

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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Darrik Smith Memorial Scholarship Awarded

SOUTHAMPTON – David Dubin, a senior partner with the law firm Twomey, Latham, Shea, Kelley, Dubin & Quartararo LLP, presented Southampton High School senior Sean Laffey, with the fifth annual Darrik Smith Memorial Scholarship.

The Darrik Smith Memorial Scholarship was created to honor Darrik Lamont Smith, a Southampton High School graduate and the son of Sheila Smith, an exceptional and outstanding second grade teacher at the Southampton Elementary School. Darrik was a rare and extraordinary student who excelled in all endeavors to which he applied himself, including music and science. He graduated from Princeton University with a degree in psychology and was accepted at Mount Sinai School of Medicine when he tragically lost his life. Darrik embodied what the Southampton schools and community strive to achieve. In recognition of his passion and achievements, a memorial scholarship was created in his name.

Mr. Laffey has the auspicious title of Eagle Scout, serving as an Assistant Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader and ultimately Junior Assistant Scout Master. In addition, Sean is a talented musician, chosen Vice President of Jazz Band, having played

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First Tenor Saxophone - First Chair, in Concert Band, Jazz Band, Marching Band and Pep Band. He is also a member of honors band, performing in (SCMEA) All Suffolk County Band and (HMEA) Hampton Music Educators' Association, and is the recipient of the Louis Armstrong Jazz award. Mr. Laffey was selected to participate in the Berklee College of Music Summer Saxophone Weekend and was nominated for the Jefferson Scholarship in recognition of excellence in leadership, scholarship, and citizenship.

As in the case of Darrik Smith, Mr. Laffey is also gifted in the areas of science and mathematics. Sean attended the Lead America – (CSLC) Congressional Student Leadership Conference, focusing on Engineering – Science and Robotics and aspires to become a Civil Engineer. Sean was one of four students selected to participate in the Long Island Challenge, a high school student competition based upon the Jeopardy Game television show.

An extremely well-rounded young man, Mr. Laffey has been involved in Varsity indoor and outdoor track, and cross country running, acting as captain for all three. In addition to his many extra-curriculum activities, Sean is a member of the National Honor Society, National Foreign Language Honor Society, Student Council and Chess Club. Mr. Laffey has elected to attend the University of Virginia this fall.

The Darrik Smith Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to a Southampton High School senior who distinguishes himself or herself in the subjects of music and science. Contributions continue to be welcomed and may be made to the Darrik Smith Scholarship, c/o Sandra Dubin or Margaret Fowler at the Southampton High School, 141 Narrow Lane, Southampton, or delivered to Maria Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Business.



Caption for photo: *(Left-Right)*

(Sean Laffey receives Darrick Smith Scholarship Award and plaque from David Dubin, Esq.)

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