

Top scholars win academic honors

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

The Observer Academic All-Stars, Class of 1991, are the best and the brightest of local public and parochial schools.

The Observer thanks the schools who nominated students. A note of special thanks to the committee of secondary school principals who selected the students.

Chairing the committee was Robert Schramke, principal at Redford Union High School. Other committee members were Dale Collier, Stevenson High School; Geraldine Kiessel, Garden City High School; Larry Boehms, Troy High School; Gary Faber, West Bloomfield High School; Clayton Graham, Harrison High School; Gerald Ostoin, Plymouth Salem High School and Dennis Connolly, John Glenn High School.

The students are selected based on high school grade point average combined with national test scores.

"If I, as a human being, can truthfully say that I have used my innate abilities to their highest potential, then I can say that I have fulfilled my obligation to society," Richards wrote.



David Winebrener

DAVID WINEBRENER Churchill High School

David Winebrener has accepted an appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy where he'll major in aeronautical engineering.

"For several years, my goals have been to be a pilot," writes Winebrener, a senior at Churchill High School.

Winebrener says he's looking forward to the academic competition, the small class size, the military and leadership training and discipline at the academy.

He was nominated to the Air Force Academy by U.S. Sen. Donald Riegle. His nominations to Annapolis came from Vice President Dan Quayle and U.S. Rep. William D. Ford.

He also has been accepted to the University of Michigan engineering college.

He recently was named a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program and received the Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute Award for Mathematics and Science.

While in high school, Winebrener has spent four years on the tennis team, two years on the cross country team and one year on the wrestling team. He's been active in his church youth group, teen choir and teen musical. He's a member of the Spanish Club, Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD), Students Against Smoking Committee, Quiz Bowl team, debate club and varsity debate team.

His academic honors include class scholar, Michigan Math Prize Competition and Michigan High School Math Exam.

He says his parents, James and Jean Winebrener, have influenced his academic career the most because "they have always supported me."



Maya Manian

MAYA MANIAN Mercy High School

Maya Manian is the daughter of Venkat and Janaki Manian of Farmington Hills.

An honor student at the all-girls school in Farmington Hills, Manian plans to attend a major university and major in English. She also plans to pursue a master's degree.

At Mercy, Manian is a member of the French Honor Society, National Honor Society, ski club, Tamil Sangam and science club. She is co-chair of the emergency committee, a math tutor and a member of the school pastoral team.

Her academic honors include a USAA All-American Scholar Award and a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program. She also received an International Foreign Language Award and qualified for a Michigan Competitive Scholarship.

Manian credits her mother for having the most influence in her academic career because she "encouraged me to do my best academically and otherwise."



Lynn Biberdorf

LYNN BIBERDORF Plymouth Christian Academy

Lynn Biberdorf of Plymouth has been named to the Observer all-star team for the second year.

A senior at Plymouth Christian Academy in Canton Township, she will attend Northeast Missouri State University and study biology/pre-med. Afterwards it's medical school and more studies in foreign languages and eventually a career in medical missions.

She was co-captain of the varsity volleyball team at Plymouth Christian where she won the sportsmanship award and was named second team all-conference. She also belongs to the student council, National Honor Society, choir, church youth choir and yearbook staff. She plays the piano and is involved in drama.

The daughter of Donald and Janet Biberdorf of Plymouth, Biberdorf has won numerous awards in German at the University of Michigan Festival.

She also has collected honors in math, business, science, English, drama and history. She is a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship program and a semifinalist in the U.S. Presidential Scholar program. She also is a member of the Academic All-State Team.

She credits her German teacher Linda Marlow as having the most influence on her academic career because "she never allowed me to do any less than my best."



Anne V. Liu

ANNE V. LIU Stevenson High School

Anne V. Liu plans to major in chemistry at Harvard. Her undergraduate work will provide a foundation for graduate work in environmental sciences.

She is a senior at Stevenson High School in Livonia where she maintains a 4.0 grade point average.

A member of the academic games club and varsity quiz bowl team, Liu also is a member of Students Against



John A. Richards

JOHN A. RICHARDS Catholic Central High School

John A. Richards is a senior at Catholic Central High School, where he maintains a 4.0 grade point average. This is the second year he has been named to the Observer All-Star team.

The son of John and Marilyn Richards of Clairview Drive in Dearborn Heights, he plans to attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology and pursue a career in engineering.

He is co-captain of the Quiz Bowl team at CC and participated in the Michigan Math Competition. He belongs to the computer club and National Honor Society.

His academic honors include the Gabriel Richard Honor Roll and National Merit Scholarship Finalist.

Richards' parents have influenced his academic career by their encouragement and example, he said.

Richards believes everyone owes it to society to use his/her talents and abilities.