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Now he can go to college

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Riley senior receives Horatio Alger scholarship

Jim Golubski was looking for a college scholarship, but this may have exceeded his expectations.

"I couldn't believe it when I got the call telling me I won a Horatio Alger scholarship," said the Riley High School senior.

"It was a incredible feeling and I thought to myself, 'now I can go to college.'"

Jim was selected as a 2011 Horatio Alger National Scholar. He's one of 104 high school seniors — two from Indiana — to receive the national award from the Horatio Alger Association.

He will receive a \$20,000 scholarship to a four-year school of his choice and will be honored at the Horatio Alger Awards ceremony this week in Washington, D.C.

As it turns out, his school of choice will be Indiana Tech in Fort Wayne, which last week offered him a \$36,000 scholarship spread over four years. He wants to study to become a software engineer.

According to information from the organization, Horatio Alger National Scholars have overcome great obstacles in their young lives while demonstrating strength of character, a commitment to pursue a college education and a desire to contribute to society.

Jim's mother, Laura, deserves some credit for the award.

"My mother found the information about the Horatio Alger National Scholar when she was looking for some scholarships for me," Jim pointed out.

"It was just the scholarship for me because when I was 14, my dad (Thomas) was diagnosed with a brain tumor. It was really hard because I watched him go from the active man that he was to watching him dying.

"I kept a lot of that pain bottled up inside so when I was asked to write about some great obstacles, I wrote about my dad. Not only did it help me win this scholarship but it helped me express my feelings."

Jim still becomes emotional talking about that difficult period. His father died in March 2007.

According to Ben Brubaker, the career academies coordinator at Riley, Jim is a "driven" student with a future in computers and electronics.

"Jim has been a student in Riley's engineering magnet the past four years," Brubaker noted.

"I have seen him grow and mature into a focused and driven young man. Currently, Jim is working on his senior project in my class (Engineering Design and Development). He has always shown a strong interest in computers and electronics and will undoubtedly be very successful in this career field."