



Academic All-Stars

Top picks tapped in area student scholar ranks

The 14 members of the third annual Observer Newspapers Academic All-Star team were selected based on high school grade point average in academic subjects combined with national test scores.

Their totals are the highest among 22 responding public and private schools in the Observer circulation area. The all-stars are headed for such schools as Harvard, the University of Michigan, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Johns Hopkins, Michigan State University and Michigan Technological University where they are planning to study science, medicine, engineering, physics, history and journalism.

They are an ambitious, intelligent, highly motivated group of young adults.

Here they are in order of ranking:

Mark J. Schiefsky

Harrison High School, Farmington Hills

Schiefsky's future plans include pursuing a doctorate in astronomy at MIT, California Institute of Technology or the U-M.

A senior at Harrison, he is a National Merit finalist and was a Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition semifinalist in 1984-85. He is president of the National Honor Society at Harrison and a member of the marching and jazz bands. His other extracurricular activities include playing in the Metropolitan Youth and Oakway symphonies and Olympics of the Mind.

Who has been the biggest influence in his academic career?

"My parents (Mary Ann and Donald Schiefsky), by providing a stable environment in which learning was encouraged," he said.



Annette Dilworth

Stevenson High School, Livonia

Dilworth, a senior, plans to major in theater or education/communications at Western Michigan or Wayne State University.

At Stevenson, she is active in the National Honor Society, math club, forensics and drama. She's played 10 roles in her high school stage career and worked as a student director.

She won the National Council of Teachers of English writing contest and the Madame Curie Award.

She's been influenced most in her academic career by her parents, Charles and Mary Ellen, through their "support, understanding and encouragement."



Paul Fontana

Stevenson High School, Livonia

Fontana, a senior, plans to study physics in the honors program at Michigan State University.

A National Merit Scholarship finalist, Fontana is a Presidential Scholarship nominee. He qualified for Part II of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition and is a state finalist in the Michigan Competitive Scholarship winner.

At school he is editor of the Spectrum, a literary arts magazine, and a principal in the all-school music and all-school play. He also belongs to the math club, National Honor Society, mixed and men's vocal ensembles and class council.

His family has been the biggest influence in his academic career — particularly his parents, Paul and Margaret Fontana.

"I received the greatest influence to my academic career at a very young age, when my potential for and love of learning were being cultivated. At that point, my parents, warmly encouraging but never pushing, imparted to me an attitude in which the challenge of learning has always been fun and exciting, much like a hobby."



Michael Chiang

Detroit Catholic Central, Redford

Chiang, a senior, plans to study electrical engineering and computer technology in a premedical curriculum. He has been accepted to U-M, Stanford, MIT and the University of California at Berkeley. He also has applied to Harvard and Princeton.

During high school, Chiang participated in 11 school-sponsored activities and one sport including student government, computer club and team, math team, Quiz Bowl Team, newspaper staff reporter and National Honor Society.

He studied piano for 10 years and won numerous awards. He has received 35 math and science awards. He was a member of Johns Hopkins University "Study of Mathematically Precocious Youth's 700-800 SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) Math Before Age 13."

The son of Shungli and Ann Chiang, he can speak, read and write Chinese and is fluent in five computer languages.

A National Merit finalist and a 1987 Presidential Scholar nominee, Chiang is listed in the 1986-87 Who's Who Among American High School Students.

His academic career has been most influenced by Dr. Julian Stanley, a professor at Johns Hopkins University.

"By supervising four Johns Hopkins summer programs for gifted youth which I attended, he provided me an excellent environment for learning. This extremely competitive environment stimulated me to do my best," Chiang said.



A senior at Lutheran High Northwest, Wright is a member of the handbell choir and photography club and president of the computer club.

His academic honors include National Honor Society, Phi Beta Kappa and National Merit Finalist.

Wright said no single person has influenced his academic career.

"It has been a collection of all the people I have come in contact with, by their supportiveness of my decisions."



Gregory L. Shomo

Franklin High School, Livonia

Shomo, a senior, plans to major in history at college and pursue a career in teaching.

At Franklin, Shomo is treasurer of the Student Congress and president of the Bel Canto Choir. He also is a member of the National Honor Society, the Singing Patriots, varsity soccer, varsity track, all-school musical and all-school varsity show.

He is a National Merit Scholarship winner and a recipient of the Hillsdale College Distinct Honors Scholarship. He also received the mathematics department award at Franklin.

Who has influenced his academic career the most? Don Nicholson, a teacher at Franklin.

"Mr. Don Nicholson has influenced my academic career by teaching me that school can be fun and learning enjoyable. Also, I learned that content is more important than form," said Shomo, the son of Bonnie Neuman and Roger Shomo.



Brian Tobin

Farmington High School, Farmington

Tobin, a senior, plans to attend the college of literature, science and the arts honors program at the U-M.

During high school, Tobin has been a member of the physics and Spanish clubs.

He has been honored by Phi Beta Kappa.

Tobin, the son of Edward and Elizabeth Tobin, credits his middle school teachers "who saw potential in me even though I fooled around . . . and received poor grades due to lack of effort" with having the most influence on his academic career.



Philip Brosnan

Thurston High School, Redford

Although he enjoys science and math, Brosnan hasn't selected a major yet. For the first few years of his college career, he plans to concentrate on fulfilling liberal arts requirements.

He has received scholarships at Northeast Missouri State and Wayne State University. He's also considering MSU and Oakland University.

Besides academic classes, Brosnan plans to get involved in extracurricular activities during his college years. He has played varsity golf for three years in high school and wants to continue golfing in college. He also plans to continue acting.

When he graduates, Brosnan plans to get a job in a technical field.

"Sometime I hope to open a small theater company where I can act and direct. I am also going to get married and have a small family," he said.

At Thurston, Brosnan has participated in several school plays and musicals. He's also been active in orchestra, concert choir, varsity tennis, student council, the school yearbook and newspaper and National Honor Society.

His father has had the greatest influence on his high school years.

"He has always encouraged me to be successful in anything I set my mind to do," said Brosnan, a senior at Thurston and the son of Martin and Joan Brosnan.



Michael J. Bloomfield

John Glenn High School, Westland

Bloomfield, a senior, is a member of the National Honor Society, symphonic orchestra and marching band where he is co-leader of the clarinet section.

He plans to attend Michigan Technological University and study electrical engineering.

His academic honors include qualifying scores on the first half of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition.

Who has influenced his academic career the most? "My parents (Mike and Carol Bloomfield) by their constant, unrelenting support of my academic goals and achievements," Bloomfield said.



Todd G. Roshak

North Farm. High School, Farmington

Roshak, a senior, plans to attend Harvard or the U-M and study chemistry, physics or computer science.

During high school, Roshak was a member of the French club, Olympics of the Mind, Science Olympiad and student council.

He is senior class president and former president of the National Honor Society.

He's also on the computer team and a tutor.

His academic honors include Detroit-area nominee for International Chemistry Olympiad, Eastern Michigan University History Day Winner, National Merit Scholar and Who's Who Among American High School Students.

His parents (Madeline and Anthony Roshak) have influenced his academic career "by always encouraging me to reach for my goals."



Gregory Baise

Redford Union High School, Redford

Baise, a junior, plans to study journalism in college.

At Redford Union, he is a student council representative, a member of the French club and a writer for RUSH, the RU student newspaper.

His academic honors include the honor roll and a Quill and Scroll Award for newspaper writing.

Who has influenced his academic career the most? Teachers, Baise said.

"All of my teachers have been very good and have really supported me throughout my high school career," said Baise, the son of Edith and Greg Baise.



Mark R. Rearick

Plymouth Salem High School, Canton

Rearick plans to enter the school of engineering at the U-M. He would like to get a bachelor's degree in engineering and a graduate degree in either business or law.

A senior, Rearick is an executive board member of the National Honor Society, a student council representative and co-captain of the varsity tennis team.

His academic honors include a U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship, state finalist and state alternate to Washington, D.C., Women's Club of Michigan Scholarship, Operation Bentley Scholarship, Michigan Math Prize Competition semifinalist, U.S. National Leadership Merit Award Winner and Academic All-American. He was also nominated for the U-M Regents Alumni Scholarship.

Who's influenced his academic career the most?

"My parents (Richard and Marilyn). They encouraged me to learn as much as I possibly could and set me back on the right track whenever I got out of line," Rearick said.



Todd Wright

Lutheran High Northwest, Farm. Hills

Wright, the son of Richard and Sally Wright, plans to attend Michigan Tech and study physics.

Runners-up shine in academic competition

Twenty-eight students received an honorable mention in the Observer Academic All-Star competition. They are:

Elisa Lee of Farmington Hills, Mercy High School; Carrie Dut of Redford Township, Thurston High School; Michael K.W. Happold of Farmington Hills, Harrison High School; Thomas M. Peatee of Garden City, Garden City High School; Tom Robinson of Farmington, Farmington High School.

Keith L. Archambault of Livonia, Churchill High School; Jennifer Croll of Plymouth, Plymouth Canton High School; Sherri Jacobson of Canton Township, Plymouth Canton High School; Maurice Frchette of Livonia, St. Agatha High School; Edward M. Lee of Plymouth, Plymouth Salem High School.

Todd D. Bayne of Redford Township, Redford Union High School; Brian R. Roney of Dearborn Heights, Detroit Catholic Central; Jane Kang of West Bloomfield,

Mercy High School; David Janeczko of Westland, Franklin High School; Joseph Trachy of Whitmore Lake, Bishop Borgess High School.

Students of Farmington Hills, North Farmington High School; David R. Desmit of Inkster, Wayne Memorial High School; Margaret Murphy of Northville, Ladywood High School; Amanda Luckey of Detroit; Ladywood High School; Jason L. Lyman of Redford Township, St. Agatha High School.

Terese Layne of Wayne, Wayne Memorial High School; Theresa Sweet of Inkster, Bishop Borgess High School; Joel L. Medell of Livonia, Lutheran High School Northwest; Kimberly Santti of Livonia, Clarenceville High School; Alanna Ratliff of Canton Township, Plymouth Christian Academy; Debra J. Parent of Plymouth, Plymouth Christian Academy; and Donna M. Dorr of Garden City, Garden City High School.