Tobi Phillips and Hadlee Morris were honored as the 2019 valedictorian and salutatorian. What makes this honor even better for these two seniors is the fact that they can share the experience with each other as close friends.

Tobi has participated in many activities throughout high school, such as volleyball, track and various clubs.

“AHS is filled with staff that is willing to look out for the success of their students,” Phillips said, “I’d like to thank all of my teachers, because without them I’d be nothing.”

Tobi will be attending the University of Texas in Austin, “Out of 4,000 applicants, I am one of the 90 students selected to pursue my BSN at the school of nursing at UT,” Phillips said, “I plan to get a minor in business as pediatric nurse practitioner.”

Throughout Hadlee’s time at AHS, she has participated in volleyball and soccer all four years. She is a member of NHS.

“I strive to to be the best that I can be, and my grades are super important to me,” Morris said, “Giving 100 percent in everything I do is a big goal of mine.”

It’s very important for students to think of grades and give everything into school. Effort is so important to be successful. Some people strive to be in the position that Hadlee is in and it’s not easy. Every year counts.

“It kind of seems impossible at first, but if you keep working hard every day, you can do it.” Morris said, “Just know that it all starts from the very first day of your freshman year.”

High school is supposed to be some of the greatest years of life. There are so many memories and people that you are surrounded by and encouraged by.

“My friends and family have impacted me most,” Morris said, “My family has always pushed me to work hard, and my friends have continued to encourage me throughout the years. I’ve also met so many wonderful new people.”

It’s very exciting to share these amazing experiences with close friends. Tobi and Hadlee have known each other for a long time and are sharing the experience of being valedictorian and salutatorian together.

“Being salutatorian and having Tobi by my side as Valedictorian has been such a blessing. She has pushed me all 4 years, and has been such an amazing friend,” Morris said, “We are both so proud of each other, and there is no one else I would want to stand up on stage at graduation with! It will definitely be a moment I will never forget.”
Diligence Pays Big for Senior

Daniel Taylor, AHS Senior, earned a Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps scholarship on March 25, 2019. He can attend any college with a Navy ROTC program with his $180,000 scholarship. Having been introduced to the NROTC program, he feels excited about his future. He is headed to Texas A&M.

Daniel had to take multiple fitness tests, and over time his results improved. He turned a 3 mile run to 23 minutes and had done multiple sit ups and pull ups. Taking two interviews, his interviewer explained that everything was based on 25% physical fitness, 25% academics, and 50% leadership.

“I had gone up there the first time, up in Houston to run it, and I didn’t know what I was getting into. It was just something to pass the time and I realized after I had been there, how important it was to me and I just started working from that point,” Taylor said.

Daniel’s parents are very proud of him, and his mother, Karen Taylor, who is an assistant principal, said that he had worked very hard for his scholarship. He has been involved in extracurricular activities, community service projects, and his academics.

The ROTC scholarship process was long and started back in the fall semester with multiple interviews and requirements revolving around his physical ability. Karen Taylor said she is glad that the waiting is over and now Daniel can go to TAMU, be in the Corp, and then be a Marine.

“I also want to thank Major Flynn and First Sergeant Garcia for being great role models and mentors to not only Daniel but all of the cadets in the JROTC program. They were both instrumental in guiding Daniel and helping him reach this goal,” Karen Taylor said.

Major Timothy Flynn, a JROTC instructor, wishes Taylor all of the best in his pursuit to become a Marine Corps Officer. With the NROTC scholarship program being so competitive, the instructors are very excited. They’re very proud of him and his perseverance to pursue his goal of becoming a member of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets.

“It is a very long, physically and mentally challenging process. It is not the path most traveled as most folks don’t qualify or they quit at some point along the way,” Major said.

“I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity and will prove myself to be a good investment by the United States government,” Taylor said.

Students to Represent in National Competition

Two FCCLA members will be representing Alvin High School and competing at the National FCCLA Star Events competitions this summer in June/July in Anaheim, California. Junior Paloma Vega won second place at State in the Fashion Construction Senior Event. Senior Jessilup Acevedo won second place at State in the Early Childhood Occupationally Specific Event. They are proud to take their competition to the National level this summer.

“Ruth Turner

Seniors Trade Favorite Memories

“My favorite school year was junior year because that was when I got closer with the people I’m friends with today. Winning District Champions that year was also really memorable.”

Brandon Luna

“My favorite memory was getting the opportunity to be a part of the Jacketteers, and being able to dance halftime during football season. The thing I’ll miss most when I leave high school was dancing with my Jacketteer sisters, because I’ve done it for four years and it’s been a part of me for so long.”

Gabby Chavez

“My favorite school year was when I was in an Easter egg hunt, competing against GROUPS of people and I managed to come in first place for Mrs. Beasley’s class. So far, my favorite school year has been senior year, because of how far I have made it. I feel amazing knowing I will be graduating high school soon and I know what I want to do in college, but I will miss seeing everyone I usually talk to, as a lot of those people may be still in school or moving to colleges very far away.”

Michael Sevilla

“My most memorable moment was when a squirrel chewed through some electric cables and then the school’s electricity went out. We all evacuated to the stadium. My favorite memory was during a Peter and the Starcatcher rehearsal. The power went out in the middle of a Saturday rehearsal, and instead of going home we turned on our LED props and kept the show going.”

Carson Parkinson

“The funniest thing I’ve experienced is throughout every grade during the summer in marching band, every section would perform a funny skit for everyone... Some of my favorite memories are of the many trips I have taken and hope to take my family with me to visit, [like] New York City, Honolulu, Hawaii, Japan Fest, [and] Brazcon...”

Ashello

Reminisce
To me it's not just about goals in life. I will continue to achieve more. That same determination she had in her dream, it was a goal. And with her determination to play soccer at the college level wasn't a dream, but more like a goal. Therefore, I'm determined to make more goals so I can get where I want to be in life.

The recruiting process was no easy task. It is important to work hard and go about finding a college that best fits you. I had to step out of my comfort zone and actually put myself out there to get noticed by the coaches,” Recendez said.

Having family, friends, and coaches to support the athlete throughout the whole process helps take some stress off the students shoulders. Things tend to get easier when you have somebody who believes in you and supports you. “I wouldn’t of been able to do it without my amazing parents and great coaches,” said Hall.

I’ve been playing for years and years and nights of practice and games have really paid off. “I’ve been playing for years and years and nights of practice and games have really paid off. It means that others have been paying attention to the type of work and culture I am trying to instill on this campus. No I did not think I was going to win because we have such a great group of rookie teachers that joined our campus this year. But, now that I know that I did win I hope to be a good representative for all the rookie teachers. I am very happy to be back on my campus as a teacher to not only educate students, but to continue to build a culture on campus where we can look back and proud of our school 15 many years from now. I believe that it can be done, we all just need to buy in to that idea,” Hinojosa said.

Any club, job, or relationship you desire in high school—pursue it. If you succeed, then great, however, when you fail—then you’ll have a great story to tell in the future.”

“Your group of friends is a representation of you. You should look around you and be surrounded by people that inspire and motivate you.”

“The right attitude and mindset will guide you to a successful future. Oh, the places you’ll go!”

“Focus on your work, focus on your life. Don’t destroy your emotional state for your grades.”

“Focus on your school because none of these people are gonna matter—neither will French so don’t take that” —Simone Morris

“I was surprised, and just really thankful that my coworkers think that much of me. There are a lot of great teachers on our campus and a lot are nominated, and you just never know. I’m really proud. I’m an AHS graduate, and a second generation teacher because my dad taught here a long time ago. This is my 23rd year teaching in Alvin ISD. I taught at Alvin Jr High for five years, and then I was here for five years. Then, I was in the curriculum department for language arts for six years. Now I have been back for seven. And I don’t plan on changing again. I just love about the school and this community. It’s my home, where I was raised, where my kids were raised. We have a beautiful campus, great students, great faculty and great support from our administration.”

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“No matter what you do, take pride in it and work hard.”

“Don’t worry too much about what other people think of you. Your true friends will know you!”

“Learn to be okay with change because it’s coming quickly, and remember to plan.”

“Focus on your school because none of these people are gonna matter—neither will French so don’t take that.” —Simone Morris

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“Don’t be afraid to be yourself and focus on yourself. Your friends won’t achieve goals for you.”
#1 Tobi Phillips
“I will be attending University of Texas in Austin on a Full-Ride Forty Acre scholarship. I am one of the 90 students elected to pursue my BSN at UTM School of Nursing. I plan to get a minor in business and eventually my doctorates in nursing to be a pediatric nurse practitioner. Be willing to make sacrifices for your grades and always remember that the friends you have now are temporary and you should surround yourself around go-getters.”

#2 Hadlee Morris
“This school gave me the opportunity to make friends and gain more knowledge by allowing me to dedicate myself to my studies. I am headed to the University of Houston. My major is Business, and I hope to one day own my own business. I would say to focus on school and not worry about unnecessary things that will not help you in the future. A life to success is full of knowledge and dedication.”

#3 Jessica Hogan
“AHS benefitted me because it prepared me for the worst times to come in college. I am going to attend the University of Houston to further my education in Business. My goal is to become an accountant and then plan to attend graduate school. For anyone who is aiming to be in the top 10 of their senior class, I encourage you to never think about things being difficult and to always look at hardships as a good thing.”

#4 Jaime Hogan
“Being at AHS, I was able to join various clubs. They have made a tremendous impact on me as a person and leader. I will be attending the University of Houston. I’ll be in the honors college for engineering. I am majoring in mechanical engineering. Success is all about turning in your work on time and taking AP classes.”

#5 Erica Gonzales
“Attending AHS benefitted me by providing a variety of courses that would help me prepare me for my future. Next, I’ll be attending Tennessee Wesleyan University to continue playing volleyball while studying Exercise Science to become a physical therapist. For those aiming for the top 10, do all of your work because every assignment truly does count. Study very hard to do your very best.”

#6 Andrew Talley
“Alvin high school has helped expose me to a community of students where I can find a home in the diverse student body and student groups. I will be going to The University of Texas in pursuit of a computer science degree. It is important to focus on building a diverse resume in extracurricular activities and volunteer work.”

#7 Madison Ayres
“Each teacher I’ve had knows my strengths and weaknesses and helped me work through them. I signed to McMurry University to continue my soccer and academic career. I will attend the Honors College at McMurry to pursue biomedical science. I plan to go to medical school to prepare myself for a career as an oncologist. If you make it to the Top 10, don’t slack off! There are so many people trying to take your place.”

#8 Emmanuel Castillo
“Attending Alvin High School benefitted me by pushing me to take chances and do actions. I am planning on majoring in electrical or computer engineering. I’m going to earn a programming degree at ACC and transfer over for a four-year degree at the University of Houston. Complete your work early on. Prosocratizing on your goals and your assignments will inevitably hinder your chances of being in the top 10.”

#9 Gustavo Garcia
“AHS gave me a place where I can comfortably express myself and excel in my education. I am attending the University of Houston and will major in Civil Engineering Architecture. I plan to take what I learn and help in my family’s business of constructing homes and buildings. Turn in all your schoolwork and do what your teachers tell you. Enjoy your time and don’t stress too much during your time in school.”

#10 Haley Gaddy
“Attending AHS benefitted me by providing a variety of courses that would help me prepare me for my future. Next, I’ll be attending Tennessee Wesleyan University to continue playing volleyball while studying Exercise Science to become a physical therapist. For those aiming for the top 10, do all of your work because every assignment truly does count. Study very hard to do your very best.”

Remaining Top Ten Percent Grads:

Dress Code
Commencement has a strict dress code requirement. The purpose for this is to contribute to the dignified atmosphere our students deserve as they graduate. At Commencement, graduates must wear the designated cap, gown, and tassel. The tassel must be worn on the left side until the class is certified as graduated. Gentle men should wear a white dress shirt (with a collar), regular dress tie or bow tie, solid black or solid dark blue dress slacks, regular dark colored dress shoes or boots (no tennis or casual shoes) and must be clean shaven. No piercings for gentlemen. Ladies should wear a dress with a straight skirt or a skirt with a button up blouse. The color should not show through nor extend below the gown. The dress should not be tight fitting and should come to at least mid-thigh. The dress should also not be strapless. The dress should also not have any cutouts. Flats, wedge dress shoes, sandals, or heels are permitted. We do advise you to wear comfortable shoes as we will do a tremendous amount of walking and it is a long day! No piercings other than ears. Ladies may also adhere to the gentleman’s dress code should they choose. NO JEANS or DENIM ARE PERMITTED! Graduates who come to the activities improperly attired will be turned away and not allowed to participate unless they can change into proper attire before the busses depart. If a student needs assistance please speak with senior sponsor Sienna Flores or assistant principal Cavin Davis immediately so that can help secure the proper attire for you. If you have any questions about your outfit please see Flores or Da vis as soon as possible. Please follow these procedures for a happy, successful ceremony.

Have You Heard
Alvin High School’s 2019 Graduation Ceremony will take place on Saturday, May 25, 2019, 10:00 am at NGR CENTER in Houston, Texas. Graduates will need to arrive at the Alvin High School Cafeteria starting at 9:00 am and no later than 9:45. We will take roll, load buses and drive to NRG Center. Doors to NRG Center will open at Noon for families to find seating. Graduation will begin at 10:00pm sharp.
Hook, Line, Sinker

Inaugural Fishing Team Boasts Successful Season

This year the fishing team has had an amazing year. They won competitions all over the coast and the state. The team has qualified for the national competition, which will take place later this month.

Slow Down: Kids At Play

Enjoying Kid Day Traditions

Kid day is an annual tradition for all seniors to have a chance to feel like a little one again. Seniors dress up as they would when they were kids and spend a day at a park letting the childish, bubbly personality run free.

“I think it’s pretty cool that we get to be kids again one last time before entering adulthood, and I am going to get to walk away with a good way of recollecting the memories of my past,” Aaron Mata said.

This event is a memorable way to touch on the past and enjoy a bit of childhood with all of the people that grew up together.

Belize It Or Not

Math teacher Teresa Witt won’t be decorating her classroom for an upcoming year in the fall. She will replace her calculators, pencils, and lesson plans with beautiful sandy beaches, bright sun and relaxation.

Witt will be retiring in May and moving to Belize, a nation on the eastern coast of Central America.

For Witt, moving to Belize was the most fun, she said. "I like the competition and being around the other guys on the team."

Traveling with her sister, Witt was excited to enjoy all that Belize had to offer. She was looking forward to spending time at the beach and exploring new places.

On her last day of teaching, Witt had a large turnout of students and colleagues who wanted to wish her well.

Senior classmate, Taylor Olszewski, said, "I am extremely excited for all of the senior things we got to turn into memories and I think it is fun for everyone to enjoy together, and it’s a really good time to be social with people that are in the same grad class."

Being in school and graduating with most of the people that grew up together and attending the same elementary and junior high makes it special to share the same emotions of being on the same journey of graduating high school all as one.

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Finding My Purpose

Valerie Him
Editor In Chief

One of the many lessons I learned in the very beginning of my high school years was to get involved and find your niche. In the beginning of my freshman year, I felt as if I were stuck in the same routine and that I was just floating above the rest of my class. After almost half a year of the boring routine, I decided to attend a meeting and to get involved in Student Council. From there, it inspired me to take on many other clubs such as debate, youth alive, journalism, and class officers. After trying out each club Alvin High School had to offer, I found my niche in Student Council and Newspaper.

Student council offered me a positive and uplifting environment away from normal school. The club's goal was to make a difference and to help others while doing so. I love being a part of this organization/club! That is why I decided to run for office and have been a part of Student Council ever since, I could speak up and that my opinions mattered. After a year and a half of being in StuCo, I realized that I had found my niche in Student Council.

The club’s goal was to make a positive and uplifting environment away from normal school. I learned in the very beginning of my freshman year that I enjoyed being involved in learning how to write news stories. After a month, we began the writing for the newspaper. I love being able to write and not having to follow a certain prompt given to me. I get to personalize my story to my own liking and do as I please. This has allowed me to grow in my writing and organizational skills. I can use what I’ve learned in this class in college and in my everyday life after that.

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Although high school isn’t always rainbows and gumdrops, it is what you make it. Make the most out of your school years and take a step outside your comfort zone. If there is any advice I can leave, it’s to find what interests you and get involved in that organization/club!

Ideas for Juniors to Begin Planning Ahead

1. Learn about colleges
2. Sign up for SATs early in the year
3. Research FAFSA
4. Join CollegeBoard
5. Begin to gather materials needed for financial aid
6. Join CollegeBoard
7. Begin to gather materials needed for financial aid
8. Finalize a resume, list of accomplishments

Seek Help To Stress Less

Cristy Rodriguez
Staff Writer

As the school year ends and the seniors graduate, juniors prepare to take place of the senior class. Senior year is a good time to take AP or Dual credit classes and rigorous courses. These classes could boost your GPA and look great on academic resumes and college applications.

Students should make sure they’re doing well in classes, as colleges generally focus on the grades you got your junior and senior year.

Students should also start an Academic Resume. The most important information to have on there are any career plans, academic achievements (GPA, class rank, ACT/SAT scores, and expected graduation year), school and community activities, honors or awards and achievements, and volunteer and community service. It will be easier to write an academic resume if you have volunteer and service hours, so think about becoming more involved in the community.

The summer following junior year and the beginning of senior year is when college preparations kick into high gear. If you don’t know what college you want to attend, now is the time to explore college options. When applying, make sure to have back up schools. You should end up applying to 5 colleges. Juniors should take the SAT and/or ACT. If you’re not satisfied with your scores you can retake the SAT next year. You should also begin your scholarship searches, and as a senior you want to make sure that you have your FSA ID (Federal Student Aid) and complete FAFSA starting October 1 of senior year. You should also ask teachers for letters of recommendation. You should be done with college applications by August. There are other options for students who don’t plan on attending a four year academic institution after graduating. Students could attend community college; if you’re more interested in working after high school, explore your career options. Another option is vocational and trade schools. Trade schools allow you to earn a certificate or diploma in a career focused program. It’s usually much faster and cheaper than going to a traditional four year college, as you don’t have to take any extra classes to meet credit requirements.

If you have any questions about what you can do to prepare for senior year, visit your counselors. They have resource that can help you plan for senior year and college.

What’s my sign?

Taurus: Sensitive but a good listener
“Amy like I’m the one that doesn’t take things seriously,” junior Cassandra Villarreal said.

Aries: The stern but passionate friend.
“I think I’m the funny friend sometimes,” junior Cassandra Villarreal said.

Sagittarius: Stubborn but optimistic
“I’m the one that doesn’t want to do anything seriously,” junior Cassandra Villarreal said.

Libra: Indecisive but kind
“I am the peacekeeper, I keep everyone close. I’m generous and compassionate,” sophomore Alyssa Chheun said.

Scorpio: Demanding but intelligent
“If I think I’m the funny friend sometimes,” freshmen Adriana Odeli said.

Gemini: Unfiltered but the life of the party
“My friends think I’m annoying and talk too much, but in reality I’m just kind of there,” sophomore Clifton Sawyer said.

Leo: Arrogant but generous
“I am the one that doesn’t want to do anything seriously,” junior Cassandra Villarreal said.

Capricorn: Persistent but pessimistic
“I can be looked at as pessimistic but I am really just being realistic.” freshmen Savannah Salarz said.

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“I am the peacekeeper, I keep everyone close. I’m generous and compassionate,” sophomore Alyssa Chheun said.

Scorpio: Demanding but intelligent
“If I think I’m the funny friend sometimes,” freshmen Adriana Odeli said.
We have many teams and organizations that excel here in Alvin, but there is one team that stands out, and that is the Color Guard. They went all across the state this season competing almost every weekend, and even traveled to Dayton, Ohio to compete in a national competition hosted by Winter Guard International (WGI). They were also ranked around number 35 in the whole country before going to Dayton and competing.

“We were kind of nervous going into WGI, but once we had our first run through, we were ready to go. It’s making history because no one in Alvin has ever done this,” Captain Jacob Batson said.

The Color Guard were very excited for WGI Dayton and to showcase their hard work and dedication to their craft. “We felt honored, and it was such a blessing to go,” said Captain Emily Mendoza. “It was such a big deal and it was a dream come true basically.” The color guard competed all the way to semi-finals where they were barely taken out of the competition by .4 of a point.

“It was a little bit disappointing because everyone goes into the competition wanting to make finals because it’s a big deal, but I think the overall outcome was still good because we were able to go and make history, I think going and having a good show and we made a score above 90 which only happens if you’re phenomenally good,” Director Maurice Wright said.

After barely missing finals, the Color Guard left WGI ranked number 23 on the national level, people in this organization are some of the most dedicated people. They are ready for next year’s season and many people are excited to see what they can do next year.

No Place Like Home Base

There is no stopping the Lady Jackets softball team. The momentum they held throughout district play is now carrying through the third round of playoffs. After winning the first game against Dobie, they are hoping to finish the sweep.

They played Brazoswood in the first round, and won the first two games. In the second round, they shut out Pasadena Memorial in the first two games as well.

“I feel that we are a team that has a special bond that no other team has,” sophomore Khori Bolton said. “That is how we are so successful during the playoffs.”

And successful they are.

The team has swept each match up and is setting their eyes on the state championship game. Each player is working hard toward meeting that ultimate goal. However, the players keep emphasizing how important their relationships are as a team.

“Personally, I am most proud of the culture we build as a team and how close we are to each other,” senior Clarissa Barron said. “Our bond is unbreakable and I don’t think any other team can play, lead, and bond the way we do.”

After sailing through district play, the Lady Jackets ended with an impressive record, and were named, yet again, District Champs. This continuing success is not a fluke. Each and every team member trains hard and takes their game very seriously. The chemistry between teammates is also quite obvious to all of the spectators.

As of press time, the team is preparing to face Dobie again to finish off the round and head into the fourth round of playoff action.

Annual Spring Show Dazzles

Photos by: Keigyn Villaloboz

Night to Remember

The seniors of AHS Jacketeers hang up their hats and say goodbye. The night was full of tears and cheering, and the girls did great as they danced to one-hit-wonders. Spring Show is always an emotional night as all the dancers in the program are showcased, but for the seniors, it is their last dance.

Rise To Nationals

Winter Guard Team Competes In Ohio at WGI Event

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“It was a little bit disap-
“It Be Like That Sometimes”  
- Class Motto

Flower: White Rose  
Colors: Black, White, Gold

Class of 2019

“Too late, my time has come.  
Send shivers down my spine,  
Body’s aching all the time.  
Goodbye everybody, I’ve got to go!  
Gotta leave you all behind and face the truth.”

Bohemian Rhapsody, Queen