

★ ★ ACADEMIC ALL STARS ★ ★ ACADEMIC ALL STARS ★ ★ ACADEMIC ALL STARS ★ ★ ACADEMIC ALL STARS

continued from page 5

varsity debate, forensics and the Science Olympiad and finds time to tutor.

To improve public education, Ilya would provide for universal teacher certification and raise standards of excellence in order to improve student motivation.

Social studies teacher Gary Weisserman has had the most impact. "He taught me the value of independent thought, the true meaning of American democracy, and that learning, not grades, is paramount."

Ilya's parents are Oleg Sadykhov and Olga Podoluk of West Bloomfield. He has a brother, Tim, 14.



MASOOD QAZI

Detroit Country Day

Masood Qazi rang up all A's and a 1590 score on his SATs. He has been accepted to both the California Institute of Technology and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He wants to study computer and electrical engineering.

He was awarded a \$2,500 National Merit Scholarship and finished first in the state and seventh in the nation on the Junior Engineering Technical Society Test of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science competition. He also finished 32nd in the nation on the American Scholastic Math Association competition for 2000-2001, was a Toyota Community Scholar Semifinalist, and won the Brown University Book Award. He is enrolled in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program in six subjects.

Masood took a first place in the Grand Rapids Math Challenge, won a second place award in the Michigan Science Fair in 2001, was fifth in the state in the Spanish Olympiad for two years and has won many honors for debate, as well as assisting new debaters and doing team research.

He plays alto sax in the DCD jazz band and school orchestra, performing a solo in the school's production of *Bye Bye Birdie*. Among other activities, he participates in Science Olympiad and a peer intervention group.

Though a private school student, Masood is in a unique position to comment on improving public education. He tutors at a Detroit Public School called Medicine Bear Academy that emphasizes awareness of Native American traditions and for which he co-created a tutorial Web site. "I have learned that technology, academic rigor, and a sense of community can enhance students' learning experience. Technology allows them to access and process large quantities of information; yet information is a necessary and not sufficient condition for knowledge. Therefore, a challenging curricu-

lum and guidance from individuals beyond teachers and administrators must also present itself to imbue students with the importance of thinking for themselves. If I could change one thing about public education in the status quo, I would prioritize the development of programs in which older students mentor younger, grade school students in order to foster an early awareness of the empowerment that knowledge brings."

Charles Fremuth, who teaches his theory of knowledge class, has "helped me to see how difficult it is to find truth in all areas of knowledge, but simultaneously helped me realize the importance of maintaining my own convictions. I know I can seek him for assistance in problems that concern my personal well-being and that of my peers. Mr. Fremuth's greatest impact on me is his approach to education as a lifelong process."

Masood's parents are Wasim Qazi and Parveen Qazi of Franklin. He has a sister, Sabrina, who is 21.



VIKAS REDDY

Rochester Adams

Academic All-Star Vikas Reddy scored 1660 on his SAT exam to go along with his 4.0 grade point average. He is choosing between the University of Michigan and Stanford. His major and profession are at this point undecided.

He is valedictorian of his senior class and a National Merit Finalist, and has received Top Scholar honors.

He plays varsity tennis and is active in Youth in Government.

To improve public education, Vikas would "increase spending and support vouchers, which would provide public schools with much-needed competition."

Teacher Christine Deyo, whom he had for both physics and AP physics, had the greatest influence. "What impressed me the most was that if she didn't know something, she wasn't afraid to admit it. Also, she taught us physics in a way that allowed us to see why the universe is the way it is instead of just spoonfeeding us with facts."

His parents are Prakash and Janjani Reddy of Rochester. He has a sister, Chandana Reddy, 16.



KATHRYN ROEDER

Troy Athens

Kathryn Roeder also chalked up all A's and a 34 on her SAT. She will attend the University of Michigan to study math and political science. These are her ideas for a career: National Security Agency, politician or lobbyist.

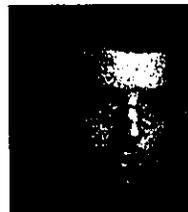
She is a National Merit Scholarship Finalist, a Michigan Math Prize Competition finalist, an AP Scholar and winner of the Scholar Athlete Award. Kathryn is the recipient of four scholarships: Deann's Merit Scholarship, Regents Scholarship, Bentley Scholarship and a mathematics department scholarship.

She also is flute section leader in the Athens Symphony Orchestra, is senior poetry coach for the forensics team, and runs varsity cross country. She takes part in the Michigan Scholastic Band and Orchestra Association Solo and Ensemble and captains the JV soccer team. Outside of school, she volunteers for Children's Hospital of Michigan.

To reinvigorate public education, Kathryn would redistribute funds to provide more equal education across the state and provide incentives for teachers who go beyond the minimum effort.

Athens English teacher William Johnson had the most impact. "He taught me the importance of always putting forth your best effort, being honest, and respecting everyone around you."

Kathryn's parents are Michael and Ruth Roeder of Troy. She has two brothers, Eric, 20; and Chris, 18.



DAVID SCHAICH
Birmingham Seaholm

David Schaich came through with a 1570 on his SATs. That joined with his 3.893 grade point average makes him an Academic All-Star. He will attend Amherst College and hopes to become a scientist.

He is a \$2,500 National Merit Scholarship winner, a winner of the Michigan Merit Award, the top scorer at the American Association of Physics Teachers Metrologic Physics Bowl last year.

He plays in the Metropolitan Youth Symphony and the Seaholm Orches-

tra, is an Acolyte at Episcopal Church, and has achieved Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America program.

"The primary goal of public education," David says, "should not be the memorization of certain official facts, but rather internalization of the processes of critical thinking, open analysis, and rational decision-making so vital to the health of America and the world. With this in mind, I personally would work to reduce the importance of standardized tests as the measure of academic success and emphasize the development of the individual student over the transfer of a specific body of knowledge. In order for such actions to have a chance of success, of course, the proper school environment must be created. This environment ought to include the small classes that are required for individual attention, led by educators both capable and motivated."

He credits social studies teacher Scott Craig as "the main force responsible for my current interest in history, and has done much to emphasize the importance of possessing an open mind and applying critical analysis to the world and everything in it."

David's parents are Barbara Schaich and Terry Schaich of Bloomfield Township.



ANDREA SHORT

Rochester High

Andrea Short chalked up a 4.0 grade point average and 34 on her ACT. She'll attend Wheaton College to become an elementary school teacher.

She took second and third place statewide on the National German examination and has won special awards in math, German and history. She is crew head for Rochester High's theater club, part of the International Theatrical Society. Andrea also is section leader for the Color Guard and active in Key Club.

This future teacher would improve public education by giving "teachers more freedom to teach children to think, rather than focusing on standardized test performance."

She selects Carol Harbin, her fifth grade teacher at Hugger Elementary, as having the greatest impact. "She allowed me to succeed at my own level and did not hold me back when I was ahead of the class. Instead, she gave me enrichment activities or let me help other students. Mrs. Harbin believed in me, as she believes in all her students, and even now we still keep in touch. She would never stand for it if I did not try to achieve my full potential. For her, it was never a question of whether or not something could be done, but how it could be accomplished. If I become a fifth grade teacher, I hope I can have as much

