

1998 Academic All-Stars All-Stars shine light on the future

We are proud to introduce the 1998 Observer Academic All-Star Team, 16 of the brightest and most accomplished high school students in the metro area.

These talented young men and women were chosen on the basis of their grade point averages, college entrance test scores, leadership abilities and involvement in extracurricular activities.

Behind every outstanding student, there's a great teacher. Almost every student on our Academic All-Star Team credited a teacher for his or her motivation to become a disciplined learner and push the limits of ability.

Our team members also had great expectations for their generation, from advancing technology and discovering awesome medical cures to reinvigorating Americans' sense of family and community values. We wish them well.

Listed in order of point ranking, team members include: Nicole Martin of North Farmington High School, Katherine King of Livonia Stevenson, Afia Ofori-Mensa of Plymouth Canton, Matthew Bright of Plymouth Salem, Robert Shereda of Livonia Churchill, Elena Spencer of North Farmington, Eric Allen of Harrison High School in Farmington Hills, Anjali Shah of Plymouth Canton, David Weidendorf of Harrison, Joseph Yung-Kuang Ho of Livonia Churchill, Joseph Novell of Clarenceville, Sarah Townsend of Ladywood High School in Livonia, Sarah Niemiec of Garden City, Garrett Heraty of Redford Union, Emily Curtin of Farmington and Christopher O'Brien of Lutheran High School.

Nicole Martin
North Farmington High School
Farmington Hills

Nicole Martin of Farmington Hills plans to study premedicine at either Harvard University or the University of Michigan.

She received a perfect SAT score of 1600 and enjoys the distinction of being ranked first in her class of 292.

Martin is a member of the National Honor Society, a National Merit

Scholar Finalist, a Quiz Bowl participant, an American Legion/Samsung Scholarship Finalist, and a recipient of the Madame Curie Award and Superintendent's Award of Excellence.

She is also co-editor of her school newspaper, a member of the U-M Bentley and Shipman Societies, and a volunteer at Botsford Hospital.

Martin credits Virginia Lambert, her Advanced Placement Biology and Environmental Science teacher, for inspiring her to continue her study of science in college and "beyond."

In addition to her talents in science, Martin loves theater and music. She played the title role in "Annie" and Maria in "West Side Story." She is concertmaster in the Metropolitan Youth Symphony and a member of her school's marching band.

Regarding her generation, Martin said: "I hope that my generation will work towards ethnic and racial harmony throughout all levels of society. I also expect that we will discover cures for cancer and AIDS."

Martin is the daughter of David and Rosemary Martin and sister of Jonathan, age 12.

Katherine E. King
Stevenson High School
Livonia

Katherine King of Livonia will major in materials science engineering at the University of Michigan this fall.

Her academic honors include: National Merit Finalist, Advanced Placement Scholar, Madame Curie Award, National Merit Science Award, U-M Regents-Alumni Scholarship, Phi Beta Kappa Scholarship and Tylenol Scholarship.

She is Spanish Club president, National Honor Society secretary, Varsity Quiz Bowl captain and German Club past secretary. In addition, she is a member of Student Council, Spectrum Literary Magazine, Physics Club, Bible Study and Spirit Club.

She envisions her generation re-embracing society's core values of God,

Please see ALL-STARS, A3



Nicole Martin
North Farmington



Katherine E. King
Stevenson



Afia Ofori-Mensa
Plymouth Canton



Matthew Bright
Plymouth Salem



Robert D. Shereda
Churchill



Joseph N. Novell
Clarenceville



All-Star team: Left to right starting at front row: Garrett Heraty, Emily Curtin; second row, Nicole Martin, Sarah Townsend, Afia Ofori-Mensa; third row, Elena Spencer, Sarah Niemiec, Katherine King; fourth row, Joseph Yung-Kuang Ho, Christopher O'Brien, Anjali Shah, Matthew Bright; fifth row, Eric Allen, Robert Shereda, David Weidendorf. Not pictured is Joseph N. Novell.