

"There have been many rapes occur here at Morehead in the past year because college students aren't prepared for what is out there. They have always had their parents there before to look out for them," commented Darryl Harrison, Acting Director of Public Safety.

So, how can you keep yourself safe on campus to avoid such a tragic fate?

There are several ways to protect yourself and the people around you as long as you use your head and take steps to keep the campus a safe place to live. Steps that you can follow are:

*Find a friend to walk with you and always use well-lighted routes.

*Call for an escort by the police, if this option is available.

*Pay attention to your surroundings: check out stairways and building entrances before entering them.

*Always be alert: remember to look behind you occasionally, never use headphones while you walk.

*Conceal your purse whenever possible.

*If you have a cellular phone, always carry it with you, and be ready to dial 911 if you have an emergency.

*Take a Rape Aggression Defense course to learn self defense tactics and techniques.

*If you are attacked, turn over whatever property the attacker requests, then call 911 as soon as you can get to telephone.

You will be asked to give a description of both the suspect and any vehicle. So, try to get a good look at your attacker.

"Always walk with a friend or someone you can trust and avoid shaded areas, especially at night," said Wynn Walker, Assistant Director of Public Safety at Eastern Kentucky University.

These tactics, if followed, can help you to stay safe while you are away from home.

"If more college students knew about these tactics and followed them, then they would be able to make their stay at college a safer one," said Robert Deane, Chief of Police at Western Kentucky University.

GRADUATION

Saturday,
May 31
4:00 PM