

Top scholars make the grade

Kids don't want to learn anymore? Schools can't teach? Bah, humbug.

The people saying those things never had to pick the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Academic All-Star team. This year, the team is especially deep, filled with the best and brightest of 23 responding public and private schools in the Observer area.

Places like Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Michigan and Cornell will get these stars for the next four years. After that, their chosen fields will be richer for their addition.

The 15 members of the fourth annual Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Academic All-Star team were selected based on high school grade point average combined with national test scores.

Twenty-seven students were honorable mention. Academic All-Stars in their own right, they missed out on the first string only because of the depth there.

Here are this year's academic all-stars in order of ranking.



Brendan Carney

BRENDAN CARNEY
Stevenson High School, Livonia

Carney is a leader. He has led his class with all A's, and he has been captain of the varsity basketball and soccer teams, in addition to heading the Quiz Bowl team. When not immersed in athletics, he sings well enough to be a member of the Village Singles, a vocal ensemble.

Uncertain of a major, he will attend Michigan and plans to earn at least a master's degree. A National Merit finalist, Carney credits his father for much of his success.

"He never pushed me to excel," he said. "Instead, he gave me a living example of what the benefits of hard work are."

MINAL HAJRATWALA
Canton High School, Plymouth

An all-A student, Hajratwala plans on a career in journalism and is a good enough communicator to have appeared on an NBC television show last year to discuss the issue of dress codes in public high schools.

Hajratwala is a National Merit finalist, a member of Who's Who in the United States, a former Plymouth Rotary student of the month, a first-place winner in the Civitan essay contest and a Rensselaer medalist in science and math from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Extracurricular activities include managing editor of the school paper, National Honor Society, Quiz Bowl membership, Model United Nations, ski club, French club, Plymouth Youth Symphony (violinist) and three Indian cultural organizations.



Minal Hajratwala



Heather L. Burrows

HEATHER L. BURROWS
Churchill High School, Livonia

Burrows has been awarded a scholarship from Kalamazoo College, has been nominated for a scholarship at the University of Michigan and is awaiting word on acceptance from Harvard and Northwestern. Such are the awards for a high school tenure that included all A's, track, cross country and the National Honor Society.

She was also a member of the YMCA synchronized swim team, took piano lessons for five years, was active in church, a member of the Michigan Sesquicentennial Committee and the statistician for the basketball and football teams at Churchill, all of which makes her a two-time member of the All-Star team, and one of just two students returning for a second year

of Observer honors.

Goals? To major either in biochemistry or to double major in biology and chemistry, with a doctorate eventually and a career in scientific research, possibly genetics.

She credits her parents, Denise and Major James Burrows, with having the biggest influence in her academic career.

"My parents have always supported me in my endeavors. They have encouraged me to take demanding classes and to strive to do my best in all that I can do," said Burrows.



Robert Gibson

ROBERT GIBSON
Lutheran High School Westland, Westland

An all-A student, Gibson plans on a career in nuclear physics and computer science.

Well rounded, he played varsity baseball, has acted in eight plays and directed one and was president of the Thespians, sang in the concert choir and with a community chamber group and was vice president of the National Honor Society.

A National Merit finalist, Gibson credits his seventh- and eighth-grade math teacher, Allen Stoll, for instilling in him his love of mathematics.

DOUGLAS DONALDSON
Plymouth Salem High School

A B-plus as a freshman is all that kept Donaldson from an all-A high school career. A heavy and productive school work load didn't keep him from extracurricular activities — he was active in church, the Model United Nations, the National Honor Society, the Quiz Bowl, the Science Olympiad, the Spanish Club and was on the staff of the school radio station.

Honors include Plymouth Elks Club stu-



Suzanne Stokes

SUZANNE STOKES
Bishop Burgess, Redford

It's on to the Air Force Academy for this all-A student, where she plans to major either in aeronautical or astronomical engineering while learning how to fly.

Stokes plays the piano, skis, is active in a variety of volunteer community groups and somehow found the time to work part time at a local restaurant. In addition, she was co-president of the sophomore class and the Spanish Club.

Honors include the Madame Curie Award, the National Honor Society, being named a National Merit semifinalist, the All-Catholic Prep Bowl Award and a recital award by the Livonia Piano Teachers Forum.

Thanks is due, said Stokes, to Judith Bellovary, a teacher who influenced her academic career the most.