

Citations for Achievers Breakfast – 3 September 2009

Pei Fen Chua

Pei Fen was in the group of the top ten Rangitoto College students sitting NCEA Level 2 last year, with a grade point average of nearly 86. She is a focused, highly motivated student who strives to achieve the best possible results. Her teachers say she has really grown in confidence and maturity this year and her work has developed accordingly. We expect great things from her in Level 3.

Pei Fen has been involved in a wide number of extra-curricular activities while she has been a student here. She has been one of the student leaders of Students Against Drunk Driving in 2009 and has also been actively involved in Amnesty International. She has also played in a wide range of sports teams – badminton, netball, table tennis, soccer and squash.

She is obviously a talented musician, playing both the piano and flute, gaining a Trinity College Advanced Performing certificate in 2009. She has also been involved in both contemporary and Hip Hop Dance Troupes and is a member of the school's Indian Cultural Group.

We wish Pei Fen all the best for her future and look forward to hearing of her progress.

Daniel Dyet

Daniel is a very determined and focused young man who has experienced great results with his Athletics. It is in the discipline of hurdles where Daniel has had the most success. A talented sprinter with a long stride has seen Daniel be a North Harbour Representative since Year 9.

In 2008 he won the North Island 300m hurdles and he was the NZ Secondary Schools 300m hurdles champion. This year he is the New Zealand Record Holder for the 400m hurdles and also the NZ U19 400m Hurdle Club Champion. His explosive speed has seen him this year break the North Harbour 300m hurdle record by nearly a second.

Success like this does not come without a huge commitment. Daniel trains six days a week for two hours duration for each session.

Daniel has set himself very high goals on the world stage by competing in the Commonwealth Games in India and in 2010 competing at the World Junior Championships in Canada. In both games he intends to be competing in the 400m hurdles.

Sam Henderson

Sam Henderson has been a student in Rangitoto College since January 2005. During his time in Rangitoto he has been fully committed to his studies, his involvement in sport, drama and his leadership.

Sam puts a tremendous effort into his studies and in 2007 achieved academic awards for English, History, Science, Spanish and Drama. He was also awarded an academic excellence award. He is on target to achieve excellent NCEA Level 3 results – in his most recent report he gained 4 x 1s and a 2.

He has represented the school at soccer and cricket since 2005 and in 2007 was awarded a sports award for playing in the Cricket North Harbour U15 A Team. In 2008 not only did Sam play in our Soccer 1st X1 but also in our 1st X1 Cricket team.

Performing is also a strength of Sam's. From achieving first place in the Y9, 10 and 11 speech competitions to Junior and Senior Shakespeare productions and Stage Challenge. In 2008 Sam was awarded an arts award for Excellence in Stage Challenge and an Excellent Performance in Much Ado About Nothing.

Sam had a pivotal role in both organizing and helping choreograph our winning Stage Challenge team this year.

Sam's peers acknowledge his contribution to the school. In 2008 he was elected to the position of Y12 School Leader a responsibility that he fully lived up to. This year he was again appointed to the position of School Leader and in particular to the position of Deputy Head boy.

Sam, we thank you for everything that you have contributed to our school and we honour you.

Julie (Meng Yu) Hu

Julie is academically outstanding. She gained excellence in 27 Standards at the end of 2008 resulting clearly in a Level 2 Certificate endorsed for Excellence. She was placed in the top 10 students at Rangitoto College for Level 2 and was awarded a Top Scholar Certificate. Julie has continued to perform at a very high level and for her latest report has three grade 1's and two grade 2's for achievement.

Julie is very focussed and a highly motivated student. She sets high standards for herself and constantly strives to reach them. Her teachers have been impressed by her excellent work ethic. She is a friendly and popular student with a great sense of humour. She has been a peer support leader and despite being heavily involved in extra curricular music, Julie found the time to collect for Red Cross and be involved in SADD, Amnesty International and the Forty Hour Famine.

Julie has been in a Future Problem Solving Team where they were National and International finalists and competed to credit level in a range of Maths competitions. She was in stage challenge and the College musical, Seussical. It is in music though that her involvement is outstanding. She has been a member of the SOS female choir that has competed successfully in a very wide range of North Shore and Auckland wide competitions. She has been in two barbershop groups, one of which competed in the National barbershop competitions after placing third in the Auckland competition.

We await Julie's end of year results with interest, but we are confident that she will do extremely well, a fitting finish to her time at the College.

Won Seok (Harry) Jung

Harry is another one of our academically gifted students. He was one of our top 20 students in Level 1 and last year had his Level 2 results endorsed with excellence.

To challenge himself he travelled to Australia to sit six advanced placement exams which are standardised tests set in America to rank students. Harry received perfect marks in all six subjects. He also received High Distinction Awards in Australian Maths and Chemistry results. He sat Level 3 Calculus last year and this year successfully completed a Stage 1 Maths paper at Auckland University.

Harry was elected as a student representative at the beginning of the year and has made a huge contribution to the multi-cultural committee. He was one of a small group of students involved in the organisation of Korean Day and he has been invaluable to senior staff in helping to translate for Korean parents with limited English – a job he has done with skill and sensitivity.

Harry is also a member of the Boys Premiere Tennis team and has played guitar in the Stage Band for the last two years.

Harry has been a real asset to Rangitoto College and he has all our best wishes for the future.

Dong Jun Lee

Dong Jun is a 'Cellist Extraordinaire' and he is only in year 11.

He is a member of the school's Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra that both gained SILVER awards at this year's KBB Music Festival.

Dong Jun has also excelled in other areas of the Performing Arts, this year, by being placed in 4 different competitions over April, May and June.

I will let the following results speak for themselves.

1st Place – String Solo Category – North Shore Performing Arts Society

3rd Place – Young Performer of the Year in the Orchestral Category – North Shore Performing Arts Society

1st Place – String Solo Unaccompanied Bach Category – West Auckland Performing Arts Society

2nd Place – String Solo Recital – West Auckland Performing Arts Society

A future member of the NZ Symphony Orchestra in the making.

Alastair McDowell

Alastair is an exceptionally mature, responsible and confident young man who has excelled both academically and in the many activities that he has participated in at the College.

Academically, he had an outstanding year in 2008 and is continuing with this trend in 2009. He gained NCEA Level 2 with Excellence and was placed in the top four students in the school based on his result at the end of last year. This year he has gained an A+ in a stage one Auckland University Calculus paper. His current academic progress indicates that he will again be one of our most successful Year 13 students across all subjects.

Alastair has shown that he has excellent time management and organisational skills as he maintains his outstanding academic record while involving himself in a number of activities both within and outside the College. He has shown strong leadership through his involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme where he has achieved a Gold Award. He was a leader on a tramp to Great Barrier Island and participated in a leadership course at the Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre in July this year. He has also been involved in

cross country running, orienteering and soccer, and has played in the Concert Band and won awards at the KBB Music Festival.

Alastair is one of the finest students both academically and in terms of his all round ability in Rangitoto College and we sincerely wish him every success in the future.

Paul Minors

This year Paul has been a leader of a *Young Enterprise Group* as part of his Business Studies course. As a result of the excellent presentation given for their product, Paul was chosen as one of a group of 80 students to take part in the NZ YES Global Enterprise Challenge over a number of weekends. From this Paul was eventually chosen in the final 6 from all over New Zealand to compete in Singapore at the *Fedex International Challenge* with other groups from Asia and Pacific countries. Paul and his partner went on to win this International Competition.

An absolutely stunning result.

A member of the selection committee for the *Young Enterprise Trust*, on a visit to the College recently, went out of her way in the staff room to single Paul out for praise. She related how impressive he was in this arena because of his entrepreneurial skills, leadership qualities, insightful and problem solving abilities and articulate verbal communication skills.

What a fine future he has in Commerce and clearly Price Waterhouse Coopers agree with this as they have chosen him to be interviewed for one of their prestigious scholarships.

Good luck, Paul.

James (Jong Hyuk) Park

James is a brilliant mathematician and he has been the best mathematics problem-solver in the school over his time here. He is the only Rangitoto College student ever to be invited to attend the Maths Olympiad training camp held in Christchurch. He did that last year.

This year he completed the University of Auckland Stage 1 MAX course with an A- grade and he was one of the two highest performers in the Eton Senior Maths Competition at Rangitoto. So good in fact his script was sent away to be considered for prizes.

James gives of his time freely to work with our best junior students every Friday lunchtime. He works with them to help them improve their problem-solving skills and general mathematics ability. He is an inspiration to the young people and they have developed a love of learning in maths.

James will clearly be an asset to any tertiary learning institution in the future because not only is he outstanding at maths, he is also stunning at his other subjects. James was placed in our top 20 students for last year's NCEA exams.

We look forward to hearing about James' achievements in the future.

Leighton Watson

Leighton is another one of our top academic students. Last year in NCEA Level 2 he achieved excellences in 31 of his 42 standards with a Grade Point Average of 88.48

He is proactive in seeking out challenges and extending his experiences. He was selected for the Nanocamp at Massey University in January of this year and he also gained distinction in the Otago Senior Science Competition.

Leighton holds a Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award and is on target to be gain his Gold Badge within a few weeks.

He has been a member of the school's very successful Future Problem Solving group and he has also represented the school at the Model United Nations Assembly earlier this year where his team won the award for the best team from the African continent.

Leighton has played and coached waterpolo and he has also played in and coached social soccer teams. He has demonstrated his amazing breadth of interests by passing Grade 6 in Classical Guitar this year, as well as being accepted by the Michael King Writing Centre for a course in creative writing.

This young man is held in high esteem by both his teachers and his peers as evidenced by his election as a student representative this year. We know he will have an outstanding future as he continues to seek out future challenges.

Morgan Williams

Morgan is a very disciplined athlete, who for years has competed in the field of gymnastics.

She is a talented athlete who has been a North Harbour representative since Year 9. Four years ago she made the switch to pole vaulting, a transition that she found easy due to her exceptional spatial awareness. It is in this discipline that Morgan has had some amazing successes.

2008 was an impressive year for Morgan. She was second in the NZ Secondary Schools Open Pole Vault and third in the Senior Women's at the National Championship. Her successes saw Morgan being selected for the Youth Commonwealth Games in India where she was a credible sixth. She also qualified for the NZ Secondary Schools Pacific Games team.

Morgan intends to carry on developing her pole vaulting career and aims to compete at the Commonwealth Games in 2014.

Junbo Zeng

This young man in front of us today has only been at Rangitoto College this year. Junbo is an international student and he is another brilliant mathematician.

His was the other Eton Senior Maths Competition script sent away to be considered for prizes this year for being placed first equal.

Junbo also achieved the highest result for any student from Rangitoto College who went to the University of Auckland to compete in their Olympiad Maths Competition.

He is doing Maths Statistics and Modelling and Maths Calculus and his latest report has 1's for both of these. All of Junbo's teachers comment that he is self-motivated, well-organized and an independent learner.

Clearly Junbo has a great future in the mathematics world and we wish him all the best.