

1998 Academic All-Stars

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ty Junior Scholar in Math, Certificate of Distinction-AHSME Exam.

He is a member of his school's National Honor Society, Math Team, Computer Club, Quiz Bowl Team and Science Olympiad and Science Fair. He also is treasurer of the Lithuanian Catholic Youth Organization of Detroit and camp counselor for the Lithuanian Catholic Youth Camp.

"I expect my generation to make a serious attempt at eliminating the environmental problems of the world today. I hope that world hunger and poverty can be eliminated by my generation also."

Sirgedas said Mr. Weinburg, his high school economics and government teacher, has been an important influence. "He always had interesting viewpoints on the issues facing the world. He had unique solutions to today's problems and he always made us think by making bold statements for us to react to."

Sirgedas is the son of Vitas and Donna Sirgedas and brother of Lina, 15, Laura, 12, and Julia, 5.

Matthew Smith Plymouth Christian Academy Canton

Matthew Smith plans to study computer engineering at Taylor University or the University of Michigan this fall.

He is a member of his school's National Honor Society and French Honor Society. He placed second in the OCS Math Meet and received the Who's Who Award.

He said his generation will contribute "more technology advances, especially in the area of computing."

Smith said Mr. Sherman, a teacher, taught him that "doing your best has rewards and is important."

Smith is the son of Craig and Patricia Smith and brother of Kevin, 13, and Dave, 21.

Alan Kulifay Wayne Memorial High School Wayne

Alan Kulifay has received an academic scholarship to Lawrence Technological University, where he will major in mechanical engineering this fall.

He is a member of his school's National Honor Society and has received an Academic Letter.

His expectation for his generation is direct but far-reaching: "I expect them to make revolutionary breakthroughs in the way things are produced."

Smith's CAD-CAM teacher, Mr. Bogataj, had the biggest and most practical influence on his life: "He taught me about what a real job is like."

Kulifay is the son of Glenn and Mary Kulifay.

Adam Michael Johnston Franklin High School Livonia

Adam Johnston will major in biology and secondary education at Northern Michigan University this fall.

His academic honors include: Presidential-Harden Scholarship, Freshman Fellowship Award, Wayne County Aca-

ademic Achievement Award, and second place in the Veterans of Foreign Wars School Writing Contest. He is a member of his school's National Honor Society.

Johnston said Mr. Dances, a teacher, was a great influence "because he was energetic and funny enough to get everyone involved in my favorite subject, which is science."

Johnston expects his generation "to impose a more peaceful and less judgmental mind-set on generations to come."

Johnston is the son of John and Jocelyn Johnston and brother of Wade, 20.

Erin Risser Stevenson High School Livonia

Erin Risser will major in biology or math at Albion College this fall.

She will graduate summa cum laude and is in the Who's Who of American High School Students. She also is a National Merit Scholarship finalist.

She has been a handbell ringer for nine years and director of a youth handbell group for the past year.

"My science teacher, Mr. Roster, was the greatest influence on me because he showed me that a person can lead a fulfilling and exciting life and have a career also. He always had a personal experience to help illustrate the concepts we learned in class. He also encouraged the class to ask questions, even if they did not pertain directly to the class."

Risser said her generation must give back to society for being the recipient of tremendous breakthroughs in technology and science. "We will be faced with answering the moral and ethical questions which are the result of these discoveries. The responsibility of using this knowledge in a way which benefits the planet and all of its inhabitants will be my generation's most significant contribution."

Risser is the daughter of Richard and Yvonne Risser and sister of Ryan, 16.

Ellen Adams Farmington High School Farmington

Ellen Adams will study engineering at Tufts University this fall.

She is president of her school's National Honor Society, treasurer of student council and captain of the cross country and track team. She made Academic All-State Cross Country in 1995 and 1997.

She said her coach, Liz Zynda, was a great influence because "she knew me better than I knew myself and believed in me."

Adams expects her generation to contribute "enthusiasm and determination that we have learned through our past experiences."

Adams is the daughter of George and Mary Ellen Adams and sister of Katharine, 18, and George, 21.

Elizabeth Leich Thurston High School Redford

Elizabeth Leich plans to major in

accounting at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

A four-year honor roll student, Leich is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, a Michigan Competitive Scholarship Finalist and a recipient of the Presidential Academic Fitness Award. She also is listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students.

"Mrs. Lopez, my English and German teacher, has been the greatest influence on me, since her teachings are not simply from textbooks but include important lessons and stories about life."

Leich expects her generation "will finally realize that beneath all our differences we are linked by our humanness, and thus destroying the hopes and dreams of others would be undesirable."

Leich is the daughter of Jack and Catherine Leich and sister of Jack, 15, and Mark, 12.

Colin R. Black Clarenceville High School Livonia

Colin Black received the Buell Honor Scholarship, a full tuition scholarship, for Lawrence Technological University, where he will study electrical engineering.

He has received his school's academic letter and several departmental awards in government and advanced math. He is graduating magna cum laude and is listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students.

He is a member of the National Honor Society and his school's marching and symphonic bands. He tutors and has participated in Red Cross blood drives and Habitat for Humanity.

Black is grateful to Bobbi Gutman, his English and writing teacher, for her influence. "In addition to being an excellent teacher in her area of expertise, she also takes a personal interest in each of her students and assists them by presenting useful educational and career information."

About his generation's future contributions, Black said: "Because my generation has grown up using computers and other forms of technology, we are comfortable with them and knowledgeable about their use and will be able to contribute to advances in this area."

"In addition, because of advances in communication and the increases in travel and worldwide commerce, my generation needs to recognize the importance of understanding the differences between people, working toward a cooperative global community."

Black is the son of Randolph and Kathryn Black and brother of Alexis, 16.

Kim Kraepel Huron Valley Lutheran Westland

Kim Kraepel received an academic scholarship to Wisconsin Lutheran College, where she will major in secondary or elementary education, business or both disciplines.



Brent Accurso



Kristin Knuutila



Crystal Peterson



Philip Bossard

She is an honor roll student and a member of the Society of Women Engineers. She also is a member of her school's Hawk Singers and co-captain of the cheerleading squad.

About teacher Virginia Witt, Kraepel said: "She is the most caring person I've ever met and she makes you want to work harder without you realizing it."

Kraepel believes her generation should strive for the ideal. "I believe my generation has the potential to change the world. We will always remain positive and never give up until our goals are reached."

Kraepel is the daughter of John and Carol Ann McMurdie and sister of Kristy Ruth Cyr, 19, and Karin Rebekah, 15.

Brent Thomas Accurso Franklin High School Livonia

Brent Accurso has applied to the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Indiana University, where he will study biology, biochemistry and medicine.

A member of the National Honor Society, Accurso has received the Wayne County Executive Award and will graduate summa cum laude. He has participated in varsity basketball and track, Students Against Smoking, Student Congress, and Youth for Unity.

Accurso's expectations for his generation are laudable: "I expect it to fix the ills facing us today, and bravely march towards a better future."

He said his fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Mooney, "got me focused in science and taught me how to be successful."

Accurso is the son of Tom and Diane Accurso and brother of Aaron, 4.

Kristin Knuutila Redford Union High School Redford

Kristin Knuutila, who graduates first in her senior class, will attend the University of Michigan this fall. She is undecided about a major field of study.

Her academic honors include: Madame Curie Award for Math and

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