



Daniel Christensen
Canton High School



Prashanth Pandian
Harrison High School



John W. Schultz
Detroit Catholic Central High School



Alex Duncan
Farmington High School

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proof that it is possible to be as successful in the classroom as in athletics.

Schroeder combines her academic and athletic prowess as a scholar athlete in cross country and track and field. Other academic accomplishments include principal's honor roll; perfect attendance; Scholastic All-Catholic Award; top class ranking; National Honor Society; AP Scholar with honors; National Honor Society treasurer; National Merit Award semi-finalist; Michigan MEAP Merit Award recipient; Athlete/Scholar award (cross country); Michigan State University Distinguished Scholar Award; National Merit Finalist and Presidential Scholars Program candidate.

She plans to attend Michigan State University, to study engineering/biomedical research or automotive design.

As for extracurricular activities, Schroeder has received varsity letters in cross country and track and field; is a Spanish Club member and is cross country captain.

Schroeder's most influential teacher is Robert Bartone, whose expertise is social studies.

"Mr. Bartone has had a great influence on me because of his strong commitment to the truth. Mr. Bartone goes beyond bland lectures, he supplements them by the use of such additional resources as videos, music and books."

Creating smaller classes and teaching younger students how to write research papers is key to improving education, Schroeder says.

"I would also incorporate volunteer activities to help instill pride in the community," she said.

Schroeder, an only child, is the daughter of Warren and Marie Schroeder.

Daniel Christensen Canton High School Plymouth

Though Canton senior Daniel Christensen hasn't yet decided what kind of career he wants to pursue after college, chances are it may have something to do with science – or maybe even robotics.

Christensen led his school's computer animation team for a recent robotics competition at Eastern Michigan University, and is also active in the Science Olympiad.

Though he said his team "didn't fare too well" in the EMU competition, they didn't

give up and quickly prepared for another contest in Grand Rapids.

He plans to attend the University of Michigan, to study computer sciences.

Academically, Christensen is a National Merit Finalist and AP Scholar With Distinction.

Harry Greenya was named as Christensen's most influential teacher.

"(Greenya's) was the first class that I found engaging and positively challenging," Christensen said.

In order to improve public education, Christensen said he would "eliminate specific class graduation requirements and allow students to evaluate teachers."

Christensen is the son of Paul and Joan Christensen and the brother of David, 12.

Prashanth Pandian Harrison High School Farmington Hills

If Harrison senior Prashanth Pandian realizes his dream of becoming a computer networker, he will be able to say that he helped groom himself for his career as far back as high school.

Some of Pandian's activities that are steering him in that direction are Robotics, Science Bowl; Science Olympiad; National Honor Society; Quiz Bowl; varsity tennis; marching band and TEAMS.

He hopes to attend the University of Michigan or the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign to study computer engineering – to prepare for a possible career in computer networking.

His academic honors include: National Merit Finalist; Academic Letter; Who's Who Among American High School Students and American Invitational Mathematics Examination invitee.

One of his 10th grade teachers, William Clair, was listed as his most influential.

"My gratitude extends to Mr. Clair for teaching me to think critically," Pandian said.

Pandian said allowing more student involvement in administrative decisions is key to improving public education.

He is the son of Annamalai and Bhuvanawari Pandian and brother to Balaji, 8.

John W. Schultz Detroit Catholic Central High School Redford

Detroit Catholic Central senior John Schultz shows through his after-school activities the importance of balancing school life and religious life.

Schultz's school and church activities include Quiz Bowl; band; Math League; Guardian Lutheran Youth Group; church usher; mission trip to Haiti and Habitat for Humanity.

Schultz plans to attend the University of Michigan, for an undetermined field of study.

Academically, Schultz busies himself with the National Honor Society; with the Gabriel Richard Club; and as a National Merit finalist. As a 10th grader, he placed first in the Father Enright Writing Contest.

Schultz said that his most influential teacher was Gene Growe, an English instructor.

"(Growe) has influenced me more than any other teacher. Mr. Growe's class was the first class which I always actually wanted to attend, and it opened me up to the enjoyment of school and learning."

Schultz said that in order to improve public education, the key players involved must be committed to wanting to improve it.

"To this end, there should be some incentives put in place to encourage teachers and students to want to improve education."

Schultz is the son of Ronald and Sandra Schultz and brother of Paul, 19; Mark, 18; and Joy, 14.

Alex Duncan Farmington High School Farmington

Farmington High senior Alex Duncan has distinguished himself from his high school peers by showing that a pursuit of academics can go hand in hand with a pursuit of the creative arts.

Duncan, who is drum major in the Farmington Falcon Marching Band, is also National Honor Society president; directing the spring musical, *Mame*; chairman of the Leadership Development Committee of Farmington Public Schools' Student Roundtable; stage running master for the play *Noises Off*; 2001 Homecoming King; Four-Star member of Troupe 4894 and a member of the International Thespian Society.

Universities that Duncan is considering attending include Yale University, Harvard University and the University of Michigan, for an undetermined course of study.

Academically, Duncan has received the University of Michigan Regents Award; been honored by the National Merit Scholarship Program and received a Superintendent's Award of Excellence.

Helping Duncan find his way is English teacher and department head Leanne Young, whom he listed as his most influential teacher.

Duncan said that emphasizing increased parental involvement in their children's education is how to improve public education.

"I have observed a strong correlation between parent activity in a child's life, and the emotional, social and academic success of the student."

Duncan, an only child, is the son of Russell and Susan Duncan.

Drew Mokris Farmington High School Farmington Hills

For Farmington High senior Drew Mokris, getting the most out of his high school experience means more than just going to class every day – and even more than just getting all A's.

Mokris fills his activity roster with the National Honor Society, cross country, track, art club, math club, Farmington Festival Theater (set crew member), Science Olympiad and Quiz Bowl.

Mokris plans to attend the University of Michigan or Northwestern University, to study engineering.

Academically, Mokris is a Scholar Ath-

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Drew Mokris
Farmington High School