

Top scholars win academic honors

They tackle it all — a tough academic schedule, jobs, volunteer work — and do it with flying colors.

The Observer Academic All-Stars, Class of 1989, offer hope for the future. They are the best and brightest of local public and private schools in the Observer area. It is students like these, eyeing careers in the medical and science professions, who will lead us into the 21st Century.

The 16 members of the fifth annual All-Star team were selected based on high school grade point average combined with national test scores.

Meet our 16 academic honorees, profiled here.

ANINDYA K. ROY Plymouth Salem High School

Anindya K. Roy has a worldly background. Born in West Germany, he immigrated with his parents to the United States when he was a toddler. He attended elementary and junior high in Michigan and Ohio. He keeps close ties with relatives in West Germany, England, India and Bangladesh, spending an elementary school year in India. He is fluent in German and Bengali.

He recently spent four weeks in Calcutta becoming familiar with Indian culture. To carry over that experience to this country, he is part of a local organization, Eichitra, whose objective is integrating cultures of different origins.

"Through this group, one learns the importance of good human relations," wrote Roy.

A straight "A" student (double promoted after seventh grade and winner of the Plymouth/Canton Schools spelling bee in the ninth grade), Roy spends his spare time in German club activities. He also reads books ranging from "Economics" by J.K. Mitra to "Rules for Radicals" by Saul Alinsky. He enjoys reading newspaper editorials, playing guitar, and following the progress of the Detroit Tigers and Detroit Pistons.

He has been admitted into the U-M College of Literature, Science and Arts and is being considered for admission into the school's Interflex program for medicine. He's also being considered for a National Merit Scholarship.

BRADD W. SZONYE Stevenson High School, Livonia

Bradd Szonye has earned summa cum laude honors four years. He is a National Merit Scholarship finalist, a National Honor Society inductee, and bronze winner of the Michigan Math Prize competition.

Szonye is Quiz Bowl club president and team captain; editor of "Spectrum," a literary arts magazine; computer programming team captain; chess club officer; and a member of the senior class council.

He will attend the U-M College of Engineering in September, majoring in computer engineering. He would like to pursue a career in computer programming or computer design.

His biggest academic influence: "My teachers have encouraged me, my friends have supported me, and my adversaries challenged me; I can't praise any single person without denying dozens more their just recognition."



Bradd W. Szonye



Sarah R. Andrews

SARAH R. ANDREWS Plymouth Salem High School

Sarah Andrews is a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist who will attend the U-M or the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va. She will pursue a degree program in the math or science field.

Andrews has been on the Salem varsity swim team since sophomore year, the varsity golf team since junior year (she is captain this year), in the school choir since 11th grade, in the State Honors Choir and involved in the school play.

"Dallas Goss, my 10th grade biology blue teacher," is identified as her strongest academic influence for "taking a subject I didn't particularly enjoy and making it more interesting. His class taught me how to study and the enjoyment of learning something new."

JEREMY D. FINDLEY Churchill High School, Livonia

Jeremy Findley is National Honor Society president, concert choir president, marching band drum major, varsity swimming team captain. A mem-

ber of the Choralation show choir, pep band, jazz band and school musical.

He is on the band boosters executive board, was a member of the track team freshman year, sings in the church choir, is a Safe Rides program participant, organized a bottle drive to benefit Children's Hospital, is a mentor for the Livonia Public Schools Arts Camp, Presbyterian Youth Fellowship, a volunteer in a nursing home, member of the Compton-Buckingham Summer Swim Team and the Clarenceville Swim Club.

Accolades include class scholar, summa cum laude, Michigan Math Test semifinalist, Advanced Placement Chemistry medalist, Advanced Placement Biology medalist, excellence in physics, chemistry, and math. And winner of the Sigma Merit Award.

Findley plans to study business economics in college, then work in a corporate structure while pursuing a master's degree in business.

"My lifetime goal is to be a successful, well-rounded involved member of my community, as I contribute as a business person in the 21st Century."

Findley credits his family as his greatest academic influence, encouraging him to excel, set high expectations and realize the value of a quality education.



Jeremy D. Findley

ALAN L. MacNEILL Clarenceville High School, Livonia

Alan MacNeill plans to attend college and law school, with the eventual goal of entering politics or public service.

He was auditorium crew chief for the school musical, state committee chairman for Youth in Government, school chapter vice president, Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD) treasurer, and news editor of the school paper.

He won honorable mention in the Michigan Math Prize competition, is a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist, and the school's top scorer — American High Mathematics Examination. He is a finalist in the Michigan State University Alumni Distinguished Scholarship a semifinalist in the Ronald W. Reagan Scholarship at

Eureka College.

His greatest academic influence is his counselors "Lynda Park and Denis Ringle kept pushing me forward to harder and harder challenges, but always warned me when they thought I was over challenging myself."



Alan L. MacNeill



Matthew D. Downer

MATTHEW D. DOWNER Stevenson High School, Livonia

Matthew Downer is a member of the tennis varsity team, class council, French club vice president, academic contest team and mock trial team defense attorney. He enjoys playing guitar and tutoring and working on political campaigns.

He was in the top 50 finalists for the Michigan Math Prize competition, is a National Merit finalist, was selected to the 1988 Boys State camp, won first place in a bridge building contest, is in the Top 20 of the Michigan Math League.

Downer plans to attend a "prestigious university followed by graduate work in law or business and a corresponding career."

He credits his parents as his biggest academic influence for assisting in every way possible.

VIET "TONY" N. LE John Glenn High School, Westland

Viet or "Tony" Le is a member of the Thespians, is yearbook co-editor in