

All-Stars

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Judges pick record number of students for All-Star Team



Gregory VanHoe, Catholic Central

Gregory E. VanHoe Detroit Catholic Central

Gregory plans to attend Duke University, the University of Toledo or the University of Michigan this fall, majoring in either political science or economics. He would also like to attend law school.

He is a member of the Catholic Central Academic Team, the CC Bowling League, the Redford Summer Baseball League, and the Explorers' Club in Law.

He is a National Merit Finalist, National Honor Society member, Gabriel Richard Club member for seven semesters, Xerox Humanities/Social Sciences Award and the Purdue University Social Studies Award.

"All of my teachers have influenced my career by giving me new perspectives on life and new methods of analyzing," he said.

He is the son of Edward and Marsha VanHoe and has two siblings: Elaine, 18 and Kevin, 8.

BY CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

Nine area high school principals took special pride this year in selecting members of the annual Observer & Eccentric Academic All-Star Team.

Twenty students were selected from high schools in the Observer area, and 20 in the Eccentric area, with many other nominees receiving accolades for their stellar academic accomplishments.

The Observer team had students nominated from Farmington/Farmington Hills, Livonia, Redford, Westland, Garden City, Plymouth and Canton. The Eccentric team honors students from schools in an area including Rochester, Rochester Hills, Troy, West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham, Southfield, Clarkston, Lake Orion and Oxford areas.

This year saw a record number of students selected for the team, and better participation from area high schools in nominating students.

"The schools are sending their best and brightest to us," said Larry Boehms, principal of Troy High School and chairman of this year's judging committee. "Every year it gets to be more of a joy for us — the quality of students seems to increase."

Other judges on this year's All-Star committee included: George Fornero from West Bloomfield High School, the Rev. Harold Gardner of Detroit Catholic Central, David S. Symington of Lahser High School, Dale Collier of Livonia Stevenson, Kay Randolph of

Rochester Adams, Dennis Connolly of Westland John Glenn, Sr. Joan Charnley of Bishop Borgess and Gerald Ostoin of Plymouth Salem High. Also assisting this year was Carol Whipple, who works with Boehms at Troy High

Eccentric Managing Editor Bob Sklar said the program gives students personal recognition, boosts their academic career and validates their achievements. "I think it's our goal as a local newspaper to offer such validation," he said. "We've taken a leadership role in identifying these students."

Rosiek said she is always touched by the reaction of the students, some who have even written after the accolades are given. "A lot of these kids are so busy, they don't take the time to look at what they've done," she added. "Many of them don't give themselves enough credit."

Boehms said selection to the team "shows we recognize their work, their dedication. It sends a message that people care. I think students appreciate that."

Selection criteria for the All-Star Team includes reviewing test scores, written statements by students and involvement in extra-curricular activities. Each student receives a "score" and is ranked based on combination of highest score on the ACT or SAT test and grade point average.

The idea the Academic All-Stars was born in the mid-1980s when Robert Schramke, then principal of Redford Union High school, approached the Observer & Eccentric with the idea of honoring students for academic achievement in the way students have been honored for exceptional athletic ability. Those selected will receive the latest edition of Webster's New World Dictionary and a special certificate of recognition.



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JACOBFIELD

One judge: Dr. David Symington, Bloomfield Hills Lahser principal, served as a judge this year.

School.

O&E managers said that the annual all-star selection process gives students another pat on the back.

"I think it gives them the kind of community recognition the academic scholars need to go onto the next phase of their lives," said Observer Managing Editor Susan Rosiek. "It's the kind of program we're really excited about and proud to sponsor over the last 11 years."

1988

David Darmofal, Stevenson; Soo Jin Kwon, Plymouth Salem; Daniel Weiner, Harrison; Paul Krajewski, Stevenson; Bill Kellogg, Churchill; Christine Pollar, Redford Union; Mark Schiefsky, Harrison; Kenneth Clark, Glenn; Peter Mueller, Bishop Borgess; Jackie Aho, North Farmington; John Brinkman, Bishop Borgess; Linda Rhee, Plymouth Salem; Dennis Paige, Garden City.

1987

Mark J. Schiefsky, Harrison; Annette Dilworth, Stevenson; Paul Fortana, Stevenson; Michael Chiang, Detroit Catholic Central; Heather L. Burrows, Churchill; Jody S. Payne, John Glenn; Todd Wright, Lutheran Northwest; Gregory L. Shomo, Franklin; Brian Tobin, Farmington; Phillip Brosnan, Thurston; Michael J. Bloomfield, John Glenn;

Todd G. Roshak, North Farmington; Gregory Baise, Redford Union; Mark R. Renrick, Plymouth Salem.

1986

Suzanne Stokes, Bishop Borgess; Brendan Carney, Stevenson; Minal Hajratwala, Plymouth Canton; Heather L. Burrows, Churchill; Robert Gibson, Lutheran High School-Westland; Douglas Donaldson, Plymouth Salem; Alexander Ballios, Stevenson; Mary N. Strimel, Mercy; Neal B. Blatt, Harrison; Peter D. Hanish, Churchill; Gregory J. Baise, Redford Union; Anna L. Raymundo, Mercy; Laura J. Porterfield; David A. Burke, Redford Union; Katherine L. Kretler, Farmington.

1985

James Akao, Churchill; Andrea Brouham, Harrison; Midoria Harris, Mercy; Mark Ladd, John Glenn; Thomas Mueller, Stevenson; Steven Podlow, Plymouth Canton; Christopher Rite, Detroit Catholic Central; Beth Sadler, Mercy; Douglas Trojanowski, Lutheran Northwest; Joanne Wakonhut, Franklin; Christopher Adamson, John Glenn; Tamara Christie, Redford Union.

12 years of All-Star teams are highlighted

Today's special section profiles the 12th Observer Newspapers All-Star Team named since we began this important program.

Here's a list of the young men and women who have been honored over the years as Observer Academic All-Stars since 1985: