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faith in my students as she had in hers."

Andrea's parents are Bruce and Sharon Short of Rochester Hills. She has a sister, Abigail, 20.



JASON SPENNY
Southfield High

Jason Spenny is another one of the Academic All-Stars with a 4.0 grade point average and 34 on his SAT. He'll attend the University of Michigan to study aeronautical and mechanical engineering to become an engineer.

Jason received the Rennselaer Medal for math and science, and is part of the Scholar's Plus program at Southfield High. He is ranked No. 1 in his class.

He is chess club captain, a member of TechoJays, and takes part in the Oakland County Competitive Robotics Association. He has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scout program.

He suggests more technical training and improved school design (wider halls for example) to improve public education. Teacher Calvin Fletcher "inspired my love of engineering."

Jason's parents are Michael and Martha Spenny of Southfield. He has a brother Joseph, age 12.



RYAN TIMMONS
Birmingham Groves

Ryan Timmons sports a 3.990 grade point average and 1600 on his SAT. He'll choose among Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Michigan and Stanford University for engineering.

He won a \$2,500 National Merit Scholarship, came in second in the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition, and is a member of the U.S. Physics Olympiad Team.

He runs varsity cross country, is Quiz Bowl Team captain, and plays French horn in the Metropolitan Youth Symphony, the Oakland University Youth Orchestra and for Groves' marching band and symphony orchestra. He switches to trumpet for jazz band and also plays piano.

To improve public education, Ryan thinks teachers should be paid a competitive salary. He credits teacher Joy Fisher "for interesting me in higher mathematics."

Ryan's parents are Roseann Fallon and Pat Timmons of Beverly Hills. He has a brother Andrew, 16.



ROBERT WILSON
Detroit Country Day

Robert Wilson has a share of that top rung on this year's Academic All-Star team, with his all-A average and a flawless 36 on the ACT. He has been accepted into the Honors Program at the University of Michigan and to Williams College, but hadn't made a decision at our press time.

He's nicely all over the board on possible majors and professions. Robert's considering biology, physics, English, genetics, and peace and conflict studies. "I would like to enter the workforce as a math or English teacher, research scientist, or foreign relations official of some type." Hope he gets in touch with us four years from now so we can see what evolves.

Robert is a \$2,500 National Merit Scholarship winner who will graduate Summa Cum Laude. He placed first, then second in the state on the 2000 and 2001 National Spanish Exams, and has participated on winning Quiz Bowl teams in recent tournaments. He finished in the top 100 in the most recent Michigan Math Prize Competition and qualified for the American Invitational Math Exam.

He captained DCD's varsity cross country team and was named its most valuable runner as a junior. He also has received three varsity letters in track and field. He has taken part in three DCD musicals, and was part of choral ensembles and choirs that received top ratings at state musical festivals. He is the only non-adult in his church's Chancel Choir. He finished first in the region and second in state (10th grade) in the Destination Imagination competition and co-founded an Intramural Sports Quiz Bowl.

To improve public education, he would "set up programs that allow students to experience a broader range of academic opportunities. For example, I would advocate the creation of a greater number and wider range of honors courses, as to give a more specialized challenge to students who currently have limited means of developing their own unique talents."

"The teacher who had the greatest influence on me was my ninth grade Honors English instructor, Suzanne Witucki. In Ms. Witucki's class, I gained the courage to think independently and come to my own conclusions about what each text meant, as well as to speak up and share my ideas with my classmates without fear of taking 'risks' by interpreting literature in a way that others may not have considered."

Robert's parents are Randy and Sheila Wilson of Troy. He has a sister, Rachel, 13.



ILAN ZECHORY
Birmingham Groves

Ilan Zechory scored a rousing 1590 on the SAT and has a 3.88 grade point average. He is off to Yale University, hoping to major in international rela-

tions. A politician or diplomat is what he'd like to be.

Ilan is a \$2,500 National Merit Scholar, captains the varsity golf team and plays varsity tennis. He has volunteered on a Congressional campaign and organized a clothing drive.

To improve public education, he advises: "Recruit scholarly teachers, those who love their subject." He also thinks geography should be taught as a separate class.

Ilan picks social studies teacher Karen Lessenberry as most influential. "As my United States history teacher, she turned me on to politics and history."

His parents and stepparents are Avi and Shelly Zechory and Miriam and Steve Wolock of Beverly Hills. He has a sister, Tali, age 20.

Runners-up deserve your applause

Forty-five students were awarded honorable mention in *The Eccentric Academic All-Star* competition. A number were just a fraction off the pace of the winners on grade point averages and/or national test scores.

Many have accomplishments similar in number and importance to the winners. They will attend a wide variety of schools, although the University of Michigan is the most popular choice.

Some hadn't chosen the college they would attend or hadn't heard whether they had made the leap from National Merit Finalist to National Merit Scholar at our press time. If we are missing a teacher's first name or subject, it is because they weren't provided.

Here are our runners-up, in alphabetical order:

IDA BARRIE, Our Lady of the Lakes, will attend Michigan Technological University on an MTU Board of Control Scholarship to study computer engineering. She wants to go into patent law. She is co-valedictorian, a Phi Beta Kappa and Cum Laude Scholar, an Academic All-Catholic, and a Michigan Competitive Scholar. She is in National Honor Society, is Student Council treasurer and participates in Drama Club, Bell Choir and as a Light-house volunteer. Most influential teacher is Spanish teacher Susan Krasusky. Ida's parents are Gary and Joanne Barrie of Waterford.

BRIAN BIEN, Orchard Lake St. Mary's, plans to attend either Notre Dame, Purdue or Michigan State university to study computer science. He hopes to be an embedded software engineer. He won the Lawrence Tech Award for science and math, which carries a scholarship stipend, is in National Honor Society, and is first to receive his school's Academic Dean's Award. He puts in a couple of hours each month preparing and serving food at St. Dominic's Soup Kitchen in Detroit, is

president of St. Mary's chess club and its peer tutoring group and organized an in-line hockey competition. Computer teacher Kay Olson "made programming fun." Brian's parents are Ted and Rebecca Bien of Commerce.

AMANDA BRINGARD, Lake Orion High, is choosing among the University of Michigan, Case Western Reserve and Michigan State University. She wants to major in biology or chemistry and hopes to become an Emergency Medicine Physician. She is a Scholar Athlete, and won the Madame Curie Award for math and science and an academic achievement letter. The teacher who most influenced her is AP biology teacher Andrea Abraham. Amanda's parents are Richard and Heather Bringard of Oxford.

MARY R. CARNAGIE, Academy of the Sacred Heart, is choosing among the University of Michigan, the Illinois Institute of Technology, and the University of Rochester for engineering/math. She'd like to be part of the pharmaceutical industry. She is in National Honor Society and won the Harvard Book Award and Bausch & Lomb math and science award. She is senior class president, plays varsity basketball, volleyball and softball, and is involved in community service. She picks science teacher Eleanor Jones as most influential. Mary's parents are Anthony and Stacy Carnagie of Sterling Heights.

NICHOLAS CLARKE, Orchard Lake St. Mary's, has been admitted to the University of Michigan and Boston College. He wants to study biology in a pre-med program. He has been elected to the all-Catholic Scholastic Team for three years, is in National Honor Society, is class valedictorian, and had an internship grant



Amanda Bringard



Ida Barrie



Mary Carnagie



Brian Bien



Nicholas Clarke

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