

# Record number make Academic All-Star team



**JENNIFER E. BLACK**  
Marian High

Jennifer Black carries a 4.0 grade point average and chalked up a 1510 out of 1600 on her SAT. She is choosing between the University of Michigan and Boston University. She is interested in studying biology, French and English and hopes to become a physician.

She has been offered the National Merit full tuition Trustee Scholarship at Boston University as well as the Regents Scholarship at U-M. Jennifer is the Marian Class of 2002 Valedictorian, winner of the Madame Curie Medal for Science and Math and the National French Exam high scorer for three years. She is president of the school French Honors Society. For three years, she has been recognized with the All-Academic Award by the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Jennifer co-captains Marian's varsity field hockey team, is an All-School Board representative, and is in the chorus of the University of Detroit Jesuit High School musical. She is president of Human Relations Club, active in Students Against Driving Drunk, and on the bowling team. Her interest in becoming a doctor has no doubt been fed by volunteering at North Oakland Medical Centers and as student volunteer program assistant at Karmanos Cancer Institute.

To improve public education she would "pass legislation to give parents in sub-par schools vouchers to help them send their children to private schools. Public schools would then be forced to become stronger in order to attract and keep students. I would also change teacher training and screening and school evaluation programs. I would work to give teachers more freedom in their lesson plans."

Genetics and physics teacher Mary Macaulay has influenced her most. "She heightened my interest in science with her challenging curriculum focused on real-world applications. Her passion for teaching and science, combined with her experience as a nurse, make her an informed and interesting teacher."

Jennifer's parents are David and Elizabeth Black of Bloomfield Hills. She has a brother, John, 14.



**SCOTT BOEHMER**  
Oxford High

Scott Boehmer has great stats - all A's and 34 on the ACT. He's heading to the University of Michigan to study computer science. He wants to become a computer game designer. Fun!

Scott is a National Merit Commended Student and a Gold Scholar Athlete, and received an Academic Letter and math award.

He runs cross country, participates in Quiz Bowl, the adventure and math clubs, and has accomplished his Eagle Scout Award in Boy Scouts.

"In order to improve public education, I would make sure students have personal attention from their teachers," he says. He selects kindergarten teacher Fran Potosnik as most important because "she started my education off on the right foot." He attended her retirement party a few years ago.

Scott's parents are John and Lynn Boehmer of Leonard. He has three siblings, Kelly, 26; Ericka, 20; and Jake, 14.



**ARI BRANDES**  
International Academy

All A's and a 34 out of 36 on his ACT was Ari Brandes' entree onto our Academic All-Stars team. He'll attend Columbia University to study economics and is considering finance, business management and American law as careers.

He is a National Merit Finalist, a Colgate University Book Scholar, and a member of French Honor Society, of which he is treasurer.

His interest in business and law surfaces in many of his extracurricular activities. He was Student Government president last semester and treasurer of his 12th grade class as well as of both National and French Honor Societies. He is founder and president of the International Academy chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America and president on the state level. He was business manager of the International Academy yearbook as a junior. He also co-captained Mock Trial this year and has a series of high finishes in various divisions of the Science Olympiad. Outside of school, he is active in B'nai B'rith Youth, the inter-

national Jewish youth organization, and volunteered at the Bloomfield Township Library.

Ari has been pleased with the public education he has received. However, "the fact that many bad schools exist is unfortunate and unfair. I believe that the federal government is in the best position to cause this to change. The government should require schools to be accountable for student performance; this involves testing students and teachers in order to gauge the quality of the school's academic program. While I do not support federal control of schools and I do not wish for teachers to feel required to 'teach to the test,' the status quo is such that some feasible plan must be implemented in order to ensure that all schools reach at least a certain minimum level..."

Faye Heller, his third grade teacher at Pine Lake Elementary, has had the most impact. "Most significantly, her challenges and high expectations instilled in me the characteristically Renaissance belief that I can do anything if I only have the will to do so..." Mrs. Heller truly cared about teaching; never did she seem bored with her students, and never did she cease to assign meaningful projects (not 'busy work')... Much of what she taught and assigned was far above third grade level... I feel I am more likely to take on a seemingly unachievable undertaking because Mrs. Heller showed that through hard work and dedication almost anything is possible..."

Ari's parents are Warren Louis Brandes and Lisa Susan Brandes of Bloomfield Hills. He has a sister, Amber, who is 16.



**GRACE CHUANG**  
Bloomfield Hills Lahser

Grace scored 1580 on her SAT and rang up a perfect 4.0 grade point average. She'll attend the California Institute of Technology to pursue a degree in physics. She hopes to become an experimental physicist.

She has won a \$2,500 National Merit Scholarship from the Northrup Grumman Corp. Grace is a candidate for the Presidential Scholars Program and an AP Scholar. She won the Michigan Math Prize in grades 9, 11 and 12 and is a candidate for the All-USA High School Academic Team, sponsored by USA Today.

Last summer she was part of the Student Research Fellowship Program in immunology at the Karmanos Cancer Institute at Wayne State University. She co-authored an abstract presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Immunologists in New Orleans.

Grace is active in after-school ac-

demics, sports and music. She is co-editor of the Literary Magazine, is captain of the varsity quiz bowl team, runs varsity cross country and used to run varsity track. She has been named a scholar-athlete for the Oakland Activities Association six times. A violinist, she has played with the Metropolitan Youth Symphony, the Lahser Symphony Orchestra and the Chamber Strings.

She also participates in the Taiwanese Youth Group of Greater Detroit, and has volunteered more than 300 hours in St. Joseph Mercy Hospital's pediatrics department and another 100 hours at the nurses' station.

Grace has strong feelings about improving public education. In a lengthy essay, she said her first priority is to "remove those measures... that are inherently contradictory to the development of the effective rational thought process necessary to perpetuate democracy, which I hold to be the primary goal of public education." She is against the proposed reinstatement of prayer in public schools and compulsory community service as a graduation requirement.

A second goal is to stop "the rampant grade inflation plaguing high schools and colleges" and to monitor "the misrepresentation of extracurricular activities (e.g. by writing 'Editor' when he is in fact only the 'Co-Editor') by college-bound students."

Her last improvement would be to serve healthy cafeteria food. "It never ceases to amaze me that schools place so much emphasis on avoiding drugs and pre-marital sex while the establishment of unhealthy dietary habits that cause pain and truncation of an individual's potential on a larger scale goes largely ignored."

Chemistry teacher Glenn Blair gets Grace's nod as most influential teacher. "Mr. Blair never arrived at school later than 6:15 a.m.; it was a sure-fire indicator that he was ill if he failed to show up by 6:30. His detailed explanations about his favorite subject were undoubtedly the reason for my success on the AP Chemistry test, but his love for chemistry extended beyond the curriculum set by the College Board... His perpetual willingness to help me achieve my academic and extracurricular goals has greatly enhanced my high school experience."

Grace's parents are Wen-tzung Chuang and Su-chuan Chuang of Bloomfield Hills. She has a brother James, 10.



**CHANDRA LYNN CLARKE**  
Cranbrook-Kingswood

Eccentric Academic All-Star Chandra Lynn Clarke is just short of per-

Please see next page

