

2000 PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

**National Recognition Week
June 27-July 2, 2000
Washington, DC**

**National Recognition Week is Sponsored by
the General Motors Corporation and
The Merck Company Foundation**

The Presidential Scholars Program Through Thirty-Seven Years...

The United States Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by Executive Order of the President, to recognize and honor some of our Nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. Each year, up to 141 students are named as Presidential Scholars, one of the Nation's highest honors for high school students. The Scholars are chosen on the basis of broad academic achievement, leadership, service, and artistic scholarship. In honoring the Presidential Scholars, the President of the United States symbolically honors all graduating high school seniors of high potential.

From President Lyndon Baines Johnson to William Jefferson Clinton, the Presidential Scholars Program has honored more than 5,000 of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. Initiated by President Johnson, the Presidential Scholars Program annually selects one male and one female student from each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Americans living abroad, and 15 at-large students through a rigorous selection and review process administered by the U.S. Department of Education.

President Johnson opened the first meeting of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars by stating that the Program was not just a reward for excellence, but a means of nourishing excellence. The Program was intended to stimulate achievement in a way that could be "revolutionary."



During the first National Recognition Week in 1964 — the Scholars participated in seminars with Secretary of State Dan Rusk, Astronaut Alan B. Sheppard, and Chief Justice Earl Warren. President Johnson challenged the Scholars to give their talents and time "in our land and in all lands to cleaning away the blight, to sweeping away the shoddiness, to wiping away the injustices and inequities of the past so that all men may live together in a great world community of decency and excellence."

During President Nixon's tenure, several changes occurred in the Presidential Scholars Program. In 1969, the medallion design became the Great Seal of the Nation. In 1972, the National Teacher of the Year was invited to become a commissioner. The nation was embroiled in policy debates, and the Scholars reflected that mood in forums with key government officials.

Under President Ford, alumni Scholars were invited to serve as Advisors to the program. And a booklet of Scholars' essays on issues facing the nation was issued by the Joint Commission on Arrangements for the Bicentennial in 1976.

In 1979, President Carter expanded the program to honor up to 20 students selected by the Commission through an artistic competition. In 1980, a compendium of Scholars' essays, poems, and musical compositions was published, following a performance by the Scholars in the National Academy of Sciences' auditorium.

During President Reagan's tenure, the selection process was refined to emphasize the key elements of leadership and community service and the Horace Mann Learning Center produced a collection of Scholars' essays on ways to improve the nation's education system.

In 1981, the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts was created and its Arts Recognition and Talent Search program began to conduct the annual artistic competition. In 1983, the Distinguished Teacher awards were created, and the twentieth year celebration of the program included an Alumni reunion and a performance by the Scholars at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

President Bush continued the Program as an opportunity to recognize the outstanding talents of American youth.

In 1994, The American Association for Gifted Children published its second working paper, "The Presidential Scholars: A portrait of Talent and its Development" in July of 1994. The theme that emerged from the study suggested that the talents of these Presidential Scholars came forth in part because of the encouragement of teachers and parents and in part because their experience built upon, rather than impeded, their abilities.

In 1998, the Distinguished Teacher award was renamed as the Presidential Scholars Program Teacher Recognition Award to serve as a means for rewarding teachers that have made a significant impact in the lives of their students. The award symbolizes the steps that schools, communities, parents, students, teachers, and the U.S. Department of Education are taking to improve teaching and learning in schools across America.



As part of the U.S. Department of Education's continuing effort to honor excellence in education, the role that teachers play in National Recognition Week activities is constantly changing and expanding. It is our hope that we are providing an arena where prospective and experienced educators can see where they are now and where they will need to be in

the future in order to meet the new challenges of guiding all students in achieving to higher standards of learning and development.

President Clinton has reaffirmed the importance of the program by charging the Commission with increasing the public awareness of the program, expanding service opportunities for Alumni Scholars, making National Recognition Week the chance of a lifetime for Scholars to exchange ideas on issues of importance, establish lifelong friendships, and to be inspired to a lifetime of leadership and creativity.

Congratulations To The 2000 Presidential Scholars



Congratulations to the 2000 Presidential Scholars. The path to becoming a Presidential Scholar is not an easy one. What you have accomplished, with the devotion of your families and the dedication of your teachers, is excellence. You exemplify my greatest hopes for students everywhere.

As the class of 2000, you are entering an era of unparalleled opportunity and exciting new possibilities for transforming our lives. It is my hope that you will see your selection as Presidential Scholars as an opportunity for creativity to thrive and for leadership to be inspired.

In the years to come, the knowledge you have gained will enrich and stay with you for the rest of your lives. But more than simply expanding your knowledge, I hope you will work to serve the common good. I urge you to act on your idealism and use the courage of your convictions to ensure a brighter future for all of us.

As you journey into the new millennium, I wish you continued success and best wishes for every happiness.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Clinton".



Congratulations on your selection as a 2000 Presidential Scholar. This honor reflects well on you, your family, and your teachers. You should be very proud of the hard work and self-discipline that have led to your success.

President Clinton has said, "Education is about opportunity and about giving our children the tools to make the most of their God-given potential." As an outstanding student, you have shown that you possess not only great potential but also the ability to fulfill that potential. Your selection as a Presidential Scholar demonstrates that you have a promising future. You owe it to yourself and your country to make every effort to live up to that promise.

I would like to pass along some advice from a college professor. Tuesdays with Morrie is Mitch Albom's memoir of the time he spent with his former college professor, Morrie, who is dying. In one of his best lessons, Morrie said, "The way you get meaning in life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose. . . ." I hope your chosen field is one in which you will find purpose, joy, and many rewards.

I am pleased to congratulate you on your success and wish you well as you continue your education.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitch Albom".

Congratulations. As Presidential Scholars you are America's student ambassadors; you embody and personify the future. At a time when our youth face difficult challenges, it is encouraging that so many exemplary students take great pride in their studies.

At GM, we believe the future brims with unlimited possibilities and untapped potential. As a corporation, we unlock our potential by maximizing our strengths and leveraging them to reach our goals. You, too, have that ability. Now is the time to identify and maximize your strengths and decide how they can be incorporated into your next paramount goal—choosing a collegiate path of study.

Realizing what you do well will hold you in good stead both now and in the future. Research topics that interest you, take courses on subjects you know little about, and talk to people who work in a field you find fascinating, but never considered as a career choice. You may be amazed at what you find and where it takes you. If you know your strengths, you can capitalize on them.

We are proud of you. You should be proud of yourselves. You have set a high standard in academics, community service and leadership for students and are an inspiration to all of us. This award is a tribute to your achievements, hard won and well deserved. General Motors Corporation salutes you and wishes you continued success in the years to come.

John F. Smith

Chairman, General Motors Corporation

On behalf of GMAC, it is my pleasure and privilege to congratulate you on being named a 2000 Presidential Scholar. Your exceptional academic achievements place you among a select group of individuals; you are living proof of what discipline and dedication to excellence can accomplish.

We hope that recognition as a Presidential Scholar will fuel your desire to learn more about the world around you, delve into unexplored ideas and share your discoveries with others. Now more than ever, the opportunity to shape and direct our future rests with you. You can change things we once thought unchangeable and make possible feats we deemed impossible. You have the tools, because you have knowledge. You have the means, because you have determination.

As you reflect on your achievements, remember those who were instrumental on the way: the teachers who educated, the parents who supported and the friends who encouraged. Because of these essential people, the Presidential Scholar program is able to recognize 141 incredible students for this academic year.

The 27,000 people of GMAC commend you on your educational success and urge you to continued triumphs. You have the ability to make a difference. Go for it.

John D. Finnegan

Chairman and President, GMAC Financial Services

The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation has been proud to be associated with the Presidential Scholars Program since 1979. The activities of National Recognition Week remind us of two principles that guide much of Dodge's philanthropy – the power of individuals to make a difference in our society, and the efficacy of getting them together with other talented, caring, committed people. We hope the friendships, the ideas, and the enormous potential for positive social change represented by the gathering of the 2000 Scholars all bear fruit in ways you and we can only imagine now.

Last year, the Dodge Foundation was pleased to help launch a community service initiative in conjunction with the Alumni Society. This initiative is designed not only to provide opportunities for participating Scholars to be of service but also to help them keep their ties to the Program and each other alive beyond this week in Washington. We hope some of you will participate in ways that will enrich your lives and those of many others.

In the meantime, I salute you and your teachers, and I send the best wishes and congratulations of our trustees and staff.

David Grant

Executive Director, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation

The National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) is proud to be part of the celebration for the 2000 Presidential Scholars. These outstanding high school seniors represent the very best in this great nation. They are our future leaders in all areas of endeavor--the sciences, the humanities, and the arts.

NFAA takes great pride in its role as the nominating body to the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars for the designation of Presidential Scholar in the Arts. By advocating and honoring excellence in the arts alongside academics, the Presidential Scholars Program is sending a strong message to American society that the arts are important and vital to the cultural legacy of this country.

On behalf of NFAA's Board of Trustees, I would like to congratulate the Presidential Scholars on their extraordinary achievements and wish them continued success in all their pursuits.

Christy H. Powell

Chairman, Board of Trustees
National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts

Presidential Scholars Program 2000 Benefactors

The President

The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars and the Presidential Scholars Foundation gratefully acknowledge the funding provided by:

Sponsors:

President: \$75,000 per year contribution and more
General Motors Corporation
GMAC Financial Services
The Merck Company Foundation
United States Government

Secretary of Education: \$25,000 to \$49,999 per year contribution
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts

Patrons:

Commission: \$10,000 to \$24,999 per year contribution
American Federation of Teachers
National Coalition of Ethnic Organizations, Inc.
National Education Association

Scholar: \$5,000 to \$9,999 per year contribution
Contributing Parents of the Parents Initiative
National Italian American Foundation
The Taylor Companies

Benefactors:

Mentor: contributions of \$1,000 to \$4,999
Douglas Breeden, Parent
Joel E. Cohen, Parent
Delores Kohl
Dr. Penny and Mr. Robert Miller
Duke University and the American Association of Gifted Children
John W. Strauss

Friend: contributions of \$500 to \$999.99 per year
Robert H. Friebert
Dr. J.A. and Nanette Mata, Parents

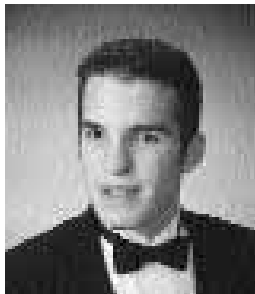
Colleague: contributions of \$250 to \$499.99 per year
Mary M. Johnson, M.D.

Associate: contributions of \$50 to \$249.99 per year
Members of the Alumni Society who generously donated more than the Alumni Society dues

Contributing Parents of the Parent Initiative

Thank you to all of the Commissioners, Alumni, Parents, and Friends for their donations. Additional support generously provided by the National Museum of African Art, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the National Teacher of the Year Program, Berlin Ramos & Associates, and Hellring Lindeman Goldstein & Siegel.

2000 Presidential Scholars



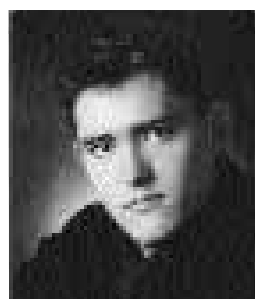
Ethan B. Abraham, Teaneck, New Jersey, Academy for the Advancement of Science & Technology

I was forever changed when I first picked up a pair of drumsticks at age 10. Since then, drums and music have been my passion and the soundtrack to my life, which has consisted of math, science, traveling, Model United Nations, and other pursuits. I attended the PROMYS math program at Boston University and qualified for the USA Math Olympiad three times. My scientific explorations have been varied, culminating in attendance at New Jersey Governor's School in the Sciences, presentation of my research at the American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting and designation as a Lucent Global Science Scholar. I was also an invited guest at the American Academy of Achievement's Salute to Excellence program.



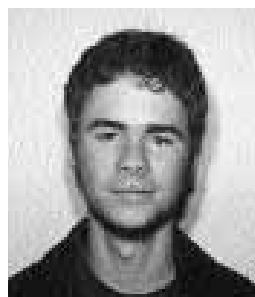
Leah M. Alvarez, Houston, Texas, The High School for Performing & Visual Arts

Marie is a recent graduate of the High School for Performing and Visual Arts. Ms. Alvarez was most recently named Most Outstanding Musician for her dedication and talent in her school during her four years there. In 1999, her talent earned her the Progress Award from her high school. In 1999 and 2000, she was a member of the Texas All-State Choirs. In 1998, she received first place at the National Association of Teachers of Singing Competition and subsequently, received second place in 1997. Due to her NFAA ARTS award and other accomplishments, Ms. Alvarez performed solo in her high school's annual "New Faces Going Places" concert held in one of Houston's major performing arts halls. She plans to attend the University of Southern California, where she will pursue a degree in the music business industry.



Matthew E. Amendt, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Indiana Area Senior High School

Matthew E. Amendt from Indiana, Pennsylvania, recently graduated from Indiana Area Senior High School. Mr. Amendt attended the Pennsylvania Governors' School for the Arts as a theater major in 1999. His theatrical talent earned him first prize in the 1999 and the 2000 Pittsburgh Public Theater Shakespeare Competition. He was a US Senate Youth Program delegate and plans to attend The University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater Actor Training Program in Minneapolis this fall. Mr. Amendt looks forward to an exciting summer before college, filled with beach volleyball.



Seth C. Aylmer, Union, Maine, Medomak Valley High School

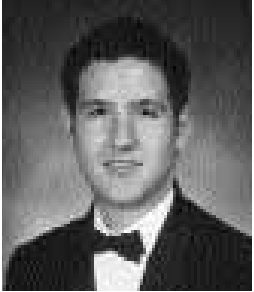
Seth is a filmmaker from Union, ME who finds great solace and relaxation in nature. He is the proud recipient of the Grand Prize at the Maine Student Film Festival. For Seth, no experience is more satisfying than seeing one of his completed works of theater, film, or art finished and shown for others to enjoy. He gives thanks and credit to his parents for his talent and for any success he achieves, and he hopes that his art, actions, and communication can in some small way be of assistance to others.



Bradley M. Bakker, Overland Park, Kansas, Blue Valley North High School

Brad manages to keep himself exceptionally busy by participating in an odd mix of activities. Brad's theatre experience includes the roles of Linus in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, Sir Toby Belch in *Shakespeare's Twelfth Night*, and Adolph in *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*. Brad has also won numerous medals in debate and forensics including a 2nd place finish in duet acting at the Kansas State Forensics Championship. He also managed the Mock Congress simulation and helped the school take 4th overall in the Kansas City area science bowl competition. Brad will attend Saint Louis University in the fall.

The President



Abram S. Barth, Wilmington, Delaware, Brandywine High School

My proudest accomplishment has been initiating the first mentoring program at the high school level in Delaware. My accolades and activities: National Merit Finalist, US Senate Youth Program delegate, Wendy's High School Heisman state winner, NHS Scholarship recipient, president of student council, captain of varsity tennis, founder and president of debate club, president of Spanish club, jazz band trombonist, tutor of disabled adults in math, and volunteer at a camp for children with disabilities. I plan to bring this well-rounded package to the University of Virginia, and more specifically to the chemistry department.



Peter M. Bieber, Lititz, Pennsylvania, Warwick High School

Passionate about the free Tibet movement (founded chapter of students for a free Tibet) and human rights (Amnesty International Chapter president,) love snowboarding, writing, walking barefoot in the grass; National Merit Scholar; Princeton University; wish I could sing; active in HOBY (Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership); after 18 years, still can't throw a frisbee; wrestling, tennis, golf for school teams; valedictorian; hope to write something one day that will inspire people; Quiz Bowl team captain (qualified for National Academic Championships for last 3 years), love volunteering (nursing home, Habitat for Humanity, library, etc); hope to learn to tap dance and act in college.



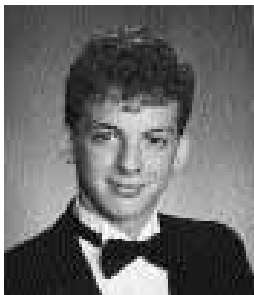
Matthew C. Boch, Indianapolis, Indiana, North Central High School

The salutatorian of North Central High School, Matthew is an Indiana Academic All-Star, a National Merit Scholar, an AP Scholar with Distinction, and an International Baccalaureate diploma candidate. At North Central, he led the Science Olympiad and Brain Game teams. He was also a member of Student Council and National Honor Society. For relief from academics, Matthew plays the clarinet, bass clarinet, and saxophone and has participated in a variety of ensembles from All-State Honor Band to the New World Youth Symphony Orchestra. This fall, Matthew will attend Harvard University with a concentration in economics or biology.



Rebecca E. Bolin, Highland Vlg, Texas, Edward S Marcus High School

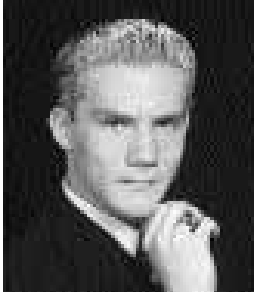
I was born in Longview, Texas to a long Texas tradition. I have tried to do what could be expected from limited resources (especially time) and then do more by making another resource (ambition) unlimited. I have played oboe, tennis, and competitive chess. I taught myself five AP tests and then took eight more. Through hard work, I have state ranked in debate, public speaking, and Aeneid interpretation. Summer 1999, I worked under congressional nomination by Majority Leader Armev in D.C. Currently, I am a Pharmacy Technician working on my IV training. I plan to triple major at Rice University.



Robert G. Bonstein, III, Marietta, Georgia, Wheeler High School

Born in Flemington, New Jersey, I have lived near Atlanta, GA since 1989. My three favorite extracurricular activities have been drama (lead actor at GA Thespians and in a school musical), journalism (Operations Manager and Features Writer), and rowing (Coach's Award & Co-Capt.). Also, was President of NHS, Beta Club, French Honor Society and Computer Club, and I served as the school Webmaster. When not busy with activities, I enjoy spending time with my friends playing ultimate Frisbee or just "hanging out." During summers, I do freelance computer work for neighbors and friends whenever I have free time.

ial Scholars 2000



Blake J. Boulерice, Miami, Florida, Southwest Miami Senior High School

Blake is a busy man whose activities include writing, dance, and community service. Due to his constant involvement in a variety of activities, Blake has little time for rest and relaxation. He has spent two years as president of the Interact community service club in his high school, actively participates in student government and journalism at his high school, placed first in the state at the Future Problem Solvers competition, and has won various awards at the district and state level for FBLA to name just a few of his activities. However, such an active life does not impede on Blake's ability to enjoy himself, as he demonstrates an indomitable spirit in encouraging both himself and others to make any activity, even filling out college applications, fun so that they wouldn't rather be doing something else.



Stephanie E. Brewer, Beacon Falls, Connecticut, Masuk High School

Stephanie's activities include competitive Irish Dancing (she has placed 4th in New England, 17th in North America, and competed at the World Championships in Ireland), theater, and school clubs. She is Project Coordinator of her school's service club, captain of Knowledge Bowl Team, President of SADD, and a member of many others. She has been honored with the Governor's Scholar Award, a National Merit Scholarship, and the Harvard Book Award, to name a few. She is valedictorian of her class. After attending Harvard, Stephanie plans to continue on to graduate school, hopefully earning a Ph.D. in aeronautical and astronautical engineering.



Martha W. Buckley, Washington, DC, Woodrow Wilson Senior High School

I like to solve problems, which is evident in my main academic interest, math. When I took calculus I felt as if the world of mathematics opened up to me, as I learned a whole new range of problems that can be solved using mathematics. Problem solving has also translated to my nonacademic interests. The most daunting problem I have ever engaged upon is building a curving stone stairway with my mom. Building the walkway over the past four years has taught me to look at a problem from many different angles to find a solution. I am a long distance runner and have been on my school's cross-country and track teams for the past six years. Although I might have time, I do not think about solving problems when I am running long distance.



Rachel B. Calloway, Richboro, Pennsylvania, Council Rock High School

Rachel Calloway is a classical singer who intends to pursue a career in opera. In May, she performed at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia as winner of the Matinee Musical Club Scholarship Competition. She was awarded the top prize in the Arts Recognition and Talent Search, sponsored by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. Last November, Ms. Calloway won the Performing Arts Scholarship and Second Runner-up in the Outstanding Young Woman of Pennsylvania 2000 Competition. Last spring she placed First in the Pennsylvania All-State Choir. Ms. Calloway will attend The Juilliard School in the fall.



Esther R. Cardona, Tucson, Arizona, University High School

I graduated with honors from University High School, where I was the president of El Grupo Folklorico la Union, the ballet folklorico ensemble. I also played the flute in concert and jazz band. I am active in Young Religions Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) and served as the 1999-2000 youth conference dean for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson. I dance in the professional division of the Ballet Tucson ensemble. This summer I will travel to Vermont and Scotland with the Burklyn Ballet Theatre. I will be attending the University of Arizona on full scholarship this fall.

The President

2000 PRESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS



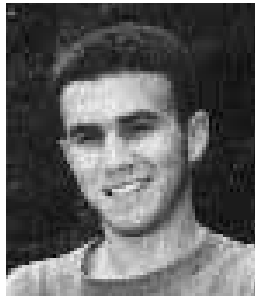
Andrew John Cook
Man and Brick Wall
Silver Gelatin, 20" x 24"

ial Scholars 2000



Mariana P. Carrera, Wellesley, Massachusetts, Newton Country Day School of the Sacred Heart

I was born in Pittsburgh but have lived in the suburbs of Boston for most of my life. My parents are Peruvian, so I have cherished memories of visiting my relatives in Peru and experiencing their culture. For the past six years I attended Newton Country Day School of the Sacred Heart. I am excited to attend Duke next fall as a University Scholar. Thank you Mom and Dad, Claudia, Marines, and Sofia for being a great family. Also thank you to my grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, who have not let the distance keep them from being supportive.



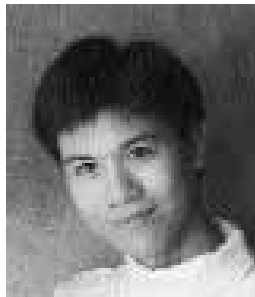
Brendon O. Carrington, Simsbury, Connecticut, Westminster School

Brendon Carrington hails from Simsbury, CT where he attended Westminster School. During his time at prep school, this good-looking young man excelled in his academics, in fact, most consider him the finest student Westminster has ever seen in 112 years of operation. Always a well-rounded person, Brendon starred in both cross-country and baseball, and he pursues his baseball interest in the summertime by playing for his local American Legion team. Brendon also headed several student organizations at his high school. In his free-time, Princeton-bound Carrington enjoys hanging out with his buddies and going out on dates with his girlfriend.



Laura E. Carsten, Mobile, Alabama, Murphy High School

Laura Carsten is a graduate of Murphy High School. She was an International Baccalaureate scholar and an active participant in several clubs, including the YMCA's Government Club, where her team won statewide awards every year, and the Model United Nations club, where her delegation captured the second place award at the annual simulation. Laura was also involved in the school's marching, symphonic, and jazz bands through which she won several honors, including 4th chair oboe in the All-State Red Band and 2nd chair in the All-State Orchestra. Laura is a member of the National and German Honor Societies, a National Merit Scholar, and an All-American Scholar.



Po-Ching O. Chen, Los Alamos, New Mexico, Los Alamos High School

Po-Ching's greatest fear is being dull and forgettable. That's why he leads a colorful life with music, sports, and drama as key components. When Po-Ching is not onstage as the titular character of *The Fiddler on the Roof* (one of the few productions in which the fiddler plays his own music), he is either busy discussing French literature and the effect the Puritans have on the way Americans view sex, or working with materials science research at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Po-Ching will be a vibrant addition to Yale University this fall.



Genevieve G. Chow, San Francisco, California, Convent of the Sacred Heart High School

Genevieve "Gigi" Chow, 17, is a graduate of Convent of the Sacred Heart High School in San Francisco, where she was a member of the NHS and California Scholarship Federation. She studies cello with Bonnie Hampton and Jean-Michel Fonteneau at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. During the past year, Gigi won the NFAA/ARTS Level I award, and first place in both the San Jose Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Nova Vista Symphony Concerto Competitions. This summer, she will perform at the Verbier Academy and Festival in Switzerland, and Oberlin's Casalmaggiore Music 2000 in Italy. Gigi will attend Yale University in the fall. She enjoys skiing and tennis.

ial Scholars 2000



Tudor Dan Dimofte, Fairview Park, Ohio, Fairview High School

I was born in Romania on September 28, 1982, and immigrated to America with my family in 1989. I have lived in Fairview Park, OH since 1991. I have always had a tremendous love for learning, and I particularly enjoy the abstractness of mathematics and the beautiful theory of science. Nevertheless, I also adore the humanities—literature has helped me immensely to understand my life and the world. Besides "academics," I love acting, tap dancing, swing dancing, and playing violin and guitar. I will attend Princeton University and hope to eventually become a research professor in mathematics or a science.



Andrea L. Everett, Port Angeles, Washington, Port Angeles High School

Both in and out of school, I have played the French horn and taken part in competitive swimming for many years. I perform in a local symphony, my school band and orchestra, and participated in All State Band and the State Solo Competition for the past two years. On my varsity swim, I was captain the past two years and Most Inspirational Swimmer my senior year. I love to draw, write, read British literature, explore the Great Outdoors, and , most of all, travel. I am also a NCTE Achievement Award winner and a National Merit Scholar.



Jennifer Fan, Export, Pennsylvania, Franklin Regional Senior High School

Jennifer graduated this spring from Franklin Regional High in Murrysville, PA. For the past year, she has been studying at Simon's Rock College of Band, taking advanced physics courses such as Quantum Mechanics, Relativity, and Classical Mechanics. She is attending NYU Stern School of Business next fall in the Stern Scholars Program. She co-founded Mediatrix Enterprises (www.mediatrix.com) and has recently won scholarships from the National Merit Corp. and Bechtel Bettis.



Erin C. Flynn, Anchorage, Alaska, AJ Dimond High School

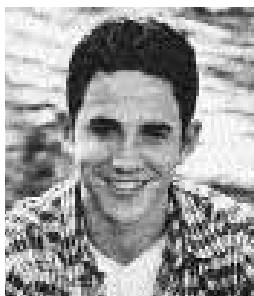
Erin was raised in South Dakota with three older brothers, and she moved to Alaska in the second grade. For the past seven years she has been involved in calligraphy, illumination, and miniature painting. This fascination with the intricate and miniscule leads into the love of science, particularly chemistry, where she enjoys picking apart the universe electron by electron. She enjoys writing, particularly science writing, and has won several writing awards. However, she spends a great deal of her time scribbling mediocre poetry on coffee house napkins. She plans to attend the University of Southern California.



Joshua P. Foer, Washington, DC, Georgetown Day School

Joshua Foer is a 17 year old senior at Georgetown Day School who was born and raised in Washington, DC. He will be attending Yale University in the fall. Josh isn't really sure what he wants to study in college, but is interested in both the sciences and humanities.

The President



Santino A. Fontana, Richland, Washington, Richland High School

Santino is an 18 year old graduate from Richland High School in Richland, Washington. As student body president he's very active in his school and community. He attended Interlochen Arts Camp in Interlochen, Michigan, last summer where he received the Maddy Award for his portrayal of "Riff" in West Side Story. He was recently recognized at the national Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival as outstanding male vocalist, and received the NFAA ARTS Merit Award for vocal jazz, as well as a Level One award in musical theater. He was also one of the three finalists in the acting division of the 2000 National Donna Reed Scholarship Competition and one of the seven musical theater honorable mentions. Santino is excited to attend the new University of Minnesota/ Guthrie Theater Actor Training program next year, where he will further pursue his interest in the arts.



Daniel J. Freeman, Farmington Hill, Michigan, North Farmington High School

Dan has been a very active participant at his high school, North Farmington High School in Farmington Hills, Michigan. He was recently honored as his school's outstanding Math, Science and French student of the year. In addition, he has been named a National Merit Scholar, Academic All-State, and a Robert Byrd Scholarship recipient. Outside of the classroom he has been on stage in nine theatrical productions, played in school bands, been Vice-President of Student Council, sang in choir, and been president of his youth group, Kishon AZA, among other activities. Dan will be attending Yale University in the fall.



Kelcy S. Freeman, St. Marys, Georgia, Camden County High School

Kelcy enjoys playing tennis and going to the beach. One of her goals in life is to become an official Parrothead and follow Jimmy Buffet. She plans to attend Tulane University to major in biochemical engineering and soak up the New Orleans culture.



Graham M. Gephart, Rochester, Vermont, Rochester High School

While attending a rural public school in Rochester, Vermont, Graham enrolled at Middlebury College and several Governor's Institutes, studying engineering and traveling to China on a cultural exchange program. Aside from being a Vermont Honor Scholar, National Merit Commended Scholar, and co-valedictorian, Graham participates in theater, varsity baseball and soccer, and service work. Outside of school, Graham spends winters telemark skiing and recently finished his senior project, in which he planned, filmed, starred in, edited, narrated, and recorded a soundtrack to his 42-minute telemark ski film and travel documentary, A Chic-Choc Odyssey. Graham will attend Harvard University to study engineering.



Michael S. Goggin, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Hattiesburg High School

Academics: National Merit Scholar, Runner-up for Mississippi Star Student, Valedictorian, Treasurer of National Honor Society, Captain of Quiz Bowl Team, Captain of Math and Science Team, Third Place in State in Math and Chemistry at Math and Science Competition; Debate: Captain of Mock Trial Team, Treasurer of National Forensics League Chapter, Democratic Party Leader at Mississippi Youth Congress for two consecutive years, two-time participant at Catholic Forensic League National Competition; Violin: Concertmaster of School, Region, and All-State Orchestras; Soccer: Regional Soccer; Community Involvement: Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, Senior Patrol Leader of a Boy Scout Troop, Life Scout.

ial Scholars 2000



Lauren M. Goins, Gretna, Louisiana, St. Mary's Dominican High School

Lauren M. Goins discovered her love of math and science during her years at St. Mary's Dominican High in New Orleans, LA. Her abilities have been illustrated through activities such as Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS), Science Bowl Team, and Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society) where she won several awards. Lauren even received perfect scores on the math sections of both the SAT and ACT. She has participated in various enrichment programs such as Tulane Science Scholars Program (TSSP), Summer Minority Engineering Training (SUMMET) at Colorado School of Mines, Chemstar at Xavier University, and MITE2S (Minority Introduction to Engineering, Entrepreneurship and Science) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Lauren gives back to her community through Retreat Team, Christian Leadership Council.



David W. Gorin, Wellesley, Massachusetts, Milton Academy

David, a native of Wellesley, MA and graduate of Milton Academy, feels somewhat silly writing his own bio in the third person. In 2000, David received the NFAA Level I award for poetry, the Scholastic Writing Portfolio Gold Award and Pinnacle Award for memoir/short essay, the Achievement Prize for Student Fiction, and an invitation to participate in the American Academy of Achievement's 2000 Salute to Excellence program. David loves literature, poetry, jazz, adventure, romance, and Miles, his guitar. He dreams of being a canonized writer, an editor for a prominent New York publication, a professor at some prestigious university, and a rock star--simultaneously, if possible.



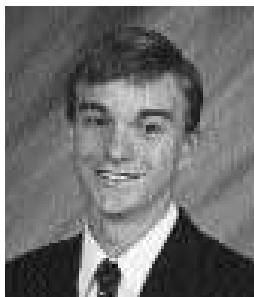
Alex J. Gorman, Orofino, Idaho, Orofino High School

Alex was born in Boise to Patrick Costello and Jeanette Gorman. He moved to Orofino, a small town in northern Idaho in 1990. While spending his senior year as a foreign exchange student in Tokyo, Alex learned how to speak Japanese and became part Japanese. His passion is writing of any type; he also enjoys wrestling, reading, and judo. Alex believes that the most important things in life are improving one's self and enjoying one's self- not necessarily in that order. Alex wonders why he wrote this in the third person.



Patrick W. Grady, Gillette, Wyoming, Campbell County High School

Living in Wyoming has allowed me to experience a diverse range of opportunities, ideas, and lifestyles. Throughout high school, I've been able to divide my time between snowboarding on the weekends and studying during the week. I've also allocated a substantial amount of time and effort to my extra-curriculars, which has paid off with state championships in Varsity Tennis, Science Bowl, FBLA, and Tri-Star. I enjoy adapting my abilities to satisfy leadership roles, which I've held as FBLA President, Science Bowl Team Captain, and Boys' State Party Chairman.



Jason M. Green, Farmington, Missouri, Farmington High School

Academic: Missouri Scholars 100; Valedictorian; 35 on the ACT; Perfect GPA throughout high school chosen unanimously by the faculty for "Knight of the Year"; won annual Mineral Area College math contest for 5 of last 6 years; Won MAC English Tourney essay competition; National Honor Society
Athletic: Two-time state tennis qualifier; most varsity singles wins in tennis at FHS in a 4-year career (79); two gold medals at Junior Olympics ('92); Mississippi West Swim Conference High Point champion ('92, '96, '99); Farmington Area Swim Team High Point champion for past seven years; National Scholar Athlete

The President



Steven C. Gross, Wilmette, Illinois, Loyola Academy

Steven Gross, a resident of Wilmette, IL, graduated from Loyola Academy, a Jesuit college-preparatory high school, also in Wilmette. Steve's motto is "variety is the spice of life." He implemented this philosophy especially in his choice in extracurricular activities. His most notable accomplishments include playing football for four years, being an editor for the yearbook, participating in numerous theatrical productions, and doing a variety of service projects through Loyola's Ministry Dept. His two main hobbies are playing frisbee and playing guitar. His primary academic interest is medicine, which he plans to pursue at Duke University.



Julie M. Hall, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, O'Gorman High School

As a wise person once said, "Success comes before work only in the dictionary." Because great diligence has gone into each of Julie Hall's endeavors, she has numerous awards to her name. Some of these accomplishments include: two-time oral interpretation national qualifier, two-time Outstanding State Drama Performer, All-State newspaper, AATG study scholarship for an all-expense paid month in Germany, National merit Scholar, and a cumulative 4.0 GPA. Julie plans to one day be a physician and join Doctors Without Borders. Through this volunteer organization, she wishes to give back to the world what she has been given through her talents.



Benjamin R. Handel, Portsmouth, Rhode Island, Portsmouth High School

I am honored and excited to be a 2000 Presidential Scholar. In addition to this exemplary award, I have recently received a National Merit Scholarship and Tylenol Scholarship. Sports have always been an important part of my life as I have played tennis, soccer, and basketball in the course of my four years at Portsmouth High School. I have been heavily involved in Community Service and I been recognized as a Fernstein Scholar for this work. I hope to pursue all of these endeavors next year when I attend Princeton University.



Marisa S. Harless, Bellevue, Nebraska, Bellevue West Senior High School

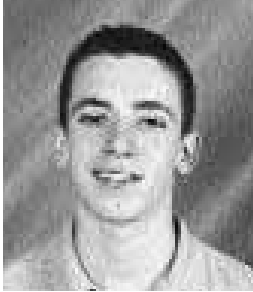
Marisa grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and later moved to Omaha, Nebraska in 1992. Marisa had her doubts about life in Nebraska, but soon realized why all the signs at the state's borders say "Nebraska... The Good Life." She loves living near grandparents, visiting the historic Old Market, and the shopping's not bad, either! At Bellevue West High School, Marisa participated in choir, marching band, theatre, and student government. She has two younger siblings who she loves spending time with. Next year, Marisa will head back up north to attend Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, majoring in Biology and English.



Brent C. Harris, New Canaan, Connecticut, New Canaan High School

During the past four years I have pursued many diverse interests and activities. At the age of sixteen, I was a contributor to a best selling book on investment and personal finance published by Simon & Schuster. Recently, I have worked on research into bipolar disorder at Yale Medical School. I am highly involved in my high school and have participated in activities ranging from debate to crew. I have consistently helped my family throughout times of difficulty and I maintain a strong interest in community service. In the fall, I will attend Stanford University.

The President



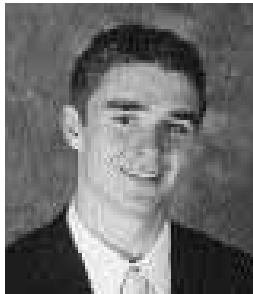
Richard A. James, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Jakarta International School

I was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In 1997 my family and I moved to Jakarta, Indonesia where I attended Jakarta International School. This was the major influence in my life as I met students and teachers from dozens of different countries and at the same time learned to grasp the difficulties and advantages of living an expatriate lifestyle. I graduated a National Hispanic Scholar as well as Salutatorian of my class. My interests are computers, reading, and weight training. I will be attending MIT in the fall where I plan to study aerospace engineering.



Louis-John Janowski, Madison, Wisconsin, James Madison Memorial High School

Louis-John "L.J." Janowski was born in Nairobi, Kenya and has also lived in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He returned to the United States by the scenic route via India, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Australia, and New Zealand before he and his family settled in Madison, Wisconsin. L.J. has been recognized as a National Merit and Foreign Service Scholar, a Wisconsin Football Foundation Scholar/Athlete and as a National School Orchestra Award winner. L.J. has earned a reputation as a student, a football and rugby player, an actor, and a citizen. In his spare time, he reads, delves into computer programming and web design, plays in a band and composes electronic music.



Andrew M. Jayich, Anchorage, Alaska, Robert Service High School

I'm currently working on a Jacob's ladder exhibit for a children's science museum that I visited as a kid. I started high school lacrosse in Alaska. I served on the pastoral council at my church and was the first person under 25 to do so. I like to do stuff outdoors, whether it's climbing a mountain or jet skiing on the lake where our cabin is. Meeting new people is also something I like to do. I like to read a variety of literature, from the theology of Thomas Aquinas and Saint Augustine to Watterson's Calvin and Hobbes.



Howard E. Jeffery, Jr., Houston, Texas, The High School for Performing & Visual Arts

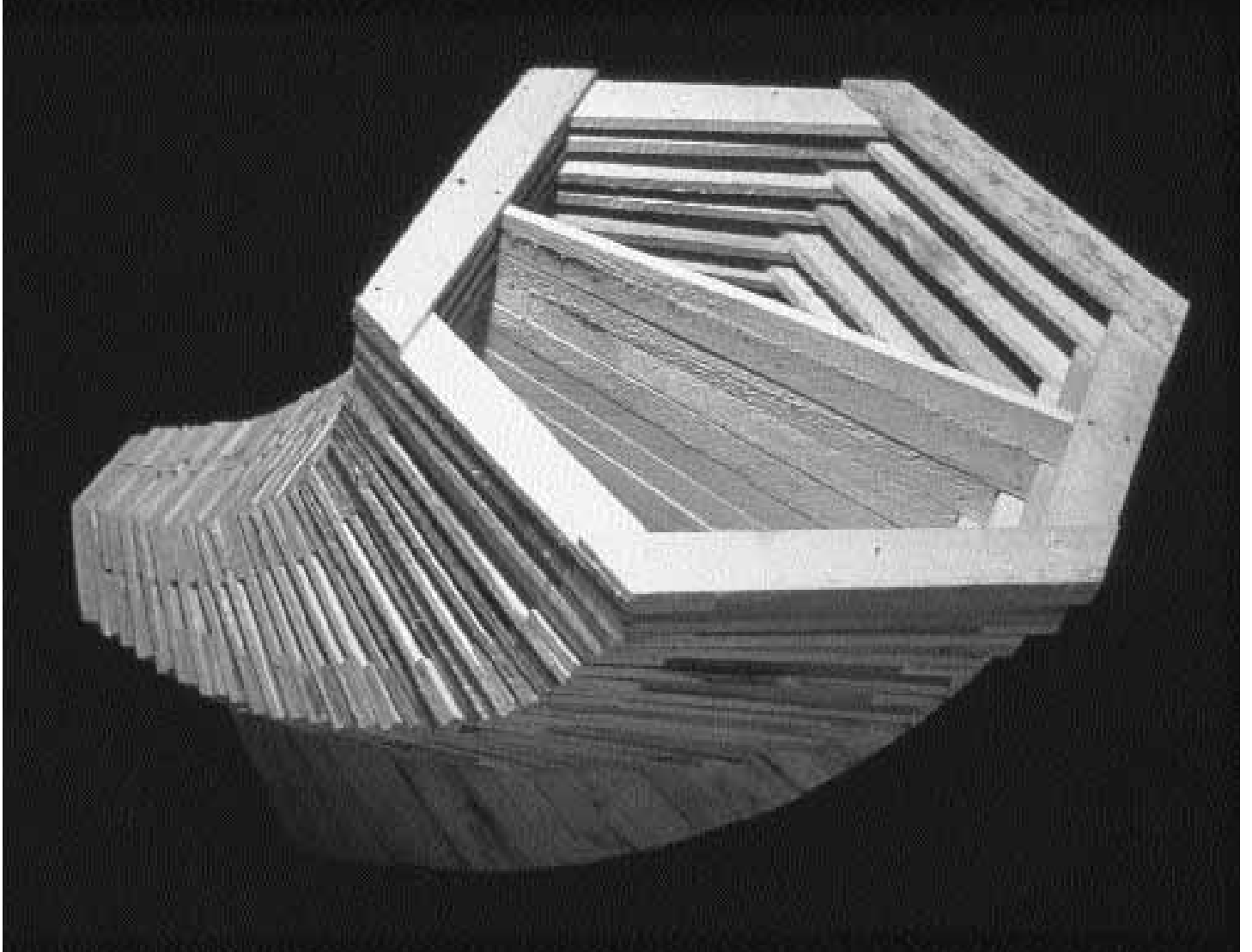
Howard E. Jeffery, Jr. is a graduated senior from the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston, Texas. There, he was principle of the HSPVA Wind Ensemble and a member of the Symphony Orchestra. Howard was a semi-finalist in the Houston Symphony League Concerto Competition 1999 & 2000 and received the Grand Championship award in the North Area Houston Symphony League Alice Flores-Smith Student Competition. Howard was also chosen to perform for a live recording of NPR's "From The Top" broadcast in Boston -- a national radio program showcasing America's most exceptional young classical musicians. He has presented many volunteer programs throughout the Greater Houston area and plans to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum for prospective medial students this summer.



Katharine E. Jensen, Pelham, Massachusetts, Amherst Regional High School

Katharine Jensen is a June 2000 graduate of Amherst Regional High School in Amherst, Massachusetts, where she ran varsity cross-country, was active in the outdoors club and wilderness survival program, and also studied chemistry, mathematics, philosophy, Latin, and French at Amherst College. Kate enjoys hiking, backpacking, canoeing, and sailing. Her favorite places are the woods, the mountains, and the sea. A National Merit Scholar and member of the United States Junior Orienteering Team, Kate will attend Princeton University, where she will pursue her love of chemistry, classics, mathematics, and foreign languages.

Final Scholars 2000



2 0 0 0 P R E S I D E N T I A L S C H O L A R S

Michael Mellon
Untitled
Wood
32" X 20" X 26"

ial Scholars 2000



Heather J. Kulik, Hightstown, New Jersey, Hightstown High School

Heather Kulik will be entering the freshman class at Cooper Union as a Chemical Engineering major. She is a member of the Trenton Times All-Star Academic Team for Mathematics. She is valedictorian of her high school where she completed more math and science courses than anyone in the history of the school. In her free time, Kulik loves to read the classics, write poetry, and work on her website. She considers her greatest strength to be her determination.



Camilla K. Lau, Honolulu, Hawaii, Iolani School

Because of her love for math and science, Camilla is the Sterling Scholar in Mathematics, the Bausch and Lomb Science Award Recipient, and a co-captain of the undefeated Iolani Math Team. She is a USAMO qualifier, a Physics Olympiad semifinalist, and one of twenty students nationwide to participate in the Chemistry Olympiad Camp. Throughout high school, she has run cross-country and track. She has taken ceramics and has recently earned the Padereski Medal for playing in the National Piano-Playing Auditions for ten years. She also participated in Hawaii's Junior Miss Competition in which she won the Top Academic Award.



Anne E. Lee, Rockville, Maryland, Montgomery Blair High School

Anne Eunhae Lee was born in Washington, D.C. but has lived mostly in Maryland. She graduated from the Math/Science/Computer Science Magnet Program at Montgomery Blair High School. Anne plays the violin and has been a member of the Potomac Valley Symphonic Orchestra. Anne is an avid tennis player and has been a member of the Blair Varsity Team. She has also been involved in other extracurriculars: Model U.N., Korean Students Society, National Honor Society, Envirothon, and Chemistry Team. Anne will attend M.I.T. She believes her future lies in neuroscience or business but realizes the possibilities for the future are endless.



Amy J. Lee, Lenexa, Kansas, Shawnee Mission West High School

Amy is eighteen years old and lives in Lenexa, Kansas. She is the valedictorian of her high school class of 450 and a National Merit Scholar. Her accomplishments were recognized for three consecutive years by Who's Who Among American High School Students. Amy was concertmaster of the 2000 Kansas All-State Orchestra. Winner of many competitions, she has performed on the violin with the Kansas City Symphony and at a statewide convention of music educators in recent years. Amy enjoys spending her free time reading, writing, and playing the guitar. She will attend Harvard University in the fall.



Eileen M. Lee, West Des Moines, Iowa, Valley High School

Eileen was dually enrolled at West Des Moines Valley High School and the University of Iowa this past year as a member of the National Academy of the Arts, Sciences, and Engineering. This fall she will be a junior premed at Iowa, majoring in biochemistry. She'll also begin her third year as a genetic researcher in craniofacial anomalies for Dr. Jeffrey Murray. Eileen has played violin and piano for 14 and 11 years respectively. She has won numerous academic and musical awards at both district and state levels. She also sings, composes, and teaches violin. Her parents are David and Helen Lee.

S
C
H
O
L
A
R
S

I
A
L

P
R
E
S
I
D
E
N
T

The President



Aaron Y. Lee, Westminster, Colorado, Thornton High School

As a Korean-American, I have woven many aspects of both cultures together in me. The people and land of America have taught me the advantages of a liberal, changing environment of individuals. The proud individualism allows for diversity of personal identities while still retaining cultural groups. The free spirit of the people allows them to express their opinions openly, developing new ideas with creativity and accepting even the abnormal. Then there is the Korean culture, influencing me through my parents. The rigid mental discipline and determination of achieve were imprinted in me. The heritage of family traditions is something I can never forsake.



Bradford W. Lee, Honolulu, Hawaii, Iolani School

A pianist and cellist, Bradford is a musician at heart. As the state winner of the MTNA High School Piano Competition in 1999 and 2000, he has played in recitals, over eighty-five benefit concerts and performed the Grieg Piano Concerto with the Honolulu Symphony. Brad has also served as principal cellist with the Hawaii Youth Symphony, All-State Orchestra, and Iolani Concert Orchestra. In school, Brad serves as Class President, Chinese Club President and Co-captain of the state championship Math Team. He enjoys playing tennis, cruising with friends, traveling, and will attend Harvard, where he plans to study medicine and music.



Andrea S. Les, Madison, Wisconsin, West High School

In high school, I swam the breast-stroke for my swim team, tutored (for free) in math and science, and helped design and build a one-person car that got over 500 miles per gallon. Outside of school, I'm the president of a volunteer organization, and a co-founder of an explorer post- a co-ed division of Boy Scouts. On my free time, I enjoy backpacking, canoeing, drawing, and hiking. This year I received the Academic Excellence All-American Award (for swimming) and the Wisconsin Academic Excellence Award. I plan to study Biochemical Engineering at Stanford this fall and this summer I am working as a ranger at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.



Cynthia W. Liu, Matthews, North Carolina, Providence High School

An active participant in both scholastic and community affairs, Cynthia spent this year as president of DECA, senior representative of Key Club, and also spent much of her time tutoring elementary children, at-risk children, and those in the English as a Second Language program. An athlete and musician, Cynthia plays softball and basketball while at the same time maintaining proficiency in both piano and guitar. In her spare time she enjoys the occasional game of laser tag or trip to the bowling alley, but most appreciates nature as her means of stress relief and relaxation.



Yuen-Jong Liu, Lexington, Massachusetts, Lexington High School

Lucent Global Science Scholar Winner. Attended the Research Science Institute, MIT, 1999. National Alliance for Excellence Finalist in the Honored Scholars & Artists Program. National Merit Scholarship Finalist. Participant, USA Math Olympiad. Regional Champion, Physics Bowl. Most Valuable Athlete and League Scoring Champion, Massachusetts Mathematics League. Math Team Captain (3 years). Captain of National Ocean Sciences Bowl three-time champion team (2 years). Captain of Science Olympiad Team. Captain of Department of Energy Sciences Bowl Team. President and Treasurer, Asian Club. AP Scholar with Distinction. First Degree Black Belt, Kempo Karate. Principal's Leadership Award.

The President

2000 PRESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS



Seth Cary Aylmer
Still from The Reel Deal

ial Scholars 2000

S
C
H
O
L
A
R
S

S
C
H
O
L
A
L

T
I
T
L
E

S
I
D
E
N
T
I
A
L

P
R
E
S
I
D
E
N
T
I
A
L

P
R
E
S
I
D
E
N
T
I
A
L

P
R
E
S
I
D
E
N
T
I
A
L



Julia A. Marsh, Annandale, Virginia, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology

Julia is committed to serving the community both in her free time now and through her future career. Various community service endeavors, such as volunteering at a nature center, a hospital, and tutoring young children, have culminated in the foundation of W.I.S.E, a program that mentors young girls with an interest in the sciences. In her future, Julia hopes to contribute to the medical field through research on the genetic basis of diseases and potential treatments or cures.



David T. Marthaler, Ortonville, Minnesota, Ortonville High School

Dave is a 2000 graduate of Ortonville High School in Ortonville, Minnesota, where he was valedictorian. He is also a National Merit Scholar. Throughout high school, he has been involved in football, baseball, Business Professionals of America, Knowledge Bowl, Key Club, and several other activities. He is currently employed at Bill's Super Valu Plus in Ortonville, where he is a "grocery placement engineer" (stockboy). During his free time, he enjoys watching sports, hanging out with friends, and writing yearbook bios in which he refers to himself in the third person.



Jacqueline C. May, Lakeville, Minnesota, Lakeville Senior High School

Possibly my greatest accomplishment has been surviving high school with my sanity intact. Lesser accomplishments include a National Merit Scholarship, choral awards, team and individual medals at two National Science Olympiad competitions, and prizes in several writing contests. I am also a valedictorian of my class. This year, I've become better at knowing what not to say, and I'm proud of that. My main interest is writing poetry and fiction. I also enjoy math and chemistry, and I sing, play piano, read omnivorously, swim, and work as an editor and bookkeeper. I'm a standard teenager with a predilection toward geekiness.



Claire V. McCusker, Mountain Lakes, New Jersey, Mountain Lakes High School

Claire, who also answers to "Your Majesty," enjoys herding goats and curing cancer. When she is not guest-starring on Baywatch, she is a National Merit Scholar, Lucent Global Science scholar, and a New Jersey Governor's scholar in the sciences. She is the Key Club president, school newspaper editor-in-chief, captain of the Mock Trial and softball teams, and attends the Columbia University Science Honors Program. When asked who influenced her the most, Claire responded unhesitatingly, "Xena (my Welsh Corgi)... oh, and Shakespeare." Neither the Warrior Puppy nor the Bard was available for comment. Claire will attend Harvard where she will study math, philosophy, and classical literature.

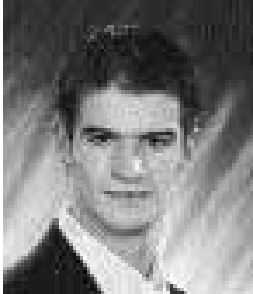


Renee N. Meiffren, Mesa, Arizona, Arizona School for the Arts

Renée Noelle Meiffren studied ballet for 15 years with Mary Moe Adams of the Adams Ballet Academy in Tempe, Arizona. She was recently accepted into the prestigious Rudra-Béjart School of Dance in Switzerland. She received the level one prize from the NEAA ARTS Competition, the Dorothy and Bruce Strong Award at the NSAL National Ballet Competition and she attended the Salute to Excellence 2000. She earned an Associate Degree from the Royal Academy of Dancing and also a fall scholarship from the World Masters at Vail Summer Intensive. She maintained a 4.75 GPA and graduated valedictorian at Arizona School for the Arts.

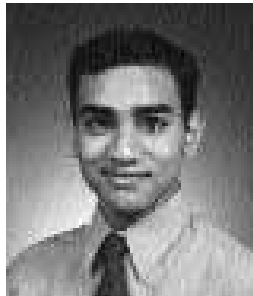
Presidential Scholars 2000

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS 2000



Brett G. Murphy, New Ipswich, New Hampshire, St. Bernard's Central Catholic High School

I live in New Ipswich, NH, and am very excited to be graduating as St. Bernard's High School's salutatorian. Some activities that I thoroughly enjoy are acting, skiing, and camping. The personal achievement of which I am most proud is earning my Eagle Scout Award. Next year, I will be attending Cornell University. I would like to thank my parents and all the relatives, teachers, and friends who have helped to shape the person I am today. I am extremely honored to be selected as a Presidential Scholar and look forward to meeting so many of my generation's future leaders.



Neil J. Nabar, Phoenix, Arizona, North Canyon High School

A graduate of North Canyon High School, Neil is a class valedictorian, a National Merit Scholar, an AP Scholar and his school's Outstanding Male Student. He was president of the Academic Decathlon team for four years and led the 1999 team to the Arizona Championship and 5th place nationally. He has also earned a varsity letter in tennis. Neil has been a volunteer at the Phoenix Public Library and has taught computer and Internet skills to seniors. He has also worked as an intern in the Phoenix office of U.S. Rep. John Shadegg. Neil will be attending Harvard University this fall.



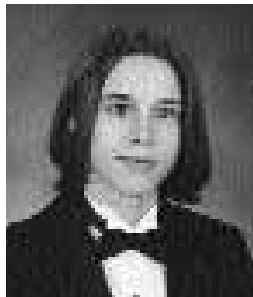
Deipanjan Nandi, Fort Worth, Texas, Dunbar High School

Deipanjan Nandi scored a perfect 1600 on the SAT, is valedictorian of Dunbar High School, National Merit Finalist, Semifinalist in the Intel Science Talent Search, AP Scholar with Distinction, Fort Worth JayCee's Youth Leader of the Year, Math Club President, a Dare-to-Discover teaching volunteer, a piano player, a fencer, and also an avid reader. He will attend Harvard University this fall to pursue a degree in Biochemistry. He hopes to become a physician and to help those less fortunate. While he has been repeatedly assured that hard work never killed anybody, he still refuses to take that chance.



Emily L. Nielson, South Burlington, Vermont, South Burlington High School

From Homecoming Queen to co-valedictorian, Emily has had a busy year culminating her high school career. She served as president of the Key Club and Forensics Team, leading the team to a state championship. She has enjoyed Vermont Youth Orchestra throughout high school. Junior year she participated in an exchange to Costa Rica. She was recognized for academic excellence with the Middlebury College Book Award. Emily actively engages in community service. Next year she will be attending Harvard University to concentrate in government.



Matthew H. Noble, Chickasaw, Alabama, Daphne High School

One man can only accomplish so much, but Matt Noble is a man with a dream and a vision. Presidential Scholar, National Merit Finalist, Valedictorian, and Academic All-Star---Matt Noble is so much more. This year he led his scholars' bowl team to a perfect season and pitched every game for his softball team. But that's not all, Matt can sing every song on the Led Zeppelin II album by memory. Matt knows that John Burnett holds the record for hits in a major league game with an unbelievable nine hits. He is also the sexiest man in America. Not John Burnett, Matt Noble.

Final Scholars 2000



Aaron S. Parks, Seattle, Washington, University of Washington Early Entrance Program

Jazz pianist/National Merit Scholar Aaron Parks, 16, attends University of Washington's Early Entrance Program. After his trio released their debut CD, *The Promise*, they were named 1999 Northwest Emerging Group of the Year and listed among Seattle's 1999 Top Ten Noteworthy Jazz Performances. Aaron has been featured on television, radio, in magazines, and in a Seattle Times front-page story as a promising jazz musician. A Clifford Brown/Stan Getz Fellow, a Yamaha Young Performing Artist, a Betty Carter Jazz Ahead Recipient, a National Grammy Ensemble participant, and a Down Beat Magazine Outstanding College Instrumentalist, Aaron will attend Manhattan School of Music.



Sarina Pasricha, Hockessin, Delaware, Sanford School

Sarina Pasricha a graduate from Stanford School in Delaware, was the founder and President of the Debate/Public Speaking Club, President of the Service Club, Captain of the Varsity Lacrosse Team, and a Peer Counselor. She has received many accolades at school such as the Bausch & Lomb Award as the best math and science student. She represented her school at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference and Girls' State. At Girls' State, Sarina received the Merle Roth Award for the "best all-round" delegate and represented Delaware at the Girls' Nation. She is an accomplished Indian Classical dancer. Sarina will attend Harvard this fall.



Elizabeth M. Paulhus, Wheeling, West Virginia, The Linsly School

Started a fund to raise money for Kosovo refugees. Raised \$11,000 for the Red Cross. Tutored at James Paige Learning Center and helped construct community playground. Was captain of school soccer team. Chosen to play on All-State team. School's defensive player of the year. Attended West Virginia's Governor's Honors Academy. Studied Russian and Agriculture. Was chosen to be one of sixteen members of the College Board's Advisory Panel for Student Concerns. Selected by A.A.T.G. as one of 42 American students to study in Germany for four weeks. Participated in Princeton Model Congress and Model United Nations. Still has energy left!



Hannah M. Pollin, Amherst, Massachusetts, Amherst Regional High School

Hannah Pollin, from Amherst Massachusetts, enjoys running, acting, and spending time in the woods. She is a volunteer at the National Yiddish Book Center and the recipient of a National Council of Teachers of English Recognition Award. She will attend Columbia University next year.



Tyler T. Ray, Signal Mountain, Tennessee, The McCallie School

At McCallie School I am student body vice president, president of National Honor Society, and play varsity tennis. Friday nights often find me at the Mountain Opry, a bastion of bluegrass music in the Tennessee hills. I love to ski (both snow and water). Active in young Life, I lead Campaigners for Christ, a weekly Bible study for 19-120 teens. Past summers were spent building houses for the homeless in Mexico and Ecuador. This summer I'll hike and whitewater canoe in Utah's Uinta Mountains and work as a residential counselor at a lake camp. I will attend UNC on a Morehead Scholarship.

The President



Amber L. Reed, Flushing, Michigan, Senior High School

Amber Reed will be attending Columbia University with an eye toward her destiny as a playwright dictator. The majority of her accomplishments are, alas, government secrets; however, she does not confess to having successfully microwaved cheese. When not wandering the streets in a state of kazoo induced walking narcolepsy that holds well for her future career, Amber enjoys playing the clarinet, terrorizing librarians, plagiarizing stoppardian tautologies, and writing about herself in the third person. Ms. Reed would like to thank all the little people, especially for the shoe repair work and that loot at the end of the rainbows. She is seeking professional help.



Darci Rhoades, Payson, Utah, Murray High School

I currently attend school in Singapore on a scholarship to study abroad. I've had opportunities to travel and give service in both India and Cambodia. My academic achievements include a National Merit Scholarship, A.P. Scholar, 1600 SAT, and 4.0 GPA. However, there is more to my life than school. I love sports, producing "movies" (of Oscar caliber I'm sure), swing dancing, and just having fun. Above all I love to laugh and brighten up even the dullest circumstances (provided daily by my school) with a creative wit. My friends all agree there is never a dull moment with me around.



Richard L. Rivero, Staten Island, New York, Regis High School

"I am currently a Senior at Regis High School in Manhattan and will be attending Harvard University in the Fall. My objective is to pursue a joint concentration in physics and mathematics. I am a nationally-recognized member of Regis' Speech and Debate Team, as well as the founder of Regis' Culinary Club. I coordinate the school's monthly dances for the student government, and tutor in Regis' mentoring program. My hobbies include cooking, reading (mostly books about math, in addition to some gothic novels), listening to various types of music, going to the theatre, and traveling."



Heather S. Robbins, South China, Maine, Winslow High School

High school life was fabulous. I played basketball and soccer for four years; my senior year I was co-captain of both teams and the Most Valuable Player in soccer. Yearbook also took up much of my time as I was the sports editor, then the editor-in-chief during my junior and senior years, respectively. In eleventh grade I was inducted into NHS and elected vice-president. Outside of school I like to ski, play tennis, go running, and do anything else that is fun. Next year I will attend Princeton University and will most likely major in molecular biology.



Charles A. Robinson, Louisville, Kentucky, De Sales High School

I like just about everything; writing and playing music, basketball, reading, debating and just hanging out. I've been involved in a variety of extracurricular activities, including quick recall, pep band, class and student council presidencies, volunteering, etc, and worked part time. I've been fortunate to participate in various programs including, University of KY's SMASH Program, KY Governor's Scholars, United State Senate Youth Program, and Coca-Cola Scholars. I believe that while academic excellence is important, becoming a well-rounded person who adapts to any social/business situation while respecting all you meet is truly the greatest accomplishment in life.

The President

2000 PRESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS



Johannes Mikael VanDerBeek
Storm on the Rise

Oil on Canvas 2 1/2' x 3 1/2'

ial Scholars 2000

S
C
H
O
L
A
R
S

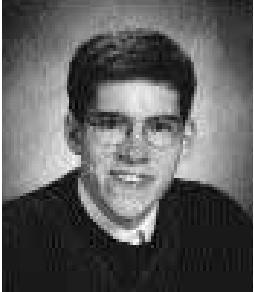
S
C
H
O
L
A
R
S

S
C
H
O
L
A
R
S

S
C
H
O
L
A
R
S

S
C
H
O
L
A
R
S

S
C
H
O
L
A
R
S



Christopher J. Steinke, Lincoln, Nebraska, Lincoln Southeast High School

Jazz saxophonist Christopher Joseph Steinke from Lincoln, Nebraska, is a recent graduate of Lincoln Southeast High School. Besides playing and listening to jazz, his interests include history, ecology, literature and writing. He was a National Merit Finalist and a winner of an Earthwatch Student Challenge Award. He received a Level I award in Music/Jazz from the NFAA ARTS, as well as an Honorable Mention in Writing/Short Story, and he has been named Outstanding Musician at the Kansas University Workshop from 1997 through 1999. Mr. Steinke plans to study history or English at Harvard University in the fall.



Jennifer L. Sternad, Lakewood, Colorado, Lakewood Senior High School

I was one of eighteen students internationally who received a scholarship from the Telluride Association to study at Cornell University in the seminar "Poets, Historians, and Other Liars." I am the female student recipient of Colorado's 2000 Hispanic Annual Salute award which recognizes Hispanic community volunteers. I am one of forty Colorado students, from over 800 applicants, to be named a 2000 Boettcher Foundation Scholar. The foundation awards full scholarships to Colorado colleges and universities. I received an award from the Jefferson County Schools in Spring 1999 for "Exceptional Student Work in Promoting Diversity and Equity in the Jefferson County Schools". For two years I was the co-chairperson and only student member of the Jefferson County Council on Cultural Diversity. I graduated from the International Baccalaureate Program as valedictorian with a 4.0 unweighted cumulative GPA. I earned a perfect ACT score of 36. I am a National Merit Scholar finalist.



Kate M. Swearingen, Columbia, Missouri, David H. Hickman High School

As a recipient of the Maureen O'Donnell Memorial Award for five years of gold medals on the National Latin Exam, Kate shows proficiency in a language which is rarely spoken outside Vatican City. She is also a French student, and was president of her senior class: her linguistic and leadership skills will be tested in July when she travels to Paris in order to secure a top-secret and lucrative trade deal with a prominent group of French businessmen. Kate is a National Merit Finalist and an avid Knicks fan. She will attend Princeton University next year, join the crew team, and major in political science or Near-Eastern Studies.



Abraham L. Tarapani, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, Antilles School

I have lived in the United States Virgin Islands since I was five years old. I take part in scuba diving, fishing, boating, and all the other opportunities that "American Paradise" has to offer. In school, I am senior class president, NHS treasurer, captain of the quiz bowl and science bowl teams and co-valedictorian of the class of 2000. I am a varsity soccer player and also act in the high school drama productions. I am a National Merit Scholar and a recipient of the Martin Luther King Award for leadership and service. I will be matriculating at Yale University.



Ryan D. Taylor, Beaverton, Oregon, Beaverton High School

At Beaverton High School, I have tried to involve myself in a wide range of activities by playing Varsity soccer and track, being president of Interact community service club, being co-president of National Honor Society, founding the Political Club, being Front Page editor of the school newspaper, and being a national chairperson for the Model Presidential Nominating Convention. Though I am proud of achievements such as being Valedictorian and being accepted to Stanford University, it is the sense of community, participation, and direction I attain by seeking to challenge and involve myself that I find most rewarding.

The President



Emily D. Throop, Albany, Oregon, West Albany High School

I live in Albany, Oregon, a town characterized by the smelly paper mill on the freeway and millionaire grass-seed farmers. Unfortunately, I have no connection with either industry, but as my dad raises deer and I ride horses, I am not at complete odds with my surroundings. If you ever visit Albany, I recommend the pool hall or a movie at our quite modern theatre. Remember to bring a raincoat; the constant drizzle is not a myth.



Geoffrey H. Tison, Santa Ana, California, Foothill High School

Geoffrey's activities include serving as co-managing editor of the Knightlife, his high school newspaper, serving two years as president of the California Scholarship Federation, as well as being actively involved with the Junior Statesmen of America and the National Honors Society. His interests also include music (he plays violin) and medicine (he has worked as a Harvard Medical School research intern seeks a career in medicine). When not involved in a plethora of scholarly pursuits, Geoffrey enjoys reading and hanging out with friends, as well as his frequent adventures in nature, be they on foot or on a bicycle.



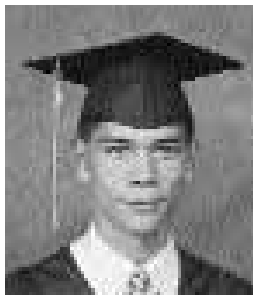
Jessica C. Y. Tzou, Lexington, Kentucky, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School

Graduating at the top of my class from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School's Math, Science, and Technology (MSTC magnet) Center, Jessica Tzou is a diligent and assiduous student. She recently completed an independent research project concerning the sequence specific recognition of DNA by bis-intercalators at the University Kentucky's Markey Cancer Center in the Chandler Medical Facility. Having extensive violin training since age four, this dedicated and accomplished violinist has also won many local and national concerto competitions. She is also actively involved in several youth leadership positions and community service activities. Jessica will attend Stanford University in the fall of 2000, in pursuit of a career in the medical field.



Tobias W. Uecker, Madison, South Dakota, Madison High School

Tobias Williams Uecker, is son of Rev. Warren and Carol Uecker, has played an active role in Madison High School, having been educated in the Lake Central School District since first grade. Throughout high school, he has taken part in debate, oral interpretation, school newspaper, and the gifted program. Tobias also participated in high school theater productions and the yearbook for three years. A recent addition to his activities was the band program, where Tobias played piano and percussion. Outside of School, he was active in crossing guard and church activities. Tobias plans to attend South Dakota State University next fall.



James M. Valpiani, Las Vegas, Nevada, Bishop Gorman High School

James Valpiani graduated as valedictorian of his class with a 4.0 GPA. His highest achievements include the Eagle Scout rank, Sons of Italy Foundation National Leadership Grant, Boys' State, HOBY World Leadership Conference Ambassador, and National Merit Finalist. He has served as president of Forensics twice and as treasurer of National Honor Society. He has participated in track & field, campus ministry, Senior Leaders, newspaper and a number of other groups, most notably in drama, where he recently played Vince Fontaine in "Grease." James will be attending the U.S. Air Force Academy next year. He aspires to become an astronaut.

Presidential Scholars 2000



Johannes M. VanDerBeek, Baltimore, Maryland, Baltimore School for the Arts

With no traveling partner, I wandered all around the United States, self financing my fun outside through heartland praries.



Maryann Vellanikaran, Peachtree City, Georgia, Woodward Academy

Maryann Vellanikaran, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. George and Alice Vellanikaran, is the valedictorian of this year's graduating class at Woodward Academy, located in College Park, GA. A National Merit Scholar, she was Vice President of the National Honor Society, a member of the discipline board, Honor Council, Senior Philosophy Seminar, and captain of the math team. During high school, she received awards for science, history, math, and computer science, as well as the Harvard Book Award. Maryann was also a member of the Varsity Tennis Team, Chorus, and the Interact Service Club. She is ranked in the state and in the south in tennis. In the fall, she will attend Harvard University.



Macey M. Webb, Stilwell, Kansas, Blue Valley High School

"Besides being a Presidential Scholar, Macey's biggest achievement has been to spend six months in Argentina, learning the language and culture in the province of Corrientes. Along with her membership in National Honor Society(NHS)and National Art Honor Society(NAHS), Macey was recently inducted into the Spanish National Foriegn Language Honor Society. She is also the treasurer of her school's International Club and follows her interests in languages and cultures through volunteer work as a translator for Early Head Start and a small group leader for American Filed Service(AFS)."



Rachel L. Wellhausen, Mesa, Arizona, Dobson High School

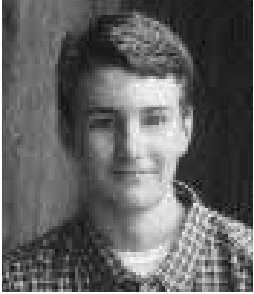
My interests! (And accomplishments.) Favorite Supreme Court Justice: John Marshall, no question. (I'm an Arizona Flinn Scholar.) Favorite cactus: teddy bear. (National Merit Scholar.) Cartoon character: Donald Duck! (American Academy of Achievement honoree.) Medicine: "bubble gum," a.k.a. amoxicillin (USA Today All-USA Second Academic Team.) Finger: ring. (Elks National "Most Valuable Student.") President: Madison – second: Polk – consolation: Fillmore. (NCTE Achievement Award in Writing.) Book: currently, A River Runs Through It by Norman Mclean. (Founder, President of The Horseshoe: Writers' Review, literary newspaper.) Constellation: Casseopeia, because it's shaped like a "W"! (President of Top 10 National "We the People" team.) Poet: Mary Oliver. (Student of the year, grades 9-12).



Kathryn B. Whalen, Casper, Wyoming, Natrona County High School

Kathryn is the youngest of four children and has spent all eighteen years of her life hiking around the mountains of Wyoming. She was named a National Merit Scholar, and has been awarded a number of state, regional, and national journalism awards. She also received her high school's most outstanding English and French student awards and the Principal's trophy. In the fall she will be attending Yale, and at least this week she is planning to study English and Film. Following school, she plans to travel, following her love of writing and photography.

Final Scholarships 2000



Joshua S. Yardley, Bangor, Maine, Bangor High School

Joshua Yardley graduated valedictorian of Bangor High School's Class of 2000. During his tenure at Bangor High, Josh was a significant contributor to the school's math team; he finished fourth in the state this past year. He also enjoys debate; he was named the junior varsity state champion his sophomore year. Josh is the captain of his varsity tennis team which is currently ranked first in the state. He is an active member of his church and has just finished serving his second term as a representative on the Maine Catholic Youth Board. Josh plans to attend MIT in the fall.



Devren A. Yener, North Logan, Utah, Logan High School

Devren Yener has won numerous awards and honors in mathematics and other areas, including Debate, Mock Trial, Academic Decathlon, and Academic Olympiad. For two years, he has been the only qualifier in Utah for the USA Mathematical Olympiad. Devren has followed an accelerated course schedule while maintaining a 4.0 average, and is a valedictorian. He is one of 24 recipients of a Siemens Award for Advanced Placement, and has received National Merit and Robert Byrd Scholarships. Devren will attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, majoring in physics and mathematics. He enjoys computer programming, studying math and science, reading, and skiing.



Mary R. Ziegler, Butte, Montana, Phillips Academy

Mary Ziegler was born in Butte, Montana, and calls it home. She graduated with honors in June 2000 from Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. She has won awards for her fiction as well as for her work in French and Chemistry. The past Editor-in-Chief of Phillips Academy's literary magazine *The Courant*, she looks forwards to the first professional publication of one of her stories, "The Season to come." Her stories have been used by Phillips Academy as a part of the creative writing curriculum. She hopes to continue her studies in English, creative writing, French and Chemistry, and will continue her writing when she attends Harvard as a member of the class of 2004.

The President

Alabama

Laura E. Carsten
Matthew H. Noble
David N. Simmons

Alaska

Erin C. Flynn
Andrew M. Jayich

Arizona

Neil J. Nabar
Renee N. Meiffren
Benjamin M. Notheis
Rachel L. Wellhausen
Esther R. Cardona

Arkansas

David C. Kale
Stephanie L. Koonce

Americans Abroad

Katherine M. Dimengo
Abraham L. Tarapani

California

Geoffrey H. Tison
Genevieve G. Chow
Elizabeth K. Williams

Colorado

Aaron Y. Lee
Jennifer L. Sternad

Connecticut

Brent C. Harris
Brendon O. Carrington
Stephanie E. Brewer

District of Columbia

Marcus P. Smith
Joshua P. Foer
Martha W. Buckley

Delaware

Sarina Pasricha
Abram S. Barth

Florida

Blake J. Boulерice
Chaim D. Sacks
Delavane B. Diaz

Georgia

Kelcy S. Freeman
Maryann Vellanikaran
Robert G. Bonstein, III

Hawaii

Camilla K. L. Lau
Bradford W. Lee

Idaho

Alex J. Gorman
Kathleen A. Morey

Illinois

Clara C. Shih
Steven C. Gross

Indiana

Matthew C. Boch
Sarah A. Rogers

Iowa

Eileen M. Lee
Wayne Shyy

Kansas

Macey M. Webb
Amy J. Lee
Bradley M. Bakker

Kentucky

Jessica C. Y. Tzou
Charles A. Robinson

Louisiana

Natalie N. Horvilleur
Lauren M. Goins
John H. Murchison
Brent S. Smith

Maine

Heather S. Robbins
Joshua S. Yardley
Seth C. Aylmer

Maryland

Johannes M. VanDerBeek
Anne E. Lee
Jason S. Oh
Andrew J. Cook

Massachusetts

David W. Gorin
Hannah M. Pollin
Mariana P. Carrera
Katharine E. Jensen
Yuen-Jong Liu

Michigan

Amber L. Reed
Daniel J. Freeman
Edith E. Hines
Joseph S. Jewell

Minnesota

Jacqueline C. May
David T. Marthaler

Mississippi

Sarah E. Luster
Michael S. Goggin

Missouri

Kate M. Swearengen
Jason M. Green

Final Scholars 2000

Montana

Ross I. Runnion
Mary R. Ziegler
LeAnne M. Schweitzer

Nebraska

Nicholas C. Loomis
Christopher J. Steinke
Marisa S. Harless

Nevada

Grace W. Wu
James M. Valpiani

New Hampshire

Brett G. Murphy
Lauren E. Sirois

New Jersey

Heather J. Kulik
Claire V. McCusker
Ethan B. Abraham

New Mexico

Katharine S. Widland
Po-Ching O. Chen
Jerrod L. Harrison

New York

Betsy C. Cooper
Michelle J. Smith
Richard L. Rivero

North Carolina

Ahmed M. Khan
Cynthia W. Liu

North Dakota

Matthew B. Hawthorne
Rebecca K. Claus

Ohio

Uma B. Samant
Tudor D. Dimofte

Oklahoma

Sarah S. Park
David R. Okada

Oregon

Emily D. Throop
Ryan D. Taylor

Pennsylvania

Rachel B. Calloway
Peter M. Bieber
Jennifer Fan
Matthew E. Amendt

Puerto Rico

Richard A. James
Sara C. Loubriel

Rhode Island

Mallika L. Mendu
Benjamin R. Handel

South Carolina

Katherine E. Mancuso
Justin L. Smith

South Dakota

Julie M. Hall
Tobias W. Uecker

Tennessee

Anna H. Mallett
Tyler T. Ray

Texas

Armando Morales
Leah M. Alvarez
Michael I. Mellon
Julia M. Krohn
Colette J. Shen
Deipanjan Nandi
Howard E. Jeffery, Jr.
Rebecca E. Bolin

Utah

Darci Rhoades
Devren A. Yener

Vermont

Graham M. Gephart
Emily L. Nielson

Virginia

Julia A. Marsh
David B. Silver

Washington

Santino A. Fontana
Steven A. B. Hickman
Andrea L. Everett
Aaron S. Parks

West Virginia

John T. Northrup
Elizabeth M. Paulhus

Wisconsin

Louis-John Janowski
Andrea S. Les

Wyoming

Patrick W. Grady
Kathryn B. Whalen

Presidential Scholars at Work in the Community

Characterized by their interest in community issues and compassion for those in need, the Presidential Scholars have actively reached out to others. Service has played a significant role in their development and is prominent in their future plans.

Matthew H. Noble, Alabama

"When I was in eighth grade I took part in a project to restore a wetland on my school's campus and create an outdoor classroom. The teacher of the class made me conscious of my environmental responsibility. I am participating in "Clean Sweep Day" this spring which will be an effort to clear litter from all the major roadways of my county. As a founding member of my high school's environmental club, I am helping to start a recycling program and planning beautification projects for our campus and the community."

Andrew M. Jayich, Alaska

"My biggest concern is for the disadvantaged, those people who have lost everything or have never had the kinds of opportunities that I have been so fortunate to have. I've always had a comfortable home in which to live and plenty of food on the table, toys to play with and books to read. Last summer I participated in a week-long mission trip to Fairbanks, Alaska to work on a Habitat for Humanity home. It was ironic that our youth group camped in tents while building a house. I helped lay block for the foundation of a family's future home. I also cleared a lot and helped landscape it. It felt good to help people less fortunate than myself; I believe my work made a difference in these people's lives. I look forward to this summer when I will be going on another mission trip with the focus on service."

Erin C. Flynn, Alaska

"All through my childhood I was an avid reader. I can see the effects it has had on my life: I have a greater vocabulary, a knack for reading quickly, and the ability to analyze books. The ability to read affects every single aspect of a child's life. Others are not as fortunate. For several years I have tutored non-native English speakers in reading and writing, both on a paid and volunteer basis. I don't do this out of caring for others. I like to see people understand and I try to help them enjoy what I love. I care about the people I tutor, but I continue doing it because reading, to me, is like an incredible vacation spot you just have to tell everyone about."

Benjamin M. Notheis, Arizona

"I am...concerned with the high teenage pregnancy rate in the United States, because most teenage girls are not able to support a child of their own, whether it be financially, emotional, or even with just valuable time. That is why I have started volunteering with the Pima Prevention Partnership, an organization dedicated to getting the message out about abstinence and its benefits. If more teenagers hear about the benefits of abstaining from sex until marriage, then hopefully less teenagers will become parents before they are ready."

Neil J. Nabar, Arizona

"I have been involved in working as a volunteer at the Phoenix Public Library helping young children to read. My work at the desk of the juvenile section involved reading books with five and six year olds and helping them find books in the library on their own. I also immensely enjoyed the seemingly silly activities—such as dressing up as a dinosaur called "Bookbreath" —geared toward encouraging young children to be lifelong readers and learners. It was a very rewarding experience."

Stephanie Koonce, Arkansas

"I am involved in a recycling program and highway cleanup project to help fix pollution. I volunteer at EHC to fingerprint and photograph elementary and middle school students so that police will have accurate information in case of abduction. I also volunteer as a teacher/ tutor at my school and at my church. I help organize food drives, clothes drives, and toy drives periodically. I try to involve my younger cousins and my friends in these activities. When more people make an effort, the resolution to the problem becomes closer."

Brendon Carrington, Connecticut

"My adoration of equality has led me to involve myself in one particular group at school. For two years now, I have headed the Free Tibet Club at my high school. Composed of approximately 30 students, this organization spreads information and awareness, makes donations, and supports the people of Tibet in their struggles with foreign oppression. Our small group of concerned students dedicates time each week to assisting another group of people on the other side of the globe who do not benefit from the luxuries of freedom, opportunity for success, and security that we Americans do. Looking ahead in my life, I decided a long time ago to "give back" in any way that I could. I do not even know what I want to major in at Princeton, but I do know that I will strive to promote social equality and well-being when I seek a profession."

Sarina Pasricha, Delaware

"To improve health care access for the less privileged, I have prepared a senior research proposal that will utilize student educators and community health professionals to provide immunization education among the Spanish-speaking mushroom farm workers in our community as well as in an Indian village during the summer of 2000. Having conducted some preliminary research in this issue, I have understood that the difficulty in raising coverage of immunization is related to both lack of access and inadequate knowledge. During the first phase, I will organize a small task force of unpaid student volunteers from the Spanish Society and Service Club at my school. Using my contacts, I will request pediatricians and nurses to volunteer their services to train student educators to make brief presentations to groups of Spanish-speaking families. A brief pamphlet will be prepared to provide basic information about the need for immunization, highlight pertinent statistics about common diseases, and list local resources for obtaining affordable vaccines...I believe that this hands-on community health care project will not only improve immunization rates within our community, but will also help the team of students to develop a multi-cultural perspective and prepare them to become effective leaders."

LeAnne Schweitzer, Montana

"It certainly would be easier to sleep if my stomach would stop grumbling! Yes, it's that time of the year again. I'm participating in the 30-hour famine, and I'm fast approaching my twentieth hour without food. I'm involved in this activity because I'm appalled at the poverty, malnutrition, hunger, and ensuing disease that end so many human lives each day. Since I was in middle school, I have given my firm support to the fight against poverty. I've done research projects and given presentations on the subject, but the 30-Hour Famine was what really awakened me to the harsh pain of hunger that millions must endure every day. Those who participate raise money from sponsors that will be sent to poverty stricken children. This money provides children with food, medical care, shelter, and education."

Jason S. Oh, Maryland

"There is still one specific group that I see facing prejudice on a large scale. In my experience, physically and mentally handicapped people are not hated, but they face a much more treacherous enemy, pity. Many fail to realize that they are important, beneficial members of society. I have found that the only way to overcome this is to meet and interact with disabled people. My involvement in Camp Evergreen, a volunteer organization, began at a very early age because one of my very close friends, Young, has Down Syndrome. Despite his disease, he is a caring, considerate, and engaging person, and without him my life would be significantly emptier. Camp Evergreen has allowed me to make a difference in someone's life and establish friendships with incredible people both with and without handicaps."

Lauren Goins, Louisiana

"I see such horrendous scenes of pain and suffering every day in my community, and I have realized that in order to truly make a difference in this world I must begin by taking a stand against the injustices prevalent in my community. Although I am still quite young and inexperienced, I believe that I can still make a difference through small acts of kindness. I attempt to provide guidance and emotional assistance to the youth in my community through the St. Matthew Council and the Christian Leadership Council. As president of the youth council, I coordinate outreach missions that benefit troubled youth in the surrounding area. Through leadership and guidance workshops, tutoring students, giving advice, and providing a type of haven for the youth, we try to make a difference in the lives of others. All of the people involved in these initiatives provide sound examples of determination and pride to those children plagued by self-doubt and pity."

Amy Lee, Kansas

"Last year I was involved in Girl Positive, a discussion/activist group formed by and for teenage girls in this area. We held weekly meetings where we discussed issues affecting our lives as girls on our own terms. We made lists of topics to discuss—portrayals of women in the media, definitions of feminism, body image issues, and rape, for starters—and each talked about our own opinions and experiences while learning from each other at the same time. We also produced and distributed flyers and pamphlets in an attempt to raise awareness about issues concerning girls and women, and sometimes volunteered at battered women's shelters."

Sara C. Loubriel, Puerto Rico

"As vice-president of the ecology club in my school, I have worked to educate others about what can be done to reverse the effects of decades of carelessness, endless accusation, and inertia that has hampered the road to progress. We have established a revolutionary rooftop garden in our urban school neighborhood that has served as an example for others. Members of the community, inspired by our success, have created "green roofs" of their own. The club has also worked and organized large demonstrations to help save the only urban forest in San Juan, Bosque San Patrio. Our latest project has included the establishment of a successful recycling program in our school and has won the Environmental Protection Agency award for its efforts in creating a more profound environmental conscience in others."

Uma B. Samant, Ohio

"When one of my closest friends began abusing drugs, I was devastated and felt absolutely helpless. I was astonished to learn how rampant drug use is becoming...As a result of my concern, I became a member of Students Against Destructive Decisions, or SADD. This organization deals with many different issues such as drug abuse, alcohol abuse, teen pregnancies, and suicide. As treasurer of SADD, I help organize events, raise awareness, and show other students that there are alternative choices they can make. I am also one of two students from my school to be selected for the Miami Valley Youth Health Improvement Coalition, which generally focuses on alcohol and tobacco. I know that I have not obliterated the drug problem from the face of the planet, and sometimes I even wonder if I am even making a difference at all. I realize that I cannot stop other people from making their own decisions, but I can show them that if they do not wish to smoke or drink, then they are not alone."

Ahmed M. Khan, North Carolina

"In the attempt to promote nonviolence in my school, I became a member of S.A.V.E. (Students Against Violence Everywhere). As treasurer, I have helped organize a myriad of fund-raisers and many activities promoting nonviolence in our schools. I believe that the activities that I engage in are assisting in the removal of violence and ignorance."

Katherine S. Widland, New Mexico

"I am extremely concerned with the state of our environment, especially sustainable development and biodiversity. I serve on the board of an adult environmental organization, and I chair a statewide coalition of high school ecology clubs. I have published newspaper articles and appeared on multiple radio stations where I discuss environmental events and issues. I helped found my

school's Environmental Club, and am currently president. My club members and I work on a wide variety of projects such as educating elementary school children about water and solid waste through our "Edible Aquifer" and "Garbage Pizza" demonstrations. I spent part of a past summer in Belize with the Rainforest Conservation Fund. Finally, I am one of three people who plan an annual conference on the environment for about 270 high school students."

Jerrod Harrison, New Mexico

"My social concerns fall into two categories: individual and societal. I am first concerned with the welfare of the individuals which comprise my community. As a result, I have felt the need to join the American Red Cross where I serve on the Disaster Action Team. I also work closely with my city's commission to ensure that the concerns of my fellow students are met. My concern for society as a whole is expressed in my involvement in political and civic organizations. These organizations include the National Federation for the Blind, where I serve as a board member, and the Aztec Key Club."

Brett G. Murphy, New Hampshire

"Being a member of the "Missions and Benevolence Committee" at our local church has given me another outlet for social concerns. I believe that being a Christian demands that one treat all people with dignity, kindness, and caring to help improve their lives. Through my membership, I have collected groceries and delivered them to the local food bank, distributed gifts to the needy at Christmas, visited new church members in their homes, and supported missionary journeys overseas."

James Valpiani, Nevada

"In order to contribute to my community, I participate in and organize numerous service projects. As a CPR instructor, I frequently donate my time to teach life-saving skills through free classes and health fairs. I also volunteer these skills to directly aid others, as I did during the Multiple Sclerosis Bike Ride. Campus Ministry, too, allows me to use my talents to benefit society. In this capacity, I lead retreats designed to help students grow closer to each other and themselves, thus strengthening our school community."

Justin L. Smith, South Carolina

"I fully believe that every person in the world is capable of achieving anything with the right tools; thus I think it right to help people get the tools they need—material and spiritual—in order to improve themselves. As a result of my concerns, I am contributing on many fronts. First, I serve on the Peace and Justice Committee at my church, which this winter completed an extensive Winter Warmth campaign distributing coats and other gifts to children in poverty and/or with incarcerated parents. I also serve on the Stewardship Planning Committee, which is in the process of organizing the largest fundraising effort in our church's history in order to build an immense new youth facility."

Emily L. Nielson, Vermont

"Throughout high school I have been involved with Key Club. Key Club is the Student Service Organization. We strive to make our school and community a better place through volunteering and service. With each coat we collect for the clothing drive or each program we hand out as athletic ambassadors at the basketball games, we make a small difference in someone else's life. My main social concern is that as a society we are isolated and estranged from each other by our computers and technology. The lack of interpersonal contact can lead people to become angry, violent, and depressed without an avenue to express or solve their problems. The solution to this predicament is service. Community service not only benefits the recipients, but also the donors because of the satisfaction derived from it. If everyone had and took advantage of opportunities to serve others, the world would be a happier, more productive place."

2000 Teacher Recognition Award Recipients

Mary M. Adams (AZ)

Ballet
Renee Meiffren

Charles B. Alexander (SC)

AP Calculus AB & BC
Justin Smith

Shirley J. Anderson (ND)

Science
Rebecca Claus

Eliot J. Applestein (MD)

Advanced Placement
Psychology
Anne Lee

Ema Armanious (TX)

Flute Instruction
Howard Jeffery

Charles F. Ash (ME)

Drama
Seth Aylmer

Richard S. Avidon (DC)

History
Joshua Foer

Mary C. Bach (IL)

Reading
Clara Shih

Frank P. Barona (NY)

Physics
Richard Rivero

Yi Suan T. Barrow (OR)

Mathematics
Ryan Taylor

Karen T. Beamish (NM)

Environmental Science
Katharine Widland

Cathy Bennett (AL)

Math
David Simmons

Susan D. Black (FL)

Gifted Studies/Honors Philos.
Blake Boulерice

William B. Blizard (WA)

English/Literature
Santino Fontana

Jeffrey M. Bond (PA)

Classics/Latin
Claire McCusker

Patricia Bonner (TX)

Music Instructor
Leah Alvarez

Mary Jo Bowes (PA)

English/Drama
Matthew Amendt

Julie P. Bridges (NC)

English
Ahmed Khan

Holly J. Brown (AR)

English
Stephanie Koonce

Bonnie Buddendeck (OH)

Chemistry
Uma Samant

Frances Caporello (MA)

Mathematics
Katharine Jensen

Greg Carey (OK)

Social Sciences
David Okada

Joel Carre (Jakarta)

French Language
Richard James

Arlys Caslavka (WI)

Elementary Education
Louis-John Janowski

Reggie Chambers (AK)

Mathematics
Andrew Jayich

Stephen Collins (LA)

Physics/Physical Science
Sarah Luster

Laurie L. Crawford (NV)

English/Forensics
James Valpiani

Robert Crawford (FL)

Social Sciences
Chaim Sacks

Kirk G. Daddow (IA)

History and English
Wayne Shyy

James L. Dennis, III (WV)

Chemistry
John Northrup

Susan A. Derrera (AK)

English
Erin Flynn

C. Clinton . Doolittle (AL)

Chorus and Theory
Laura Carsten

John Duffy (NY)

English
Betsy Cooper

Peter L. Duynstee (MA)

Political Science/US History
Brett Murphy

Ronald E. Eshleman (DE)

Chemistry
Abram Barth

Gregg Farmer (GA)

World History
Robert Bonstein

C. Fawcett (OH)

English
Tudor Dan Dimofte

Catherine Flesner (AZ)

English and Counseling
Neil Nabar

James Francis (ID)

History
Kathleen Morey

Penny Frank (NY)

Dance
Michelle Smith

Steve R. Frazer (CO)

History
Aaron Lee

Cheryl S. Freeman (VA)

Reading
David Silver

Robert W. Gardner (CT)
History
Brent Harris

Leslie F. Gehlsen (MN)
Chemistry
Jacqueline May

Martha B. Gephart (VT)
English/Language Arts
Graham Gephart

Sue C. Gilmore (TN)
Latin/European History
Anna Mallett

Jerre Glasgow (CA)
Guidance Counselor
Geoffrey Tison

Tim Glover (TX)
Sculpture
Michael Mellon

Daniel R. Heischman (DC)
Philosophy
Marcus Smith

Miles S. Heller (VT)
History
Emily Nielson

Robert W. Hill, III (NH)
English
Brendon Carrington

Kathleen Hirsch (AL)
Gifted Education
Matthew Noble

Joanne E. Ho (NV)
English
Grace Wu

Joseph Holbrook (NJ)
Mathematics
Ethan Abraham

Laura K. Hollerich (TX)
Mathematics
Deipanjani Nandi

Richard Holman (PA)
Physics
Jennifer Fan

Dennis K. Hon (WV)
Mathematics
Elizabeth Paulhus

Michael W. Horner (MI)
Mathematics
Daniel Freeman

James A. Jefson (IA)
Mathematics
Eileen Lee

Karen Jespersen (MT)
English and Literature
Ross Runnion

Alice Kagi (TX)
Biology
Colette Shen

Tim F. Keogh (KY)
Humanities
Charles Robinson

Terry L. Kirby (TX)
Economics Honors
Rebecca Bolin

James W. Lackey (NM)
Mathematics
Jerrod Harrison

Michael F. LaGory (HI)
English
Bradford Lee

Roger Lakins (VI)
English and Humanities
Abraham Tarapani

Suzanne E. Lamfalusi (GA)
History
Maryann Vellanikaran

Fred Lampazzi (VA)
Biology
Julia Marsh

John A. Lankford (AR)
Chemistry
David Kale

Roger Larson (ND)
Mathematics
Matthew Hawthorne

Patricia Laulainen (MN)
Kindergarten
Marisa Harless

Lester L. Lawrence (ME)
Geometry
Heather Robbins

Dayna Leaman (LA)
English
Lauren Goins

Cindy A. Leonard (OK)
French
Sarah Park

Chester L. LeSourd (TN)
English
Tyler Ray

Edwin A. S. Lewis (MD)
Physics
Jason Oh

Judith Libby (IN)
English
Matthew Boch

Derek Longo (PA)
American Studies
Rachel Calloway

Barbara A. MacFarlane (AZ)
History
Benjamin Notheis

Rodney G. Mahaffey (WY)
English/Journalism
Kathryn Whalen

Beverly Mairs (CA)
Mathematics
Elizabeth Williams

Timothy L. Marthaler (MN)
Guidance Counselor
David Marthaler

Andrea McKenzie (SD)
Foreign Languages - German
Julie Hall

2000 Teacher Recognition Award Recipients Reflect on Teaching

Mary Adams, AZ

Every ballet student possesses a little flame inside of them, and I thoroughly enjoy the process of nurturing and developing a larger flame to bring out the "artist" in them. It gives me great satisfaction and sense of pride when they finally achieve their goal in life!

Charles B. Alexander, SC

There is nothing I enjoy more than planning and teaching a good lesson. It is extremely gratifying to see a student's face light up with understanding and to know that (s)he really owns the concept that I have been trying to teach.

Shirley Anderson, ND

In a small school I watch kids mature throughout their teen years and teach them every step of the way. I see students finally grasp subject areas that have remained elusive, plan their futures, ask for help and finally come back with multiple expressions of pleasure for helping them achieve their goals. No profession can be so rewarding!

Eliot J. Applestein, MD

Each new school year, I look out over my classes and see 150 highly talented students. They think that I will instruct them in the ways of the world. They are deceived. They don't know my secret—that they will teach me about hope, perseverance, camaraderie, and future promise.

Éma Armanious, TX

Creating and enjoying music is one of the most gratifying forms of expression. When I play, I feel that my music is a gift to myself and to others. When I teach, my goal is to multiply that gift to multitudes, one by one, in a worthwhile and lasting way.

Charles F. Ash, ME

I thoroughly enjoy working alongside students like 2000 Presidential Scholar Seth Aylmer who have a genuine enthusiasm for learning. This has been the key to my job satisfaction. Success for me has come from my willingness to try new things and take risks like starting up a video and film making program.

Richard Avidon, DC

In many jobs, there is a sense of competition with peers and colleagues; it is better if you get the idea before the next guy. In teaching, my greatest pleasure is to be able to say, in classroom discussion, "I hadn't thought of that." And of course, I do not feel the need to beat the competition when it comes to my colleagues.

Christine Bach, IL

Every fall I look forward to receiving a new group of fresh-faced students. They are like gifts to be unwrapped. Each arrives with their unique set of instructions. I enjoy the challenge of nurturing, encouraging and building on their individual talents. Next to parenting, nothing is more fulfilling.

Frank Barona, NY

Love and subject, enthusiasm, and caffeine

Yi Suan T. Barrow OR

What I enjoy most about the teaching profession is the interaction with students. Every school day is different. The variety and diversity of students keep me challenged and my mind engaged. After 15 years as a teacher, I still look forward to going to work everyday.

2000 Teacher Recognition Award Recipients Reflect on Teaching

Frances A. Caporello, MA

I pose a difficult calculus volume problem. Students build models of paper and clay. One uses the wood lathe. Another creates a computer model. Solutions abound. Two years later a letter arrives. "I've been thinking about that volume problem...here's my latest solution." I think I've done my job.

Gregory J. Carey, OK

My passion for teaching stems from a profound desire to ensure political and socio-economic equality for all Americans. I believe that equality serves as the basis for all other freedoms. Therefore, I continually strive to sharpen my students' critical thinking skills so that they will have a "deeper" understanding of their society and how to change it.

Reggie Chambers, AK

I enjoy discovering the exceptional "gifts" that God has given every young human that walks into my classroom. The "gifts" are varied. This year I discovered that Bambi Kemp has a "gift" for acting. Andrew Jayich is going to be a future United States Supreme Court Justice. Praise God!

Laurie Crawford State: NV

One of my greatest pleasures is to watch a student go beyond sensually based knowledge into the world of the metaphysical and philosophical. I perceive the ability to process knowledge at these levels as essential to a successful and meaningful life.

Robert A. Crawford, FL

I teach because I enjoy seeing the 'lightbulb' of comprehension go off over my students' heads. I enjoy the challenge of presenting complex material in new ways ; constantly rethinking the material from new angles and aspects. This keeps my brain cells and more importantly my attitude continually young.

Kirk G. Daddow, IA

I would not describe teaching as my profession; for 33 years it has been more nearly an obsession. There is no greater satisfaction than to see students who begin to realize the great value in studying history, not only for their country, but for their personal lives as well.

James L. Dennis, WV

I enjoy working with students and seeing them grow. There is nothing like seeing a student's face light up when they realize that they can solve a problem or correctly complete a lab. I enjoy learning and I enjoy watching and helping students learn.

Susan A. Derrera, AK

The poet Randall Jarell said, "If I were a rich man, I'd pay money to teach." Where else can you share that passion of your life with people who are so open and hungry and full of promise that you end up, every year, falling in love again yet another hundred times?

Charles C. Doolittle, AL

My obligation: to share my own joy and love of the art of music; to affect lives through the power of music; to strengthen character with the discipline of music; and to illumine the presence of God in the mystery of music.

John Duffy, NY

I want to teach the perfect class:
I hope to "give", so all will pass.
I never want a lesson learned
Without the respect I clearly earned.
And when it's time for the final bell,
May all my students stand and yell:
"Don't cry for these minor remains;
Let's think of "us" and all our gains."

Peter Duynstee, MA

Being nationally recognized for my teaching is an honor I truly am gratified and humbled to have. My 29 years of teaching service have followed a path of constant focus on those truly remarkable students who have inspired me each and everyday to challenge, provoke and teach, individuality.

Ronald Eshleman, DE

I have been teaching chemistry for 39 years and I enjoy developing new ways of presenting the information. I have developed a method by which almost all chemistry problems can be solved without memorizing formulas. I also enjoy giving each element a personality. Metals are males (born losers) and nonmetals are females (born winners).

Gregg Farmer, GA

In my mind, there is no greater calling than to teach. The sight of a young person engaged in authentic learning provides intrinsic rewards unmatched in any other profession. It is an honor and a privilege to share the same profession with great leaders like Jesus, Socrates, and Booker T. Washington.

Craig L. Fawcett, OH

I bring into my classroom the daily ingredients of: enthusiasm for my subject matter; and honest love of literature, of writers who share frustrations and emotions, success and failures; the realization that I learn with and from my students, and that each student must be treated equally, honestly, professionally.

James Francis, ID

"Set the issue and let the students teach themselves." These words are my guiding light for lesson planning in all of my history classes, because history is a vehicle for thinking in a structured manner. Finding the best way to present a lesson on a particular day requires constant mental preparation; this is the time consuming, energizing element of teaching that I enjoy most.

Penny Frank, NY

Teaching, coaching young dancers, preparing them for the present, as well as the "next step" is "my mission". My reward is not the immediate many successes, but the joy in keeping in touch with the many gifted youngsters, who become prominent in their field-in being included in their lives as they move onward and upward.

Steven Frazer, CO

With students as gifted as Thornton High's Presidential Scholar Aaron Lee, I specialize in getting out of the way. I create a supportive environment, plant seeds of inquiry, and await the harvest. In Aaron's case, this resulted in a computer-aided visual display of fractal geometry, completed as a sophomore.

2000 Teacher Recognition Award Recipients Reflect on Teaching

Cheryl S. Freeman, VA

By modeling kindness, empathy, and appreciation of differences, I've tried to help students internalize values needed in our diverse society. Therefore, it was with great pride that I learned that Presidential Scholars, David Silver, not only lives these qualities, but chose to honor me for teaching him to be "nice".

Robert W. Gardner, CT

To me, successful teaching demands expertise in the form and substance of a given discipline. However, said knowledge of subject matter and teaching technique must be buttressed by strong doses of humanism in the classroom if a high degree of learning is to occur. Teaching is very much an art.

Leslie Gehlsen, MN

The joy that fills a student's face when they accomplish something brilliant. The light of recognition when the equation finally makes sense. The confidence that starts to grow. The "Thank you" which once again confirms that there is no better job than that of a teacher.

Marta Gephart, VT

The challenge of teaching language arts, grades 6-12, in a small rural school energizes me daily. My job consists of editing the school newspaper, heading Senior Project, Facilitating writing portfolios, writing across the curriculum, directing a play, working with kids as diverse as my job description. The more I give to them; the more I receive in return.

Jerre Glasgow, CA

There is no greater source of pride than having students come back to share with you their successes. Just having been a part of helping young men and young women reach their goals has been one of my life's greatest joys.

Tim Glover, TX

The "Tribute to Mark diSovero" Project was especially fulfilling as the students and I learned so much about ourselves and our medium through an extensive collaborative effort. The resulting performance brought us together in an unforgettable experience.

Daniel Heischman, DC

I love the idealism of young people, as well as the constant challenge they pose to me to live unlike a hypocrite, and be a person of integrity who is consistent and fair.

Miles Heller, VT

Teaching has always been an enjoyable experience for me because I know that what I am doing will help young people to lead more rewarding lives. The most rewarding part of teaching is when you hear from your former students and learn how well they are doing and that they have become positive, productive people.

Kathleen Hirsch, AL

We seek knowledge "of shoes-and ships, of cabbages-and kings." Lewis Carroll points to the "why"; I relate ideas to the understanding of "me". His white queen "believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast." As a teacher, each day I see miracles emerge before dinner.

Joe I. Holbrook, NJ

My greater pleasure is building critical thinking and outstanding non-routine problems solvers. We spend every Saturday and Sunday preparing for local, state, and national and international math contests. Students who are trained to fearlessly attack and solve these most difficult problems take this problem solving ability into any discipline they pursue. I am proudest of the large number that graduated from the most competitive universities. Basically they have learned to care, know how to give, and are able to achieve extraordinary things.

Laura "Koni" Hollerich, TX

My greatest sense of pride has come years after my students have left my classroom. I have watched over 25 students take the sense of "I can do..." they realized in my classroom, with them right through school. Every year since my classes began graduating, at least one of my students has graduated as a Valedictorian or Salutatorian, or both.

Dennis K. Hon, WV

I am sold on the Advanced Placement Program and know that it makes me accountable each year for what I have taught. I thoroughly enjoy taking difficult material like calculus and making it understandable to students who have never before seen it. I also am proud of the fact that our school has had two Presidential Scholars in its history. I was chosen as the most influential teacher both times; (1993 and 2000).

Jim Jefson, IA

Teaching students to understand concepts and solve problems in mathematics has made me richer than Bill Gates. I am thankful to have worked for nearly four decades with students most of whom would rather be challenged than coddled. Helping students develop confidence and appreciation for life has been very rewarding.

Tim Keogh, KY

Graduation Day "really makes me tick." Year after year as I watch each graduating senior walk across the stage, I celebrate the successes and failures, victories and disappointments, joys and frustrations, laughter and tears that I have shared with each of them on their journeys to this day.

James W. Lackey, NM

Above and beyond my desire to be the best mathematics teacher I could be, the driving force in my life as a teacher for the past thirty years has been to model the morals, enthusiasm, character and servanthood of Jesus Christ who was the greatest Teacher who has ever lived.

Michael LaGory, HI

One day I prepared a clever lecture but got sick and lost my voice. All I could do was write an occasional "Why?" or "Explain" on the board. With me silent, the students had a great discussion. I learned something that day too.

Roger W. Lakins, VI

Katharine Streibich and Joan Lippincott, a master teacher and a great artist, taught me that a teacher is simply an older student, that continuing curiosity, enthusiasm, love for learning and the humility to remain in awe of genius are essential. Better to help students find their gifts than impress them with mine.

Alfred Lampazzi, VA

Working with students like Julia Marsh has made my 22 years of teaching a rewarding experience. Julia's enthusiasm for learning is a constant source of motivation for me. I feel privileged to work with such talented students.

Patricia Laulainen, MN

I enjoy motivating, encouraging, and stimulating my students to love...learning!(Pooh and "friend" would educate Tigger.) I provide the smorgasbord, and their appetites vary, as they get a "taste" of education. No matter the architecture of their home, I try to help them build a solid foundation.

2000 Teacher Recognition Award Recipients Reflect on Teaching

Dayna Leaman, LA

I can see the look in their eyes and I knew we have something quite real and powerful. What I love about teaching is the very fact that I can learn something each day from them. It is an honor to know that I have the ability to touch their minds and their hearts; yet, most of all they touch mine.

Edwin A. S. Lewis, MD

I enjoy interacting with interested students in classrooms, laboratories, or anywhere. Discussions started by unexpected reactions or questions from students whose attention has been taught. Discovery of interesting, well-supported results by someone who has involved himself in a project and followed his own unique direction.

Barbara MacFarlane, AZ

Besides teaching AP U.S. History, I get great pleasure from supporting my students in either activities, such as: sports, drama, band, Mock Trial, Close-Up, and National Honor Society. The feedback I receive from my students is rewarding and parents have made it known that I've made a positive impact on their children.

Rodney G. Mahaffey, WY

I teach AP English and journalism, a program that includes three class levels and four publications (newspaper, yearbook, fine arts magazine, and a weekly page in Wyoming's largest newspaper). We read, write, discuss the best literature; in journalism we collaborate in a real world environment to produce publications of the highest scholastic stands...It doesn't get better than that!

Beverly Mairs, CA

"Mathematics is a game invented by man. Enter and learn the rules of the game." This quote is posted on my classroom door. It summarizes my attitude towards mathematics and the level of excitement I hope Elizabeth and other students exhibit towards this fascinating subject.

Andrea McKenzie, SD

I am Hungarian. I have lived in the USA for 8 years, but my European background (I have also lived in Germany and Russia) makes me "different" from the average mid-western foreign language teachers. I can provide my students with first-hand cultural information, things I experienced growing up in Europe.

Gary L. McLaughlin, WA

Teaching is an act of faith-faith that my preparation can make a difference for some students, faith that my attempts to connect students and my discipline-English-can result in students making connections for themselves. "The readiness is all" (Hamlet) is my guide for making this faith productive.

Gary M. Miles, PA

I try to be an Annie Sullivan to each of my students. When she gave Helen Keller the gift of language, she gave light to a dark life. By providing students language skills, I give them empowerment. Empowerment will give them the tools needed to avoid exploitation and keep them free.

James R. Miller, SD

Teaching and learning are an on-going process in my life. I am excited everyday at what I can share and what my students share with me. I often feel I draw my energy from this experience. The smiles, hellos, phone calls, letters, and visits from graduates tell me that the bond of sharing never ended at my classroom door.

2000 Teacher Recognition Award Recipients Reflect on Teaching

Joan Tomaszewski, RI

The best moments of teaching are when students:

- beam with sudden understanding
- discuss something I've taught
- connect with other disciplines
- concentrate so deeply I'm forgotten
- are surprised or saddened at class' end
- return to continue the discussion days-or years-later
- love what I teach as much as I do

Patricia Ustick, RI

There are wrinkles etched around my mouth. No, I am not a smoker. I am, rather, a laugher. Kids are incredibly funny and their bizarre behavior keeps me alert and ready to return in September or more. My Presidential Scholar, Benjamin Handel, helps me to maintain those laugh lines.

Lori Von Koenig, MI

It is a privilege to teach. Through the vehicle of music I work to instill in my students "life lessons" such as commitment, self-discipline, integrity and leadership to help them become the best people they can be. The real essence of teaching is to prepare students to succeed in whatever vocation they choose.

Ronald E. Walker, KS

One of the joys of teaching for me is the constant discovery of new ideas, strategies and understandings. Every time I read (or reread) a book, prepare and teach a class, I see things in a new and different way. That, and the observation of young people experiencing a similar sense of discovery continues to keep me in a classroom.

John Warthen, MA

Many of us began teaching because of reading Kozol, *Herndon*: life-changing classroom alchemists, firebrand iconoclasts in perennial states of outrage. These days, my hero-teachers are the patient ones—disappointed by an inert Friday class, upbeat and on Monday. That includes most of the teachers I know.

Lily C. Weiss, TX

In 25 years, I have taken an artistic journey with many students. What excites me the most about sharing my passion for dance is when that passion reaches epidemic proportions and learning becomes fun and exciting! I know that these students continue to share the beauty of art with the world and the possibilities become endless!

The Commission on Presidential Scholars and its Partners

The Commission on Presidential

The thirty-one member Commission is a group of eminent private citizens appointed by the President to select and honor the Presidential Scholars. Commissioners are selected from across the country, representing the fields of education, medicine, law, social services, business, and other professions. The Commissioners make the difficult choices of selecting Scholars from an initial pool of approximately 2,600 candidates who demonstrate exceptional accomplishments in academics and an outstanding commitment to public service.

The Commission invites the 141 Presidential Scholars and their Teachers to Washington, D.C. for National Recognition Week. Activities are funded through a public-private partnership of the Presidential Scholars Foundation and private corporate and philanthropic sources. As guests of the Commission, the Scholars meet with government officials, educators, authors, musicians, scientists, and other accomplished persons. Scholars also attend recitals, receptions, and ceremonies in their honor and visit museums and monuments of the nation's capital.

In celebration of 30 years of scholarship, leadership, service, and creativity, the Commission instituted two awards to honor and recognize the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations that have made so much possible for thousands of Presidential Scholars and Teachers. The two awards also honor, in name, the two presidents who initiated and expanded the Presidential Scholars Program.

The Commission held an arts competition among alumni Arts Scholars and selected a sculpture designed by Mr. Kevin Berlin. The sculpture, cast in bronze of museum quality, will be a lasting tribute to advocates and supporters of excellence in education. The awards were unveiled and presented (for the first time) at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on June 30, 1994. Kevin Berlin, a 1983 Presidential Scholar, chose his antique quill and inkwell design to be "a proud symbol of academic and artistic excellence."



*William H Banchs, president of the National Foundation for the Advancement in the Arts, 1999 Lyndon Baines Johnson Award recipient.
Photo credit: Robert Parente*

Prior winners of the Lyndon B. Johnson Award for Outstanding Contribution by an Individual are:

Eric F. Goldman
John M. Stalnaker
Scott McVay
Sanford C. Nemitz
First Lady Hillary Rodham
William L. Pressly
U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley
President Jimmy Carter
President Lyndon B. Johnson
James E. Farmer
William H. Banchs

Prior winners of the Jimmy Carter Award for Outstanding Contribution by an Organization are:

The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
The General Motors Corporation
The American Association for Gifted Children (AAGC)
The National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA)
The National Education Association (NEA)
The American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

Commission Members

Scholars and its Partners



Thomas Britton: New Hampshire
Commission Chair;
Marketing Manager for the Millipore Corporation in Massachusetts; native of New Hampshire; school board member of the Monadnock Regional School District; and local and state political activist.



Margaret Blackshere: Illinois
President of the Illinois AFL-CIO; former elementary school teacher; former assistant to the President of the Illinois Federation of Teachers; serves on numerous boards including: Voices for Illinois Children and the United Way of Illinois.



Valerie Crotty: Virginia
Consultant with the Young Americas Business Trust at the Organization of American States in Washington, DC and immediate past Chairman of the Florida Elections Commission. Ms. Crotty recently returned from a posting at the U.S. Embassy, Bridgetown where her late husband was the Ambassador to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.



Stewart C. Cureton: South Carolina
Pastor, Reedy River Baptist Church; Past President, the Baptist Education & Missionary Convention of South Carolina; Past Chairman of the Greenville, SC Urban League; newly President of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc. and Vice Chairman of Morris College Trustee Board.



Joseph D. DiVincenzo: New York
President, Tri-Star Enterprises, Inc., DiVincenzo Insurance Agency; Trustee of Erie Community College; former Commissioner, Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, and honoree of the Muscular Dystrophy Association of WNY.



Edith (Kit) Dobelle: Connecticut
Former White House Chief of Protocol in the Carter Administration; former Staff Director for former First Lady Rosalynn Carter; and an active civic and community leader.



Susan Friebert: Wisconsin
Executive Director of the Quality Education Commission, an education-business-community collaboration that monitors, evaluates, and supports education reform in the Milwaukee Public Schools; former teacher; serves on numerous non-profit boards; founding member of the board of the Digestive Disease Research Center created to enhance public awareness of digestive diseases and provide support for basic research at the Medical College of Wisconsin.



Susan Gaertner: Minnesota
Ramsey County Attorney — the fourth person to hold the office since 1933 and the first woman elected to the office; former Assistant Ramsey County Attorney for ten years.



William Marshall: Ohio

Current Deputy White House Counsel and, effective spring of 2001, he will be a Professor of Law at the University of North Carolina. Bill Marshall is a constitutional law scholar who has taught at several law schools throughout the country, including Northwestern, William and Mary, and DePaul University. He has published extensively on the issues of freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and mass media law. He has litigated numerous times before the United States Supreme Court.



Penny Miller: Kentucky

Director of Undergraduate Studies and Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Kentucky; chair of Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center and Kentucky Center for Public Issues; Research Director of Kids Voting Kentucky; member of the Kentucky Supreme Court's Gender Fairness in the Courts Monitoring Committee; former Chair of the Kentucky Commission on Women; author of three books on Kentucky politics and government.



Marilyn Monahan: Pennsylvania

A Vice President with MBNA America Bank, N.A. working on education initiatives in the MBNA Foundation; immediate past Secretary-Treasurer, National Education Association; former elementary teacher; outspoken public education advocate and champion of women's and civil rights; member of the United States Delegation to the 1995 United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, member of the Board of Directors for the National Women's Law Center.



Dan Morris: Colorado

Former high school math teacher and president of the Colorado Education Association. Currently a consultant to the US WEST Foundation and the National Education Association working on numerous telecommunications technology projects. Presently serving as vice-chair of the Colorado Education Goals Panel and is a member of the Colorado Technology Learning Committee, the Colorado Commission on Information Management.



Judith R. Olson: South Dakota

Community Education Director, Black Hills Special Services Cooperative; former supervisor, Community Education/Public Information, Rapid City Schools; former State Senator, South Dakota; and former adult basic education teacher. Ms. Olson is actively involved in a variety of public service programs and sits on several non-profit Boards such as Big Sisters/Big Brothers, the United Way, and Japanese Sister City.



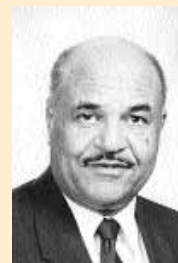
Nancy Ellison Rollnick: New York

Photojournalist and celebrity portraitist; subjects have included: President and Mrs. William J. Clinton, Boris Yeltsin, Joseph Brodsky, Isaac B. Singer, Sting, Harrison Ford, Bette Davis, Orson Welles, Headhunters of Borneo, Mosquito Indians of Central America, Dancers of the American Ballet Theatre, to name a few. Her most recent work, joining "Romeo and Juliet, The Love Story in Dance", is "Swan Lake" (May, 2000), and to be released this fall, "Barbie Live". She is a trustee of the National Trust for the Humanities.



James Shimoura: Michigan

Attorney in private practice in Troy, Michigan; serves on the board and advisor to numerous non-profit organizations; serves as a Special Assistant Attorney General for the State of Michigan and is an administrative hearing examiner for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. He presently serves as an Officer-at-Large for the Michigan Democratic Party and Co-Founder of Asian Pacific Democrats of Michigan.



Eddie L. Smith, Jr.: Mississippi

Mayor of the City of Holly Springs, Mississippi; member of numerous boards and commissions in Mississippi; former high school teacher, principal, college administrator and instructor. Mayor Smith holds a Bachelors of Arts Degree from Rust College, Holly Springs, Mississippi and a Master of Business Degree from the University of Miami, Florida.

The Presidential Scholars Foundation

The Presidential Scholars Foundation is a nonpartisan, non-profit organization authorized by the Commission on Presidential Scholars as the sole entity to expand and enhance the public-private partnership that makes the Presidential Scholars Program possible. The Foundation seeks to provide financial support for the Program, to develop and maintain an Alumni Society, and to ensure the future ability of the Commission to recognize the outstanding young adults who are annually named as Presidential Scholars. In reaching out to corporate and philanthropic America, the Foundation emphasizes the value of public awareness of the successes in education, and supports the mission of the Program to serve the "national interest [in encouraging] high attainment by students in secondary schools [and in enhancing] the accomplishments of such students generally and their potential after graduation." In creating an Alumni Society, the Foundation has given past Scholars an outlet for their enormous energy and devotion to the cause of unity in achievement and service. This Program is the highest national means to encourage and entice other students to reach for the stars. We are proud to continue to seek additional active members of the Society; potential members of the Board, and any one willing to devote time and energy to assure the continuation of this Program.

The Presidential Scholars Alumni Society

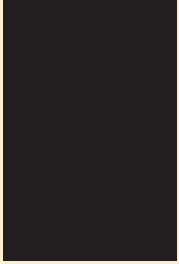
With over 5,000 United States Presidential Scholars having been selected beginning in 1964, the Scholars are well represented throughout the nation's industry, the sciences, the humanities, medicine, education, professions, the arts, and in service fields. Their diversity of interests, lifestyles, geographic regions, ages, and races are the gold mines of opportunity for them and for you, as you explore common interests in the issues of educational opportunity, community service, and friendship.

The mission of the Alumni Society, created in 1996, is to: uphold the values of the Presidential Scholars and to create an organization with the goal of public service; to use their diverse talents to enhance and increase the educational opportunities of American students; and to assist the Presidential Scholars Foundation in its mission of assuring the continuity of the Presidential Scholars Program.

The Alumni Society has several projects and activities underway. The Society's Advisory Council has created thirteen regional chapters, so that Alumni may meet and create on a more local basis, with convenient access. There is also a service project sponsored by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation that has yielded a number of fascinating internships; one Presidential Scholar is visiting Australia to work with a tropical forest. Another is working in the public defender's office in St. Louis. Yet another is in the emergency room of D.C. General Hospital. And finally, the Merck Company is continuing to support Presidential Scholars working as interns which we hope will serve as a prototype for other corporations to emulate.

For more in-depth information on these and other Alumni activities, see the June 2000 issue of the *Medallion* for more details.

2000 Presidential Scholar Advisors



Vidya Murthy

Advisor, 1997 Scholar (NJ)

Vidya Murthy is entering her senior year at Barnard College, New York City as a sociology major. In addition, she is a professional Classical Indian Dancer of fifteen years for which she was a Presidential Scholar in 1997. Some of her accomplishments to date include performances at Lincoln Center, the Asia Society, and for the Prime Minister of India in 1998. She currently resides in New York City, and she misses Stanley, the small and lovely dog that moved out of her apartment along with her ex-roommate Zuzanna.



Leonard Earl Howze

Advisor, 1995 Scholar (CA)

Leonard distinguishes himself as the oldest advisor in NRW history. A graduate of SUNY Purchase where he received a BFA in acting, Leonard anxiously awaits his upcoming ten-year reunion. In the meantime he'll continue "doing his thing" and "making it happen" while attempting to use the clout of his seniority to ensure that his children, who will soon be of age, will be Presidential Scholars themselves.



Paul Vronsky

Advisor, 1999 Scholar (WA)

College: a time to explore . . . the rain (it rains in Seattle). I am happy to be back as an advisor during NRW after a great first year of college. I am now an official Economics major in search of either a second major or some minors. Congratulations on your accomplishments! I would like everyone to know that I still wear my NRW t-shirt and pin EVERYWHERE I go.



Lauren Robinson

Advisor, 1999 Scholar (CO)

Excited to return as an advisor, Lauren just finished her freshman year at the University of Colorado-Boulder. Next year she will be returning to Farrand Hall, where she will be president of the hall council. Lauren is currently considering a double major in molecular biology and film studies [insert your own remark about how odd this combo seems here].



Lauren Holmes

Advisor, 1998 Scholar (KS)

Lauren has just finished another year at Dartmouth and she recently returned from studying in France. She is glad to be back in a country where people have heard of "deodorant". She is also glad to be back at NRW and she hopes everyone has a great time, because she is skipping a week of class to be here, and it better be fun.



DarAnne Dunning

Advisor, 1999 Scholar (MT)

DarAnne just completed her freshman year at the University of Montana (go state schools!), where she is majoring in Communications with minors in Art and Philosophy. This summer you can find her doing lots of useful things on the family cattle ranch and educating a new generation of UM freshman at summer orientations about the wonders of college living. DarAnne is often playing with her black lab Kudos and flyfishing on the river.



Eric Brown

Advisor, 1998 Scholar (OH)

Eric, a reformed physics major, now studies literature at Yale University where he will be a junior next year. He can't believe that just two years ago he was a bright-eyed young scholar and he looks forward to imparting the wisdom of his years to this years crop of scholars. Keep in mind also that Eric doesn't look anything like this picture anymore. Among the few things Eric dislikes is writing about himself.



Morgan Barense

Advisor, 1998 Scholar (RI)

I just finished my sophomore year at Harvard, and am totally perplexed as to how it is all going by so quickly - the last time I checked I was sixteen. I am majoring in cognitive neuroscience, and am looking forward to spending lots of time next year in the lab dissecting rat brains. After a fantastic NRW, I head to Spain and the University of Salamanca where I will take poetry and literature classes.

2000 Presidential Scholar Advisors



Joshua Vandiver

Advisor, 1999 Scholar (CO)

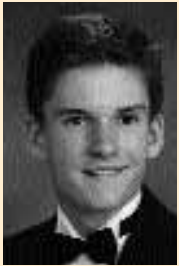
Joshua will be a sophomore at Colorado College, where he is pursuing a combined major in Classics-History-Politics with the inspired (read naïve) conviction that 2000-year-old thinkers possess much with which to enrich the present. He's a skier, swimmer, hiker, and traveler. He hails from a booming metropolis (population 550). He'll also be attending the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia later this summer. Go George W!



Stephanie Wang

Advisor, 1999 Scholar (CA)

Stephanie just completed a great freshman year at Harvard, where she discovered a love for rain and bad weather, a greater love for the wonderful friends she made, and a general contentment with her music studies and Social Studies major. She plans to spend the rest of her summer wrestling with her California-Boston identity crisis, since she is having problems acclimating to the sun again. She is psyched to be at NRW again!



Jeffrey Kramer

Advisor, 1999 Scholar (TX)

Jeffrey, a math and European history major, will be a sophomore at Wake Forest University this fall. After a wonderful time as a scholar in 1999, Jeff is looking forward to returning and meeting more interesting people this year. In addition to his fascination with Charlemagne, Jeff has a passion for baseball that borders on obsession and has made it a personal goal to ensure that all scholars understand that "On-Base-Percentage" is more meaningful than the simple "Batting Average." You'll be that much smarter for it!

Acknowledgments from Thomas E. Britton

On behalf of the Commission on Presidential Scholars, the Presidential Scholars Program and the Presidential Scholars Foundation, I wish to thank the people and organizations that have contributed time, talent and financial resources to making National Recognition Week 2000 activities possible:

Our heartfelt thanks go to President and Mrs. Clinton, Vice-President and Mrs. Gore, and U.S. Secretary of Education, Richard Riley for your endless support of the Presidential Scholars Program and efforts to raise education standards throughout the nation.

Very special thanks to Kimberly Watkins-Foote, the Executive Director of the Presidential Scholars Program for her continued leadership and tireless service to the Program, Commission, and the Presidential Scholars Foundation.

Special thank you to Ronnie Liebowitz, A Graham Down, and the Board of Directors of the Presidential Scholars Foundation for providing the financial resources that make Recognition Week possible and for their leadership and support in developing and maintaining an Alumni Society.

National Recognition Week activities and other related program services would not be possible without the generous support of the benefactors who believe so much in this outstanding program. Our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your strong support.

For further information on the Presidential Scholars Program, contact:

The Presidential Scholars Program
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-3500

Autographs

2 0 0 0 P R E S I D E N T I A L S C H O L A R S