

# College is real, so is award

■ Alamo man honored by Danville Chamber of Commerce for helping to start program for Richmond High students

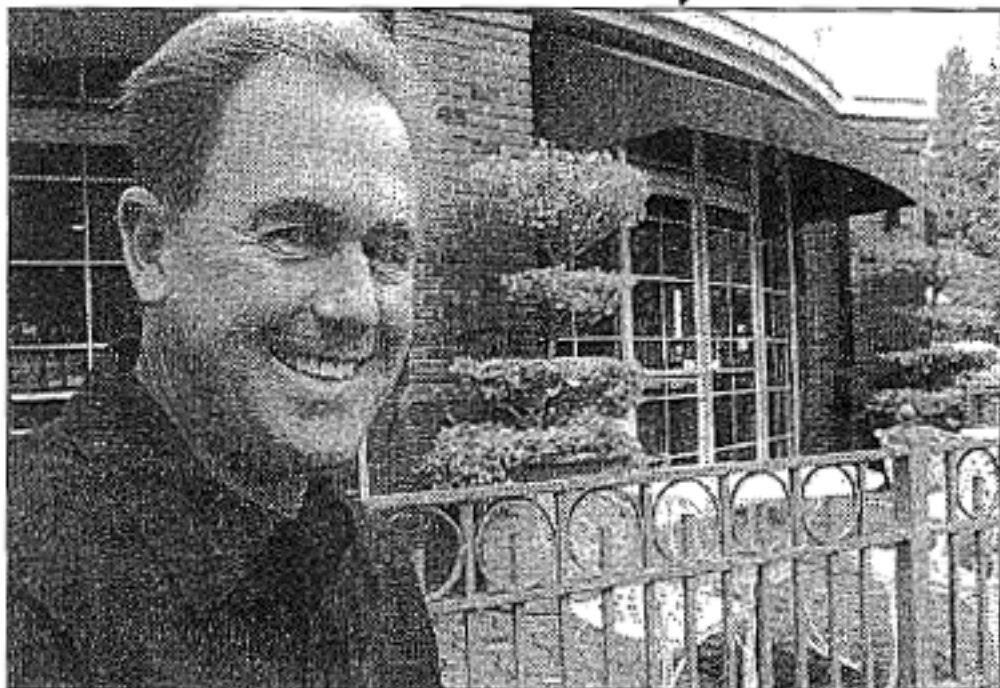
By Eric Louie  
STAFF WRITER

Brad Blake, co-founder and CEO of Blake Hunt Ventures, was named Citizen of the Year for 2008 by the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce.

The award was among others given Thursday during the group's 2009 installation and 2008 awards dinner. The awards were presented by local newspaper companies, including this one, at the Blackhawk Museum.

Blake, of Alamo, was involved with bringing to Danville the new Rose Garden Shopping Center, according to the chamber. He also founded College is Real, a nonprofit that works with Richmond High students. He is also a board member of Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation.

The Educator of the Year is John Geltmeyer, a teacher at Del Amigo High School in Danville for the last 18 years,



CINDI CHRISTIE/STAFF

**BRAD BLAKE**, founder and president of the "College is Real" program that helps Richmond High School soccer players prepare for and attend college, poses in front of one of the downtown Danville buildings that he co-owns.

according to the chamber. He started with the San Ramon Valley school district in 1977.

The Business Person of the Year is Marty Breen, who has been in business in Danville for 18 years, according to the chamber. He has supported the Primo's Run for Education, which raises funds for local schools, by helping organize the event and being a major sponsor. He formed the Forward Motion Race Club, the longest-running

running group in the country, which gathers Wednesday nights in front of his store, Forward Motion Sports.

Charitable Organization of the Year, a new award, was given to the Friends of Discovery-Thrift Station. The store raises money for the Discovery Counseling Center.

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