

# Top scholars win academic honors

**T**HEY HANDLE it all — a tough academic program, part-time jobs, athletics, extra-curricular activities and volunteer work — and do it with flying colors.

Members of the 1992 Observer Academic All Star Team are among the best and brightest of this year's public and private high school students.

The 16 members of the team — all seniors — were selected based on high school grade point average combined with national test scores.

Places like the London School of Economics, the University of Michigan and Swarthmore will get these stars for the next four-six years. After that, their chosen fields which include medicine, international relations and teaching will be richer for their addition.

Meet this year's all star team in order of finish:



Pamela K. Smith

## PAMELA K. SMITH

John Glenn High School, Westland

Pamela Smith will attend the University of Michigan and major in English and psychology. She will jointly enroll in the honors program and the residential college.

Finishing top in her high school class, Smith's goal is to repeat that feat at the U-M where she will strive to graduate as valedictorian in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts.

Her career goals include earning a doctorate in psychology and establishing a private practice. Although psychology will be her "bread-winning" career, she plans to write.

"I dream of being a writer, a real writer, a published writer of fascinating stories and poetry that are not read but experienced," she wrote in her all-star application.

She is co-editor of the Glenn yearbook. Her extracurricular activities in grades 9-12 have included: yearbook staff, newspaper staff, National Honor Society, symphony orchestra, symphony band, ecology club and Students Against Driving Drunk.

She participated in the 1990 Summer Institute for the Arts and Sciences and the 1991 Henry Ford Community

College Summer Program for Academically Talented High School Juniors and Seniors.

A National Merit semifinalist, Smith was a finalist in the 35th annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition, second runner-up in a Bill of Rights essay contest sponsored by the Michigan Trial Lawyers, certificate of achievement for the 1989-1990 Michigan Education Assessment Program, academic letter, and presidential academic fitness awards. She has received school honors for her work in English, math, Spanish and science.

She also volunteers at the Wayne County Living Center for Seniors.

Smith said writing is "her passion, her catharsis."

Her work has appeared in the *Willow Walk* a literary journal published by the Livingston County Writers Group, the *Westland Eagle* and the *Detroit News*.

She credits Marie Zelasko, an English teacher at John Glenn, as the biggest influence in her high school career.

"She has encouraged me to express my ideas, has confidence in me and asks my opinion on various items," says Smith.

The daughter of James and Beverly Smith of Westland, she has a sister, Andrea who is 21.



Sachin Kheterpal

## SACHIN KHETERPAL

Stevenson High School, Livonia

Sachin Kheterpal will enter the University of Michigan's Interflex Program and plan to study medicine.

He holds a 4.0 grade point average and is enrolled in the Math Science Computer Program for academically talented students in the Livonia school district.

In addition to top grades, Kheterpal has participated in a variety of extracurricular activities and has done volunteer work throughout his high school career.

He represented Stevenson at Boys' State 1991 at which he was elected secretary of state. He was also elected as first alternate to Boys' Nation.

He led the varsity debate team for two years and participated in many

tournaments. In summer 1991 he attended the U-M National Debate Institute. This year he led his team to the second state tournament in 10 years.

His other activities include varsity forensics, varsity quiz bowl, president of National Honor Society staff writer and editor the school newspaper *Spotlight*, co-editor of *Spectrum* Stevenson's literary magazine, varsity academic games, math club, Junior achievement, computer team, student council and mock trial team.

He volunteers at Botsford Hospital and the annual health fair and special olympics.

For the last four years, Kheterpal has worked at Custom Programming Service as a computer programmer. He also tutored an emotionally disturbed seventh grader earlier this year.

His awards include: all-school activity pin (denotes superior contribution to extra-curricular organizations), finalist in National Council of Teachers of English Competition, Publications Excellence Award, Speech Excellence Award for achievements in debate and forensics, top 150 of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition.

He credits his parents, Ved and Sneha Kheterpal as having the biggest influence in his academic career.

"Through their success and actions, my parents have instilled in me the values needed in an increasingly competitive world."



Vipul V. Parikh

## VIPUL PARIKH

Plymouth Canton High School

Vipul Parikh plans to study medicine at the University of Michigan, Cornell University or Harvard University.

Becoming a physician has always been a goal for Parikh, but his reasons have been cemented over the last year after he volunteered at a medical clinic and participated in several service activities through student council and National Honor Society.

"I discovered that I could gain great satisfaction by servicing other people," said Parikh, the son of Virendra and Rohini Parikh of Plymouth Township.

"This feeling along with my strong interest in science convinced me that I should enter the medical field," wrote Parikh in his all-star application.

His extra-curricular activities include co-captain of science olympiad, quiz bowl team, tennis team, student council representative, National Honor Society and National Art Honor Society.

His academic honors include semi-finalist National Merit Scholarship, semi-finalist Presidential Scholar, Scholastic Art contest Gold Key award, recognition in Who's Who Among American High School Students and a scholarship from Gujarati Samaj, a local Asian-Indian organization.

He credits his sister, Vinay V. Parikh, 19, as having had the biggest influence on his academic career.

"As an older sister, she has always given me something to strive for. Also, she has always used her experience to guide me, with mine so that I could achieve the same successes and learn from her mistakes. During my 12 years of school she has been my friend, teacher and sister."



Michael R. Joseph

## MICHAEL R. JOSEPH

Stevenson High School, Livonia

Michael R. Joseph plans to study civil/environmental engineering at either the University of Michigan or Stanford University.

An honor student in high school, Joseph has been busy. His extra-curricular activities include: student council representative, varsity basketball, varsity baseball and editor of the school newspaper.

He tutored other students in math, Spanish and for the ACT exams and volunteered for the school's Red Cross blood drive and booster club flower and fertilizer sales. He also participated in the Christmas and Easter basket programs for the needy.

An active member of St. Aidan Catholic Church, Joseph worked part-time as a carrier for the Observer Newspapers and at McDonald's.