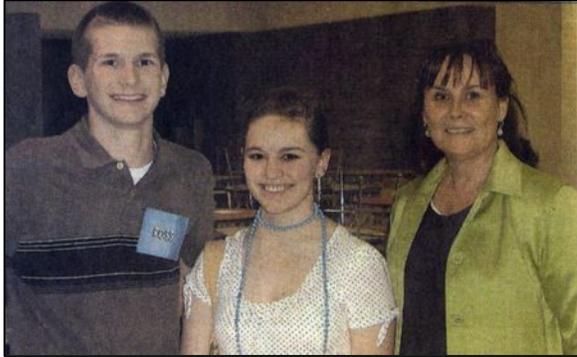


UHS STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR GAME SHOW EVENT

By AMANDA GABRIEL
UPPERMAN TIMES staff



The National Vocabulary Championship is the first nationwide vocabulary competition for high school students created by the Game Show Network, in association with The Princeton Review.

More than 30,000 high school students take the test each year, hoping to win scholarships worth more than \$40,000 for college tuition, a laptop computer and other prizes. Other winners receive prizes valued at more than \$100,000.

All English classes at Upperman High School took the national vocabulary test on Oct. 23 in hopes of qualifying to attend the special game show event held in Nashville.

(Photo: Upperman High School teacher Lisa Brown, at right, accompanied students Lilli Philpot and Ross Hieatt to Nashville to attend the statewide National Vocabulary Qualifying Exam, presented in a game show format by Game Show Network. Ross Hieatt is the s/o Ross Evans Hieatt Sr. & Billie Jo Jernigan. Ross Hieatt Sr. is the s/o William Herman Hieatt & Eva Pearl Wagers. Billie Jo (Jernigan) Hieatt Sr. is the d/o Billie Ray Jernigan & Iris F. Landers. Ross Evans Hieatt Sr. is buried in the Smellage Cemetery, Boma, Putnam Co., TN in the memory gardens).

The two students qualifying for the next level of competition were Lilli Philpot, a junior, and Ross Hieatt, a senior.

"I didn't think I would make it to the state level. I was really nervous going in, because I didn't know what to expect," Hieatt said. "It was hit or miss with most of the words. I knew several words but did not know several, as well. However, I was happy with my performance."

The two, accompanied by Lisa Brown, traveled to the Nashville School of Arts on Nov. 27 to compete in the statewide National Vocabulary Qualifying Exam.

"I had a lot of fun," Brown said. "I was amazed at how 'Hollywood' it was; there were cameras and lights. I loved it. It wasn't very high school; it was so 'Price Is Right.'"

The students participating also received prize packages, including T-shirts, dictionaries and subscriptions to online services.

"I never expected I would make it and never anticipated it being such a big deal," Philpot said. "I basically took the test and forgot about it."

Students competing in the state level were put through a series of trial runs using real life game show equipment and some very high level vocabulary exercises.

"I knew some of the words, but it was incredibly difficult," Philpot said. "It was definitely nerve wracking. Nobody told me that it was filmed as a game show, but Mrs. Brown helped us prepare so it was fun."

Hieatt and Philpot were two of the 100 students chosen to compete at the state level. Both students and Brown agreed that it was a very prestigious honor for two students from Upperman to be on the Game Show Network. The studying is again underway for many students hoping to experience the games next

year.

Finals will be held this April in Los Angeles, Calif. For more information about the National Vocabulary Championship, visit the Web site at www.winwithwords.com

Thursday, Jan 03, 2008: Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

HIEATT ACCEPTED INTO U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

BAXTER -- Upperman High senior Ross Hieatt recently received a prestigious and rare appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. On Dec. 7, he received a letter ensuring his enrollment in the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

Hieatt began the lengthy and grueling application process in April 2007 with the preliminary application.

"I chose the Naval Academy because I wanted a different experience than a normal college can offer," Hieatt said. "I was found qualified after the preliminary application to continue with application. After this, I was assigned a candidate number and was contacted by the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board."

Hieatt continued with the central application in July after returning from Governor's School. He then underwent a series of medical tests including a full physical, optometry exam and audiology exam.

"The hardest part was receiving a nomination," Hieatt said. "Nominations are given from U.S. Senators, U.S. Congressmen, the Vice President and the President.

"I applied for a nomination from all of the sources: Senators Alexander and Corker, Congressman Gordon, Vice President Cheney and President Bush. I interviewed with Sen. Corker and Alexander's service academy personnel. However, I eventually received a nomination from President Bush.

"After completion of the most crucial application documents, I received a Letter of Assurance, which indicates that appointment will be made once all necessary documents were completed. Upon completion of the final medical forms, I was found medically qualified. In mid-April, I shall receive a packet detailing report for duty. During the summer of 2008, I will undergo Plebe Summer Indoctrination."

Hieatt is not the first in his family to serve in the U.S. military. His father, the late Ross Hieatt Sr., retired as a Master Chief Petty Officer from the Navy after 21 years, where he served in the submarine service. His brother, Bobby Briggs, is currently in the U.S. Marine Corps and is currently on his second tour in Iraq.

"The military is our family business," Hieatt said. "It's all I've ever known."

His mother, Billie Hieatt, is not in the military; however, she is a preschool teacher at Noah's Ark Day Care in Cookeville.

"I'm very proud of Ross and how well he has done academically," Billie Hieatt said. "I am pleased that he has followed his dream of attending the Naval Academy and (has) seen it be fulfilled. I am confident in Ross's ability to succeed at the Academy or at anything he does in life."

Many of Hieatt's teachers and peers are very proud of his accomplishments and wish him the best of luck in his future career.

"It's such a great honor to be accepted to a military school, whether it is Annapolis or West Point or another academy," Herbert Leftwich, Upperman principal, said. "It's a great honor not only for Ross but for our school as well; that one of our students was accepted to an elite school. I'm so proud of what he has

accomplished. Ross is an outstanding example of what can be accomplished if you take advantage of opportunities given to you."

At Upperman High School, Hieatt is executive student council president and a member of the academic team. He is also in Beta Club and Mu Alpha Theta.

Sunday, Jan 20, 2008: Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

<http://www.ajlambert.com>