

JAMES AKAO Churchill Iligh School, Liconia

national morit scholar finalist and winner of the Michigan Math Prize

Conpetition.
"He got a splendid scholarship to Emory
University in Atlanta," said his mother, Susan
Poupart of Livonia.

Then he went straight into the Ph.D. program at Berkeley. He won some prestigious awards along the way. He's worked hard and yet he always says "I can't believe how lucky I am."

Akao was reached by phone at his job at the Institute for Advanced Math Study in Princeton, New Jersey. He reflected on the last 10 years.

New Jersey. He reflected on the last 10 years.

'I think there was a whole series of good teachers at Churchill, people like Dick Braun, a physics teacher, and Mary Buda for math," he said.

'I feel lucky to be doing science now. At this point, I'm living a dream. The things I work on now are thrilling.

"My general area is computational physics. Essentially 1 set up experiments on a computer and often in a situation where there are millions of related equations. I typ to find an overall solution to a collection of problems.

*Akao examed bachelor's degrees in math and

Akao carned bocholor's degrees in math and physics from Emory University in 1989.

"I liked the atmosphere of a smaller school," he said

said.

He then accepted a fellowship offered by the Office of Naval Research to study at Borkeley, where he earned a dectorate last spring. Ho's doing past doctoral research now at Princeton and eventually would like to become a math professor at a research facility.

at a research facility.

Tve got one year to go here," he said. "I'd like to teach at a research school like the University of Mgchigan, Wissonsin or Seattle."

Akao is single and says his schedule is protty demanding. He enjoys deep sea diving and kayaking.

Dividing his time between teaching.

Dividing his time between teaching undergraduate math and doing research would be the best of both worlds, he said.



ANDREA BREUHAN Harrison High School, Farmington Hills

Breuhan graduated from Harrison with plans to attend the University of Michigan and possibly pursue Is we or other graduate studies. She's now working on a Ph.D. in economics at Stanford University in California.

"Hopefully I'll be done by the end of 1996," she said.

end of 1996," she said.

She received a bachelor of arts degree in economics from the U-M in 1989, graduating Phi Beta Kappa. She spent her junior year at the famed London School of Economics. She worked in Washington, D.C. for two years for the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics.

"It was an interesting job. I worked as an economist, a computer industry analyst. Then I came out here (California)," she said.

"It would not way consequent bast summer. Currently.

It taught my own course hast summer. Currently I coordinate the teaching assistants in the economics department.

Her eventual goal is to get a teaching job in a liberal arts college.

Breuhan credits many strong women teachers, especially her 7th and 10th grade math teachers Laura Minor and Susan Schultz, with being early

guiding forces.

The key to economics is math. I never felt any obstacle to what I wanted to do, or that girls shouldn't like math, she said.

Breuhan is single and enjoys outdoor activities and cooking Southeast Asian and Indian dishes. Her parents, Marilyn and Ronald Breuhan, live in Tomination Hills.



MIDORI HARRIS Mercy High School, Farmington Hills

Mercy High School, Farmington Bills

Harris was a National

Americ Scholarship finalist grandfather paid the tuition for hor to state of the form Michigan State University with a bachelor of actione decrease in biochemistry. That year, she began a doctoral program in biochemistry, molecular and cell biology at Cornell University, molecular and cell biology at Cornell University.

'Th still here,' she said from her home in Ithaca. New York.' I have one year left on the program in the consequence of the

professor does," she said. "I might teach at a sman college."
Harris received a fellowship from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.
Outside the aboratory, she likes to sing and is a member of the Cornell Choral this year. Her parents, Richard and Johnn Harris, live in Detroit in the same house where Midori grew up.

THE FIRST ACADEMIC ALL-STARS TEAM

LOOKING BACK AFTER 10 YEARS

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Observer's Academic All-Star program. This year's team - 13 strong is profiled in a special section found inside today's paper. The first Observer Academic All-Star team was presented to readers on Thursday, May 2, 1985. Twelve outstanding scholars from local high schools told of their college plans and career ambitions.

The Observer attempted to contact that first group of All-Stars to report on their successes a decade later.

In the end, 10 members now living on the east and west coasts and points in between and beyond responded to our questions. Here's an update on members of that first team the Observer Academic All-Star Class of 1985.

BY MARY RODRIQUE



MARK LADO John Glenn High School, Westland

MARK LADO

John Glenn High School, Westland

John German,

Coincidentally, he's back in

Rurope now assignment for

GE Medical Systems at University Hospital in

Zurich, Switzerland.

"He's writing some software for them," said Floyd

Ladd, his father, who lives in Westland with

Mark's mover made leas than a 4.0 grade point

average at the U.M," said his father. "He was

awarded three fellowahips and accepted one from

the Office of Naval Research."

Ladd received a bachelor of acience degree in

electrical engineering from U.M in 1889, and a

master's degree in the same field in 1991 from

Stanford University. He went to work after

graduation. He was the listson engineer sent to

Zurich when the company sold positron emission

Lomography (FET) to the hospital.

While at Blanford, Ledd co-authon dethnical

papers with a professor and monitored earthquake

cution of the propersor and monitored earthquake

why German teacher in high school, Mrs.

Hildegrad Kelley, led me to that opportunity, said

Ladd by phone from Zurich. "Naturally my parents

early on were very influential for me.

"Being an Observer academic all-star was

interesting. I didn't realize I was part of the first

team."

Ladd enjoys aking and traveling. His father

olanned to vaist him in Zurich in Anrill.

interesting. I that a reaster a mean.

Ladd enjoys skiing and traveling. His father planned to visit him in Zurich in April:

"My dad was stationed in Germany after World War II. We plan to go thore," Ladd said.

His plans to stay in Zurich after his current work assignment ends to pursue a doctorate at the Swiss Pederal Institute of Technology. He will continue research work for his employer.

THOSEAS MOTLLER on High School, Livenia

Neversion stigs seemed, Liberta

When he graduated from Stevenson,
Mueller had an eye on medical or dental
school and a scholarship waiting from
Indiana University.
Ten years ago I didn't have a clue that I'd end up
hore," said Bueller from his home in auburban

Ten years ago I didn't have a clue that I'd end up hore," said Mueller from his home in suburban Houston.

"One of the main reasons I went to Indiana was that I wasn't certain of a careor path and they allowed that floxibility."

Mueller graduated from Indiana in 1989 (Phi Beta Kappa) with a degree in chemistry. He misored in history and sconomics.

"Junior year I shifted gears to business. I was hired by 5the II O'll in Houston after graduation."

After nine menths of training, he moved back to Michigan where he was in sales for Shell O'll with the entire state his territory.

"I was there three years and then came back to Houston to take a head office position," he said. He is now base oils manager. "We're the commercial products division that handles non-gas products, basically lubricants. My job entails pricing, economics and product planning." Mueller met his wife, Gretchen, at IU where she carned a degree in math in 1990. Married 24 years, she works for Birmingham, Michigan based Motoresearch out of a home office in a job that requires a lot of traveling. "We're very active in the Indiana Alumni Club which has a large Houston chapter and we have season tickets for Indiana football," he said. "We're sports fans in general."

Mueller's mother, Sharon Phillips, now lives near Indianapolis, His father is deceased. He has a brother at Western Michigan University. "I grew up in Livonia, Stevenson was a great high school, I particularly remember Ron Quick, an English teacher. He was difficult and demanding and I got more out of that than I realized at the time."



STEVEN PEDLOW Plymouth Canton High School, Canton

Canton

Pedlow was class

Valedictorian. He was a
Michigan Math Prize
finalist and was headed for the
University of Michigan.

"I graduated from U-M in 1989
with bachelor of science degrees
in math and in statistics, with
high honors," said Pedlow from his home in

The former Plymouth resident is now finishing his dissortation for a doctorate in statistics from the University of Chicago. He recoived a fellowship from that university to study statistics.

"I expect to finish in June or in August and I have a full-time job lined up with the National Opinion Research Center in Chicago."

He is already employed there as a survey statistican, mostly collecting and analyzing data from large government surveys.

"One project I'm working on now is for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA. I'm holping them redesign a survey to make sure companies are following OSHA record keeping standards."

keeping standards."
Pedlow has been married for 4 1/2 years to Linds
J., an accountant he mot while both were students
at U-M. The couple enjoy living in Chicago's Hyde
Park neighborhood near the university on the
city's southside.

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"I think I was very lucky to be in the school district I was in," he said of Plymouth Canton. "There were a lot of good teachers."

His mother Lois Pediow and father and step-nother Edward and Marlene Pediow, now live in



CHRISTOPHER RITO

Petrois Catholic Central, Radford Ito won a Kmart National Merit Scholarship to the also won a lifts place award in the Detroit Science Fair and was a member of the All Scholastic Catholic team and the Scholarship Athlete team. He was on the Observer all area team for cross country two times. Detroit Catholic Central, Redford

I still run, but certainly not as fast," he said from his office in Indianapolis, where he works for the Eli Lilly Co. as an organic chemist. I still have only (academic all-star) certificate with my running medals down in the basement." Rito earned a degree in chemistry from Kelamazoo in 1989, then a master's degree in organic chemistry from the University of Wisconsin in 1991. He did internables at Upjohn and Kellong Co. in Battle Creek before joining Eli Lilly in January 1992. He met his wife, Debe, of Deer Lodge, Montana while doing a research project at the University of Montana. The couple has two daughters, Victoria, 2, and Angelina, 10 months. A former music student, Debe now teaches music out of their home.

student, Debe now teaches music out of their nome.

"Since I started here at Eii Lilly, I was working in diabetes research," he said. "I helped develop a drug for diabetic retinopathy, to help prevent diabetics from going blind. Testing in humans will be coming soon. That's been a major accomplishment hero."

Rito is also athletic director at his parish, St. Thomas Moore in Mooresville and he coaches a junior high basketball team.

His parents are Robert and Aline Rito of Westland.



BETH SADLER Mercy High School, Farmington Hills Merry High School, Farmington Hills

adler was a National Merit
finalist and winner of the
finalist and winner of the
Madame Curie award from
the Society of Women Engineers.
"I graduated from U-M in 1989
with a backloor of science degree
in collular and molecular
biology," she said.
She went to work for Parker
Amchen, an industrial metal
finishing company in Madison

Minchen, an industrial mean finishing company in Madison Heights.

"I'm a technical service chemist," she said. Half her responsibilities involve traveling around the country and Canada visiting customers and acting as a technical service representative. She is also involved in research and in-house training programs in her Madison Heights office.

"Our customer base includes the auto industry, anyono who buys metal furniture and appliances basically anything that requires rustproofing." Sadler says she always enjoyed math and science and 'tho teachers at Mercy were wonderful. "I always know I would go into the science field, but what I do is more business oriented," she said. She's single and enjoys traveling.

"I just got back from Mexico last month," said Sadler, who also won a certificate of merit in Spanish in high school.

She lives in Livonia, as do her parents, Robert and JoAnn Sadler.



DOUGLAS TROJANOWSKI

Douglas Trojanowsi

Lutheran High Northwest

A National Merit Scholar
and cleas valedictorian,
Trojanowski planned to
major in computer science.
He graduated from Lawrence
Technological University with a
double major in math and
computer science. He was hired
by Electronic Data Systems as a
systems engineer and has
worked in the company's Troy.

"I work in Southfield offices.
"I work in Southfield one. My particular job is
developing and maintaining computer systems,"
said Trojanowski, who is single and lives in
Farmington Hills. His alma mater, Lutheran High,
has since moved to Rochester Hills.
He enjoys fencing and is involved with the
fencing club at Schooleraft College.
"My career is going the way I anticipated it
would," he said. He still has his scademic all-star
certificate and the article that appeared in the
newspaper announcing the team.
He is the son of Jerome and Diane Trejanowski of
Farmington Hills.

JEANNE WAKENKUT Franklin High School, Livonia

nkenhut was a National Merit Scholarship finalist. She planned to pursue neuroscience or psychology with an

My finalist. She planned to pursue nemphasis on biology.

"She's busy running a computer software business in Amberst, Massachusetts," said her mother, Launs Wakenhut.

Wakenhut attended Amherst College on a scholarship and received a bachelor of science degree in 1893 after double majoring in religion and neuroscience.

"She took a couple of years off," said her mother. Then she went to Drew University in Madison, Now Jersey, where she earned a master's degree in theology and bioethies.

"She's back in Amherst now and quite busy running her business with some partners. It's a computer software design company called Micro Magic," her mother said.

Jeanne is single and very involved in social justice issues. She also enjoys herb gardening and sewing. She's in a beautiful area of western Massachusetts. She's very happy."

Jeanne is the daughter of Alan and Launa Wakenhut of Livonia.



Efforts to contact two academic all-stars or their family members from that first team wers unsuccessful. They are Christopher Adamson, a Westland John Glenn graduate, and Tamara Christie, a Redford Union alumna.