

Honorable mentions

Laura Adkins



School: York Community High School
Hometown: Elmhurst
Parents: Mary Jean and Rich Adkins

School sponsor: Michael Pavlik, assistant director of bands
Class rank: 4 out of 623

Test scores: ACT: 36; SAT: 2300
Planned college major: Music performance and education

Awards, honors: Citizenship Award; National Merit finalist; Illinois State Scholar; National Honor Society; honor roll; Presidential Scholar; Scholastic Bowl; Thespian Society; Band staff and elected officer; Illinois Music Educators' Association district and all-state; Concerto competition winner; High School Mathematics Honor Society

Kelly Anderson



School: Benet Academy
Hometown: Bolingbrook
Parents: Steven and Mary Anderson

School sponsor: Amy Wesley, senior counselor
Class rank: 2 out of 323

Test scores: ACT: 32; SAT: 2130
Planned college major: Spanish and mathematics

Awards, honors: Commended National Merit Scholar; AP Scholar; Illinois State Scholar; Who's Who Among American High School Students in 2006 and 2007; National Foreign Language Honors

Leah Bridle



School: Wheaton North High School
Hometown: Wheaton
Parents: Sam and Pat Bridle

School sponsor: Scott Lilly, guidance counselor
Class rank: 2 out of 536

Test scores: ACT: 34
Planned college major: Zoology

Awards, honors: National Merit Finalist; AP Scholar; Illinois State Scholar; honor roll; National Honor Society; varsity volleyball captain; All-conference honorable mention; Academic All-Conference

Olga Bryazka



School: Willowbrook High School
Hometown: Elmhurst
Parents: Michael and Irene Bryazki

School sponsor: Charles Sheridan, teacher
Class rank: 1 out of 531

Test scores: ACT: 32
Planned college major: Architecture

Awards, honors: Illinois State Scholar; AP Scholar; National Achievement scholarship program; District 88's Best; Outstanding Freshman Award; Elmhurst College 3D Distinction Award; honor roll; National Honor Society; math team; Student of the Quarter in Foreign Language; Social Science Honor Society; drama; history; math team state qualifier; science; most improved in athletics

Genevieve DiMarco



School: Waubonsie Valley High School
Hometown: Naperville
Parents: Joseph and Florence DiMarco

School sponsor: Mark Jager, guidance counselor

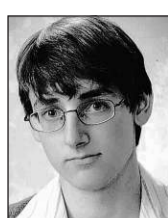
Class rank: 2 out of 825

Test scores: ACT: 35; SAT: 2270

Planned college major: Materials science and engineering

Awards, honors: AP Scholar with honors; National Merit Finalist; Illinois State Scholar; honor roll

Andrew Dorsey



School: Glenbard East High School
Hometown: Lombard
Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Craig Dorsey

School sponsor: Robert McBride, principal
Class rank: 3 out of 612

Test scores: ACT: 34; SAT: 2220
Planned college major: Journalism, history and German

Awards, honors: National Merit finalist; National Honor Society; Illinois State Scholar; honor roll; math team; Scholastic Bowl

Matt Guerrieri



School: York High School
Hometown: Elmhurst
Parents: Margie and John Guerrieri

School sponsor: David Wetta, honors English teacher
Class rank: 5 out of 623

Test scores: ACT: 33; SAT: 2290
Planned college major: Biochemical engineering

Awards, honors: National Merit finalist; Illinois State Scholar; Spanish Honors Society; Presidential Scholar; honor roll

Megan Hannan



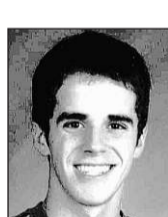
School: Lisle Senior High School
Hometown: Lisle
Parents: Tom and Jane Hannan

School sponsor: Karin M. Irvine, guidance counselor
Class rank: 1 out of 117

Test scores: ACT: 32
Planned college major: Psychology

Awards, honors: Illinois State Scholar; National Merit Commended Scholar; High Honor Roll; Interstate 8 Academic All-Conference

Andrew Hirschel



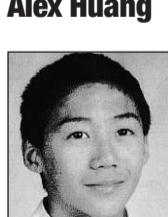
School: Naperville Central High School
Hometown: Naperville
Parents: Amy and Anthony Hirschel

School sponsor: Pam McNeely, gifted services counselor
Test scores: ACT: 34; SAT: 2300

Planned college major: Political science, international studies and Spanish

Awards, honors: Nelson's Today Top Student; classroom leadership awards; Daily Herald Leadership Team, honorable mention; National Merit finalist; AP Scholar; Illinois State Scholar; National Honor Society; honor roll

Alex Huang



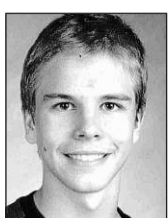
School: Fenton High School
Hometown: Bensenville
Parents: David and Kuei-Mei Huang

School sponsor: Robert Ruzich, mathematics teacher
Class rank: 1 out of 361

Test scores: ACT: 32
Planned college major: Engineering

Awards, honors: Top 10, Class of 2008; high honor roll; School's Finest recognition; National Honor Society; AP Scholar; Illinois State Scholar; varsity letter winner and team captain, cross-country; math team state qualifier

Jonathan Irving



School: Wheaton North High School
Hometown: Wheaton
Parents: Mark and Louanne Irving

School sponsor: Carol McCallum, guidance counselor
Class rank: 6 out of 536

Test scores: ACT: 34; SAT: 2230
Planned college major: Business and political science

Awards, honors: Gold Honor Roll; Student of the Semester in English, history and P.E.; All-Conference and All-Sectional academic teams; National Merit Commended Scholar; National Honor Society; AP Scholar; Illinois State Scholar; Illinois Scholastic Bowl; National High School Quiz Bowl; president of German Honor Society; first-chair award in band; All-Conference and All-Sectional athletic teams; math honor society

Margaret Kowieski



School: Immaculate Conception High School
Hometown: Elmhurst
Parents: Kathy and John Kowieski

School sponsor: Jean Field, guidance counselor
Class rank: 4 out of 56

Test scores: ACT: 31
Planned college major: Graphic design and marketing

Awards, honors: Illinois State Scholar; Wendy's High School Heisman State Finalist; U.S. Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award; honor roll; National Honor Society; Girl's State delegate; Hugh O'Brian conference representative; student government member and class officer; Student of the Month; President of National Honor Society and Student Council; drama; chorus; English American Library of Poetry winning poem; math department award; Illinois Junior Academy of Science state finalist; School Pride award; Team Leader award, volleyball; All-Academic Team for conference in volleyball and soccer; IHSA Scholastic Achievement Award

Elisa Lieb



School: Glenbard East High School
Hometown: Lombard
Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lieb

School sponsor: Robert McBride, principal
Class rank: 7 out of 612

Test scores: ACT: 33; SAT: 2040
Planned college major: Biology

Awards, honors: Illinois State Scholar; Outstanding sophomore band member; Illinois Music Educators Association All-state musician; National Honor Society officer; Scholastic Bowl; math team; student government member and president; speech; drum major; IMEA All-state musician; jazz band; Illinois Music Educators Association Honor Band; math and athletics

Salvatore Lombardi III



School: Fenton High School
Hometown: Wood Dale
Parents: Salvatore and

Kimberly Lombardi

School sponsor: Michael Laudermitz, teacher
Class rank: 4 out of 361

Test scores: ACT: 33
Planned college major: Pre-medicine

Awards, honors: Illinois State Scholar; graduation marshal; School's Finest/top 5 percent in class; Honor Roll; National Honor Society; AP Scholar; NCTE National Writing Competition; swim team co-captain; homecoming king; athletic leadership summit

Megan Martis



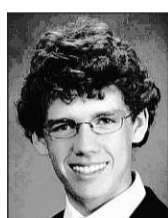
School: Glenbard West High School
Hometown: Glen Ellyn
Parents: Greg and Michele Martis

School sponsor: Chris Lubiniecki, guidance counselor
Class rank: 4 out of 489

Test scores: ACT: 34
Planned college major: Biology

Awards, honors: Outstanding Junior Social Studies Scholar 2007; Outstanding Freshman Social Studies Scholar 2005; Illinois State Scholar; French Honor Society; National Merit commended scholar; honor roll; National Honor Society; Scholastic Bowl; West Suburban Conference Academic Achievement Award

Eric McKee



School: St. Francis High School
Hometown: Naperville
Parents: Diane Zurbruggen and Roger McKee

School sponsor: Trudy Rigney, director of guidance
Class rank: 2 out of 181

Test scores: ACT: 35
Planned college major: Actuarial science

Awards, honors: Global Issues Seminar at Notre Dame; Risk Management Challenge, Illinois State; AP Scholar with Honors; National Merit Finalist; honor roll; National Honor Society; Illinois State Scholar; Student of the Month in Religion, Fine Arts and Social Studies; honor band; bass drum section leader; math team state qualifier; Academic All-Conference; tennis conference champion in junior varsity and varsity singles and doubles

Daniele Milazzo



School: Addison Trail High School
Hometown: Addison
Parents: Michael and Sandra Milazzo

School sponsor: Kurt Haberl, English department chairman
Class rank: 4 out of 454

Test scores: ACT: 34
Planned college major: Animal sciences or chemistry; pre-veterinary studies

Awards, honors: District Best; Physics Student of the Year; honor roll; National Honor Society; Illinois State Scholar; Illinois Math League

Erica Nellesen



School: Wheaton Academy
Hometown: Glen Ellyn
Parents: Mary and Jeff Nellesen

School sponsor: Dan Crabtree, college counselor
Test scores: ACT: 32

Planned college major: Christian education and ministry with Spanish minor

Awards, honors: National Merit commended scholar; high honor roll; Alumni Achievement Award; National Honor Society; Illinois State Scholar; bronze medalist in National Spanish exam; ACSI Math

Monika Rastogi



School: Downers Grove North High School
Hometown: Oak Brook
Parents: Al and Pat Rastogi

School sponsor: Mary Ann Watson, guidance counselor
Class rank: 2 out of 565

Test scores: ACT: 36
Planned college major: English, pre-medicine

Awards, honors: Rensselaer Medal Award; National Merit Commended Scholar; Gold Math Award; Illinois State Scholar; honor roll; Presidential Scholar Invited; Link Crew Leader; speech team, fifth in original oratory in 2007 and 11th in oratorical declamation in 2008; NCTE Nominee; Academic Award of Excellence in English; Math State qualifier 2005 and 2007; Athletics West Suburban Conference Medalist in 2004 and Sectional Qualifier in 2007; IHSA Scholastic Achievement Award and All-Academic Team candidate

Douglas W. Selby



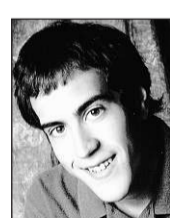
School: Community High School
Hometown: West Chicago
Parents: William and Michaelleen Selby

School sponsor: Nancy Blume, business teacher and FBLA advisor
Class rank: 1 out of 492

Test scores: ACT: 32
Planned college major: Computer engineering

Awards, honors: Illinois State Scholar; Outstanding Mathematics Award; National Honor Society; National Merit Semifinalist; honor roll; Scholastic Bowl; Future Business Leaders of America; student government and class officer; school webmaster; Schedule Collaboration committee member; Two-time varsity letter winner in soccer; three-time varsity letter winner in track; Academic All-conference

Daniel Spiotta



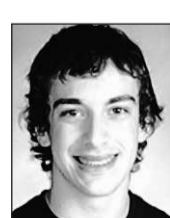
School: Wheaton Academy
Hometown: Wheaton
Parents: Ronald and Anne Spiotta

School sponsor: Dan Crabtree, college counselor
Test scores: ACT: 32

Planned college major: Music, English literature

Awards, honors: National Merit finalist; top scorer in ACSI Midwest Region Algebra II and Pre-calculus Competition; National Honor Society president; Illinois State Scholar; honor roll

Matthew R. Straus



School: Naperville North High School
Hometown: Lisle
Parents: Stuart, Donna and Roberta Straus

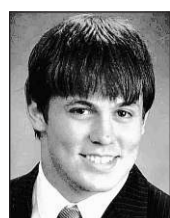
School sponsor: Thomasina B. Johnson, guidance counselor
Test scores: ACT: 35; SAT: 2270

Planned college major: Economics and political science

Awards, honors: National Merit Finalist; AP Scholar; Illinois State Scholar; National Honor Society

vice president; Math State Orals third place; honor roll; Packer Engineering's eight-week internship; math team; Scholastic Bowl team and captain; third place in conference for rings and pommel horse in gymnastics

Danny Sufanski



School: St. Francis High School
Hometown: Wheaton
Parents: Bruce and Annette

Sufanski

School sponsor: Trudy Rigney, director of guidance
Class rank: 1 out of 181

Test scores: ACT: 32; SAT: 2170
Planned college major: Political science/undecided

Awards, honors: National Merit Finalist; AP Scholar with Distinction; Dartmouth Book Club Award; honor roll; National Honor Society; Illinois State Scholar; Scholastic Bowl; Student of the Month in religion and fine and performing arts; varsity football captain; Kairos leader; band section leader; Daily Herald All-Area Honorable Mention; All-Conference; Academic All-Conference; nominated for IHSA All-Academic Team

Lauren White



School: Driscoll Catholic High School
Hometown: Addison
Parents: Patricia and

Frank White

School sponsor: James Maggiore, director of guidance
Class rank: 3 out of 106

Test scores: ACT: 33
Planned college major: Undecided

Awards, honors: Chemistry Department Award; National Merit Commended Scholar; Illinois State Scholar; honor roll; National Honor Society; student government; Student of the Month; editor-in-chief of school newspaper

Donna Yeung



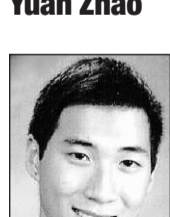
School: Addison Trail High School
Hometown: Addison
Parents: Allen and Melody Yeung

School sponsor: Kurt Haberl, English department chairman
Class rank: 3 out of 484

Test scores: ACT: 33; SAT: 2290
Planned college major: Business or engineering

Awards, honors: District's Best, Math League winner; Science Olympiad state qualifier; National Honor Society; AP Scholar; Illinois State Scholar; honor roll

Yuan Zhao



School: Neuqua Valley High School
Hometown: Naperville
Parents: Meishan Zhao and LinLin Cal

School sponsor: Valerie Adams, guidance counselor
Class rank: 1 out of 999

Test scores: ACT: 35; SAT: 2310
Planned college major: Chemistry/biochemistry

Awards, honors: Intel Science Talent Search semi-finalist; Siemens-Westinghouse Competition semifinalist; National Merit finalist; Illinois State Scholar; AP Scholar; honor roll; Math Team captain

Meet the judges

We recruited judges from each of our four main coverage areas — Northwest suburban Cook County, Lake County, DuPage County and the Fox Valley — to analyze the nominations and pick the winners.

The process is blind, so judges did not know the names of the schools, or the students, they were judging. Additionally, the judges assess students from a coverage area different from their home cov-

erage area. The judges were:

- Dan Detzner, Conant High School teacher
- Jeff Doles, Barrington High School teacher
- Paul Drennan, Willowbrook High School, director of guidance
- Stacia Hill, Lisle, sales and account management and

volunteer

- Bill Leensvaart, retired Glenbard South High School principal
- Janice Matthews, superintendent, Oak Grove District 68
- Joanna Medwick, principal at Franzen Intermediate School in Itasca
- Kent Mutchler, superin-

tendent, Geneva Unit District 304

- Jeff Nehila, director, Round Lake Area Park District
- Ray Rogina, retired high school teacher and part-time college instructor
- Tony Sanders, director of communications, Elgin U-46 School District

• Dottie Sievert, retired principal, Wheeling High School

- Joanne Weick, Hawthorn Woods trustee
- John Whitehurst, assistant principal, Antioch High School
- Gary Wright, former principal, Hampshire Elementary School