



Saint Viator Names Valedictorian and Salutatorian

May 11, 2010



Clare Burke and Richard Hutyra at the "senior celebration" party on Friday night.

At this month's honors assembly, Clare Burke, a senior from Lake Barrington, was named Saint Viator High School's 2010 valedictorian, while Richard Hutyra from Arlington Heights was named salutatorian.

Both were named the top ranking academic students in the class of 265 students, who will graduate on Sunday.

They will be heading to nearly 70 different colleges and universities, including the University of Chicago, University of Illinois, University of Michigan, Boston College, Northwestern University, Marquette University, Villanova University, and Auburn University, to name a few.

For Burke, who has been involved in campus ministry along with playing varsity tennis and clarinet in the band, being named valedictorian was not something she set out to achieve, she says.

"Oh, no, I'd never want to put that much pressure on myself,"

Burke says with a laugh. "I just always tried to do my best."

In striving for excellence, she took six AP classes and the rest honors-level core courses along the way, and graduates with highest honors. This fall, she plans to attend the University of Notre Dame to study biology or pre-medicine, with the hopes of becoming a psychologist.

At the honors assembly, Hutyra accepted an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, to become a midshipman. It has been a dream he has pursued for nearly eight years, after participating in the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets program.

"I've always loved sailing, sketching boats and anything about naval history," Hutyra says. "In the Sea Cadets, I received all kinds of experience at different naval bases. It eventually swayed me over from the civilian side to the military side."

At Saint Viator, Hutyra ran cross-country and track, while participating in Student Council, Scholastic Bowl and peer counseling. He hopes to pursue a major in naval architecture or aerospace engineering at Annapolis.