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dent is whether she will continue her studies at Harvard, Yale or Michigan.

Academic honors include being a National Merit finalist, the Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science and Math Award, an award for her excellence in Spanish, and a bronze medal in the regional Science Olympiad.

Extracurricular activities include the Model United Nations, the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, piano, violin, basketball, water-skiing, math team, computer team and a choral group.

"My academic career has been most influenced by my parents, who have encouraged (but not pushed me) to do the best I can in everything I do."



Laura J. Porterfield

Laura J. PORTERFIELD
Plymouth Salem High School

Corporate law for an international firm is Porterfield's dream. She will continue to pursue it at the University of Michigan, where she plans to major in economics and minor in foreign studies.

Well rounded, this all-A student has studied piano for 11 years and in school was senior class president, manager for two years of the men's track team, an officer in the National Honor Society, member of the German Club and a two-year member of the varsity volleyball team.

A National Merit scholarship finalist, Porterfield credits her sixth-grade teacher, Lenore Goshorn, as her strongest influence. "(She) believed very strongly that children should be allowed to learn at their own pace, something that was very exciting and stimulating to me . . . I am still awed by the number of keys she gave me by sharing her wisdom with me."



David A. Burke

DAVID A. BURKE
Redford Union High School, Redford

Talk about Mr. Versatile. The toughest thing is trying to decide if Burke is a better student than he is an athlete. He has a perfect 4.0 grade-point average and will attend Cornell University, where he will major in engineering and play hockey on the Division I hockey team there.

Burke won a Free Press writing competition for 1984-85, the Princeton Book Award in 1986 and the RPI Math and Science Award in 1987. This year he won a National Merit Commendation and was chosen Phi Beta Kappa.

He also played with the nationally known Compuware Junior A Hockey Team and was on Team USA as a 16-year-old and was a member of Team Michigan in 1987. Future plans include a Rhodes Scholarship, the National Hockey League draft next year, the 1992 Olympic team and graduate school in business.

Burke also lettered in golf three times and in track and was a student council representative as a junior and senior.

"My parents have been most influential in my academic career," said Burke. "They expect no less than my best, and I have come to expect it, too. They have encouraged me to develop my talents and challenge myself."

KATHERINE L. KRETTLER
Farmington High School,
Farmington Hills

An entire list of Kretler's activities would take up enough space to require a special section. She did everything but drive the school bus. She was president of Students Against Driving Drunk, Student Council senator, freshman class president, National Honor Society, and a member of the marching band, the forensics team, the Latin Club, the track team, school plays and talent shows.

Honors include National Merit finalist, the Rensselaer Medal, the Madame Curie Award, a Farmington Musicale scholarship, membership in the Michigan State Fair honors band (she plays saxophone, piano and clarinet) and first place in a limbo contest. She even found time to work part time as a prep cook at a restaurant.

Plans include an undergraduate degree in psychology and a career in international law.



Katherine Kretler

Educators tap stars

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers presents its fourth annual Academic All-Star team in this special publication. The 15 highest achieving high school students from the communities served by the Observer & Eccentric are featured.

The students will receive the latest edition of the Webster's New World Dictionary, a certificate of recognition and a copy of the Academic All-Star special tabloid.

Our thanks to those public and private schools who nominated students. A note of thanks also goes to the committee of Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals, who volunteered its time to select students.

Principals serving on the committee were Dale Collier, Stevenson High School; Dr. James Myers, John Glenn High School; Clayton Graham, Harrison High School; Maralynn Kell, Lahser High School; Dr. Gary Faber, West Bloomfield High School; the Rev. Dennis Andrews, Catholic Central High School; and Dr. Robert W. Schramke, Redford Union High School.

Schramke came to the Observer & Eccentric four years ago with the idea of publicly honoring students for academic achievement in the way students have been honored for sports. Thus, the Academic All-Star team was born. Schramke serves as group chairman.



STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

Observer All-Stars

These students — 13 of 15 members of the Observer's 1988 Academic All-Star Team — are looking in the right direction based on their high school performances. Pictured are (back from left) Gregory Baize, Robert Gibson, Neal Blatt, Brendan Carney, David Burke, Peter Hanish and Katherine Kretler. Also pictured are (middle row from left) Anna Lisa Raymundo, Laura J. Porterfield, Douglas Donaldson and Alexander Ballios. In front are (left) Suzanne Stokes and Heather J. Burrows. Not pictured are Minal Hajratwala and Mary Strimel.