

Right: Sally Brown, Carey Brown, Natalie Brown Houk '90, Brent Brown '90. Inset: Bob Hawks with Stephen Graliker '38.

Dedicating the Tyler H. Brown Student Center

The evening of **November 10, 2009**, was truly special. The Academy dedicated the new Tyler H. Brown Student Center, naming the space for Lt. Tyler Hall Brown '96, who lost his life in September 2004 in service to his country in Iraq.



Top: Maj. Daniel Gade, Carey Brown and Gen. Perry Smith. Bottom: Class of 1996, Tyler's classmates.



Tyler's family—his parents Carey and Sally Brown, sister Natalie Brown Houk '90 and her husband, Walker, and brother Brent Brown '90 with his wife, Pam—joined classmates and friends in remembering him. About 250 people braved rainy, cold weather to attend the event. Gen. Perry Smith, the Academy's Veterans Day speaker, spoke briefly, and Tyler's commanding officer, Maj. Daniel Gade, attended, along with his wife, Wendy, a 1993 graduate of Woodward.

President Stuart Gulley announced the creation of the Tyler H. Brown '96 Leadership Speaker Series Endowment Fund, which already has raised \$75,000 to bring nationally

prominent speakers on leadership to campus each year. Upper School teacher Sandy Adamek, who taught Tyler, shared her memories of him and spoke about the "Woodward Cares" program, which sends care packages to alumni in the military.

Tyler's Upper School English teacher, Jane Graham, spoke movingly of her memories and shared those of his classmates, leaving the audience with a strong sense of Tyler's remarkable leadership abilities and the courage, confidence and charm that were hallmarks of his personality. Ms. Graham shared Tyler's senior quote, from Albert Einstein, "The only life worth living is the one in the service to others." And she spoke of her own realization, when looking through his senior yearbook: "I looked at that handsome young man with that dazzling smile and had a realization that, looking back, shouldn't be too surprising. In every picture, Tyler was in the center." And, how appropriate, she said, that his memory will surround Woodward students now and in the future, in the new space that bears his name.

