

Top scholars win all-star honors

Citing ongoing parental support and special encouragement from teachers as early as the second grade, the Observer Academic All Star Team of 1994 is memorable not only for its academic success, but overall achievements.

The 16 brightest high school seniors in the area were chosen on the basis of combined grade-point average and college entrance exam scores. The team is sponsored by the Observer Newspapers and selected by the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals.

The 1994 team members, in order of finish, are profiled here.



BRADLEY MALESTEIN
Plymouth Canton High School,
Canton Township

Bradley credits his parents, John and Barb of Canton Township, with being the biggest influence in his academic life "because they've always encouraged me."

Bradley, the eldest of three boys, will attend the University of Michigan. He is planning a career in politics and will pursue a degree in political science. His combined grade-point average and college scores equal 1,990 points; 2,000 is the maximum possible.

A National Merit Scholarship finalist, he spent two years in high school debate where he received statewide recognition, and won several awards. He spent a year with the Quiz Bowl and a year in marching band, and two years with the Model United Nations program.

One of Bradley's favorite quotations is from George Bernard Shaw: "Insight is commonly called cynicism by those who haven't got it."

ADAM D. BORCHERT
Detroit Catholic Central High
School, Redford Township

Adam plans to attend Harvard University, play football, study economics and engineering, and get a degree in business or law.

He credits his parents, Paul and Susan of Livonia, with "instilling a sense of pride and desire, which applies to all aspects of my life."

He has played varsity soccer for four years, varsity football and lacrosse his



junior and senior year, and ran track freshman year. He was in math competition three years, Quiz Bowl four years, and is a member of the National Honor Society, Monogram Club and Citizen Bee.

He was student council homeroom representative for three years, canned food drive organizer three years, senior class vice president, and captain of the soccer team. Adam is involved in community activities ranging from neighborhood cleanup for the elderly to clinics for young soccer players to volunteer fund raising for Channel 56.

Work experience includes refereeing indoor soccer and working for the Detroit Rockers. Awards include second place science fair, Prep Bowl All Scholastic for three years, Observer All Academic junior year, football and soccer All League, the Rensselaer math and science medal, and placement in both Who's Who in High School Sports and Who's Who in High School Academics.



SAMANTHA LAVERY
Stevenson High School,
Livonia

This summa cum laude National Honor Society member credits Jeanne Herman, her teacher in the Talented Science and Math program in Redford, as very influential in her life.

"I entered the program in the second grade and spent half a day each week with Mrs. Herman in elementary

school until fifth grade," she said. "In sixth grade, she became my middle school science teacher. Because of our long teacher-student relationship, Mrs. Herman was able to influence me in a special way. My interest in math and science was piqued beginning at a young age by her unique teaching methods. She showed me I had talents in these areas and would not let me get discouraged."

"Last and most important, having Mrs. Herman as a female role model, I was able to realize that I am able to excel in typically male-dominated fields."

Samantha is the daughter of Joseph and Audrey Lavery of Livonia. She has an older brother, and a younger sister and brother.

She is a student council representative, Youth Alive Student Bible Study group leader, a member of Students Against Smoking, and has been a youth group leader at Ward Church student ministries. She's interested in photography and has worked as a private tutor.

Samantha has been accepted to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the honors programs at the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, University of Toledo and Northwestern University. She plans to study biology and botany.

Although she doesn't have a definite career plan, she would like to incorporate her interest in botany, photography and Spanish and become an international scientific photographer and researcher.

"I plan to challenge myself throughout my life to be a better person and to seek new adventures."

She is a Girls State nominee, National Merit honorable mention, and finished number one of top 10 in Class A Division schools for the Michigan Academic All State. She also was nominated for All City teams.



HARRY LEE
Plymouth Salem High
School, Canton Township

Harry credits his parents, Shun and Luan Lee of Canton Township, with having the greatest influence on his academic life.

"When I was very young, they always

urged me to do my best and instilled strong work habits," he said. "The importance of education was always emphasized at home."

Harry is enrolling in September in the University of Michigan's College of Engineering to pursue a degree in electrical engineering. He plans to add business school to his goals.

He has been a member of the varsity tennis team for four years, including a stint as captain this year; in the National Honor Society two years, including the Executive Board this year; served on student council for three years; and participated in the Science Olympiad four years.

He was a Michigan Math Prize finalist junior and senior year, on the principal's honor roll four years, and has garnered numerous Science Olympiad medals.



JAMES HAKIM
Stevenson High School,
Livonia

James credits Jane O'Brien, his Spanish teacher, as his greatest academic influence.

"I have had several academically challenging and outstanding teachers, but I think that she has been the most human. She takes time to be a student's friend aside from being a great teacher. She has helped me by caring about me and her other students in a way that lets us know we are valuable as people, not just information absorbing numbers in a school computer," he said.

James is the son of Dr. Nabil and Magda Hakim of Livonia. He is the eldest of three sons.

Academic honors include summa cum laude four years, Presidential Scholar semifinalist, National Merit finalist, Advanced Placement Scholar junior year, Michigan Math Prize competition finalist sophomore and junior years, and top 100 finisher senior year.

His extra-curricular activities include distributing Easter food baskets to the needy and tutoring students in Detroit.

James was offered a Presidential Scholarship from Wayne State University. He received a certificate for Out-

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