

## All Star Team



BOB BRENNER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Top scholars: Members of the 1994 Observer All Star Team are (front row from left) Samantha Lavery of Stevenson, Kristin Clauson of Plymouth Canton; (second row seated from left) Meredith Burnett of Mercy, Pamela Clancy of Ladywood and Sara Thomas of Farmington; (third row from left) Harry Lee (seated) of Plymouth Salem, Kimberly Rodak of Harrison, Matthew Abbott of Plymouth Salem, Amy Watroba of Mercy, Laura McWilliam of Farmington, Adam Borchert of Catholic Central and Bradley Malestein of Plymouth Canton; (back from left) James Hakim of Stevenson, Avi Drissman of Harrison and Alicia Crossland of North Farmington. Not pictured is David Mitzel of Catholic Central.**

## All-Stars

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sponded: "My father influenced me most academically," she said. "He is always there to guide me and encourage me to do my best academically and as a person."

Laura was a Blue Cross/Blue Shield Parade Honor Corps member and received the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award.

She was a second-round qualifier for 1992-1993 in the Michigan Math Prize competition, and she attended the Michigan Board of Education Summer Institute.

She plans to attend the U-M and pursue a degree in civil engineering.

## Runners-up

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### SUSAN E. THOMPSON Garden City High School, Garden City

Susan is the daughter of Gary and Theresa Thompson of Garden City. She has an older sister.

"My parents have been my greatest influence," she said. "Some kids get awarded for good grades, but I never did. My parents taught me that my grades are for the benefit of my future, not for the benefit of having extra cash."

Susan is the yearbook editor. She is National Honor Society vice president. She is student council secretary. Susan was on the varsity volleyball team her sophomore and junior years. She is the Varsity Club sergeant at arms, and Students for Education and Assistance co-chairwoman.

Susan attended the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State last summer. She was 1991 Student of the Year at Garden City Junior High.

Susan plans to attend the University of Michigan School of Art Graphic Design and Photography in the fall.

"When I look toward my future, I don't just think about academics, but also about personal happiness. I want to be successful in the career that I pursue, but more importantly I want to keep myself happy and enjoy the work I do," she said.

### BRANDI HUBEL Redford Union High School, Redford Township

Brandi is the daughter of William Hubel and Judy Tomasaitis of Redford Township. She is the second of four children.

"Both my parents influenced me academically," she said. "My dad always stressed the importance of education while my mom never pressured me to get good grades. This made me want to do well and to make them proud."

Brandi has been a student government member for four years and served two years as class president. She is captain of varsity cheerleading, a member of the prom committee, chairwoman of the activities committee, and a National Honor Society member.

She was a member of the National Parade Honor Corps and has received several scholar athlete and academic all league awards. She won the Madame Curie Award for excellence in math and science. She was accepted with honors to the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus, where she plans to major in engineering or accounting.

### AN NGOC VU Clarenceville High School, Livonia

An Ngoc is the son of Luong N. and Hang T. Vu of Livonia. He is one of five children.

"My parents emphasized the importance of taking full advantage of a free education since my first day of school," he said.

He is a member of the varsity track team and the National Honor Society.

He has been on the honor roll four years and has received academic letters

### ■ 'My mother and father have influenced me most for encouraging me to do my best in all of my studies.'

Stephen O. Hudson  
Bishop Borgess High School

for three years.

He plans on enrolling at Lawrence Technological University to study electrical engineering.

### STEVEN SORDAHL Huron Valley Lutheran High School, Westland

Steven is the son of the Rev. Myron and Harriet Sordahl of Westland. He is the youngest of five children.

"My parents have always encouraged me to do well in school so I can be prepared for a professional career," he said.

Steven is chief editor of the school newspaper, a class officer and a member of the basketball team, band and swing choir.

Academic honors include state finalist last year in the VFW Voice of Democracy and being an honor roll student all four years.

Steven is enrolled in the General Motors Institute in Flint, majoring in manufacturing systems engineering. He is a co-op student employed by the Auto Alliance (Mazda) in Flat Rock.

"In these days of uncertain employment, the co-op program is a good education system for me," he said. "I can get hands-on experience right along with my classroom education."

### KAREN LU Bishop Borgess High School, Redford Township

Karen is the daughter of Hung and Nga Lu. She is the oldest of three daughters.

"Academically, Mrs. Bergeski in-

creased my curiosity in political science and history while Mr. McGreevy guided me in the right direction," she said.

Karen is student council co-president, a member of the National Honor Society, writes for the student newspaper and has competed in the Michigan Math League.

She has won the Rensselaer Polytechnic Award for Math and Science. Her career goals include "becoming a top international journalist and teaching politics."

She plans to attend Wayne State University and work toward degrees in political science and linguistics.

"After graduating from college, I'll go on to graduate school. In the meantime, I'll try to get on a small newspaper agency and work my way up from there," she said.

### STEPHEN O. HUDSON Bishop Borgess High School, Redford Township

Stephen is the son of Clarence and Josie Hudson of Detroit. He has a younger brother.

"My mother and father have influenced me most for encouraging me to do my best in all of my studies," he said.

He is president of the student council and a member of the National Honor Society.

Stephen has been an honor roll student each year. He won the Bausch and Lomb Science Award, and the OPAL Award from Michigan State University.

He plans to attend a four-year university.

# Congratulations Observer all stars

**T**he 1994 Observer Newspapers Academic All Star team is budding with potential engineers, physicians, a military intelligence officer, teachers, attorneys, a business owner and even a politician.

This year's team includes students with diverse interests and academic honors. What they all have in common is outstanding academic achievement coupled with unparalleled extracurricular involvement. They are lettered athletes, crack debaters, musicians, student newspaper editors and club and class officers. These young men and women are active in church groups and volunteer in their communities.

A majority of this year's team —

nine — are young women.

Ten students cited their parents as having the strongest influence on their academic career. The rest named a favorite teacher as helping them achieve their academic success.

The recurring theme the students find most helpful is a supportive environment encouraging independent thinking and a belief of being able to achieve whatever they put their mind to. For these seniors, it has been the formula for success.

The Academic All Star Team is a popular project here at the Observer. It gives this newspaper a chance to honor and share with our readers the good things students are accomplishing.