

# *Saginaw Valley High School Association*

## *32nd Annual Scholar-Athlete 21st Teacher of the Year Awards Banquet*

*Horizons Conference Center  
Wednesday, April 29, 2015*



*Mrs. Judy Cox, President*

*Mr. Pete Ryan, Executive Director*

*Mr. John Kirk, Commissioner of Officials*

*Mr. Marty Gottesman, Commissioner of Schedules*

### *Superintendents*

*Bay City - Mr. Doug Newcombe*

*Carman Ainsworth - Dr. Steve Tunnichliff*

*Davison - Mr. Eric Lieske*

*Flint - Mr. Larry Watkins, Interim*

*Lapeer - Mr. Matt Wandrie*

*Midland - Mr. Michael Sharrow*

*Mt. Pleasant - Mike Pung*

*Powers Catholic - Mr. Bill Haley*

*Saginaw - Dr. Kelley Peatross, Interim*

*Saginaw Township - Mr. Doug Trombley*

# **Agenda**

**Pete Ryan**

*Executive Director, SVHSA*

**Lunch**

**Introductions**

*Head Table, Media*

*Selection Process Explanation*

**Welcome**

**Mrs. Judy Cox**

*Principal, Bay City Western*

*President, Saginaw Valley League*

*2014-15*

**Mr. Pete Ryan**

*Introduction of Principals*

**Presentation of Framed Certificates for Scholar-Athletes**

**32nd Year**

**Presentation of Plaques for SVHSA Teachers of the Year**

**21st Year**

**Bay City Central High School: Tim Marciniak, Principal  
Morley Fraser, Athletic Director/Assistant Principal**

**Julia Bublitz** is the daughter of Kevin & Kim Bublitz. She has a GPA of 4.227 and is the Salutatorian of her senior class.

Julie has participated in volleyball, swimming, bowling, soccer and softball. She was named to the SVL All-Academic Team in all of these sports. She was also named to the All-State Bowling Team this year.

On top of participating in these sports this year Julia has also accumulated over 400 volunteer hours. She is also a member of the choir, student council, drama club, national honor society just to name a few of her extra-curricular activities.

When asked what high school sports meant to her, Julia responded “High School athletics have instilled in me a plethora of life lessons that will benefit me for the rest of my life. Furthermore, the balance required between academics and sports will help as I continue to busy myself with clubs and organizations in college.”

Julie will be attending the University of Michigan next fall.



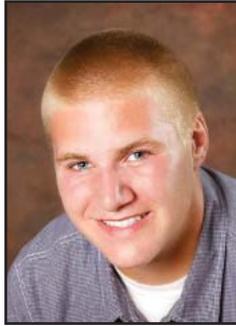
**Chris Jacobs** is the son of Larry and Kelly Jacobs. He has a GPA of 3.85.

Chris has participated in football, basketball and track for four years at Central. He is a two time first team award winner in football and was also named to the Detroit News All-State Team this past fall. Chris has been named to the SVL All-Academic Team in all three of these sports.

On top of participating in these sports Chris was a student council senator, member of the National Honor Society, member of the Drama Club and a participant in the Habitat for Humanity.

When asked what high school sports meant to him, Chris responded “From athletics, I have learned great leadership and responsibility skills. They have showed me that not everything will be easy and you have to be able to manage your time between sports and school.”

Chris will be attending Northwood University on a football scholarship.



**Bay City Western High School: Judy Cox, Principal  
Mike Thayer, Athletic Director/Assistant Principal**

**Madison Marciniak** carries a 4.19 GPA. Madison is the daughter of Cathy Marciniak and Tim Marciniak. Madison was selected as the Scholar-Athlete her sophomore year and is the Founder of the Positive Post Pledge Club. Madison has been on the Cross Country and Track team all four years of High School. She was selected as the Saginaw Valley League's Athlete of the Year in 2014 for Cross Country. Madison has qualified for the Cross Country State Finals all four years as well as being Academic All-State all four years. Madison has been First Team All-Valley her four years of HS, the Cross Country County Champion her freshman and senior years, and the SVL Champion her senior year.



Madison plans on attending Grand Valley State University in the fall. She will be run Cross Country and Track for GVSU. Madison plans on going into Medicine and will begin Pre-Medical studies this fall at GVSU.

**Christian Schoenherr** carries a 4.41 GPA. He is ranked 2nd in his senior class. Christian is the son of Bethany and Steven Schoenherr. Christian was the Voice of Democracy Essay Contest District winner in 2012, has received National Merit Commendation in 2014, AP Scholar with Distinction in 2014, and scored a 35 on his ACT. Also, Christian is serving as the National Honors Society President. Concerning athletic participation; Christian has played three years of football, one year of lacrosse, and four years of wrestling.



While on the wrestling team; Christian has been the Bay County Champion 3x, SVL Champion 2x, Academic All-State 3x, and at the Individual State Championships he has finished 2nd in 2013, 4th in 2014, and was the State Champion in 2015.

Christian is undecided on his college choice but has narrowed his choices to Cornell, Michigan, and Colorado School of the Mines.

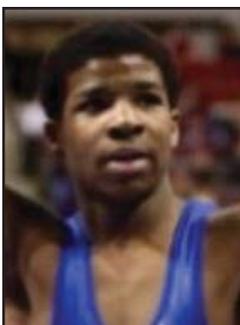
**Carman-Ainsworth High School: Debbie Davis, Principal**  
**Kevin Foltz, Athletic Director/Assistant Principal**  
**Bob Root, Athletic Director**

**Jessica Smith** is a senior scholar athlete, team captain, and two-time MVP of the Carman-Ainsworth volleyball team. Jessica has been a varsity volleyball and softball player for all four years of her high school career. Jessica received All Big Nine Honorable Mention her freshman year in volleyball. She was First Team All-League for her remaining three years playing volleyball for the Cavaliers and earned All-Region honors as a sophomore and junior. Jessica has had to overcome some challenges this past year, as a shoulder injury last summer made it difficult for her to earn the third All-Region honor. Jessica was named to the All-Academic Volleyball Team for the last three seasons of her career. During her time as a Cavalier, Jessica has played in 453 volleyball games and has accumulated the following statistics:



Service 1294/1381 (94%), 777 Service Points, 203 Aces, Attacks 2664/2960 (90%), 941 Kills, Digs 1480/1876 (79%) Jessica has also been a leader for the Cavalier Softball Team. She is a returning All Saginaw Valley League player and has great hopes for herself and her teammates this season. After high school Jessica plans to further her education at Mott Community College. She plans to attend Mott for her first two years, and later transfer to a university to complete her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing.

**Milik Dawkins** is a senior at Carman-Ainsworth High School. During his four years at CAHS Milik has found himself on the Honor Roll, a part of the Big 9 All-Academic Teams, Saginaw Valley All-Academic Team, and The Michigan High School All-Academic Team for wrestling and football. Milik has taken numerous Advance Placement classes while playing football and wrestling for CAHS. He has been a four year varsity athlete in both sports and has maintained a 3.86 GPA. Milik was named to the "Michigan Dream Team" and was a NHSCA All-American, and two-time National Champion in wrestling. This past season Milik was the runner-up in the MHSAA finals in the 160 lb. weight class that went into overtime.



This past February, Milik was recognized as the Kiwanis Male-Athlete of the month for his accomplishments in athletics and in the classroom. Aside from being a scholar-athlete, Milik has also enjoyed spending time as a volunteer at Mt. Moriah Church serving as a youth director. He has also volunteered as a coach and mentor to kids through the Big Brothers and Big Sisters organization of Flint as well as a number of other volunteer activities.

Milik plans to graduate from Carman-Ainsworth High School with high honors and further his education at Cornell University, Purdue, or The University of Pennsylvania. Milik plans to enter the medical field like his older brother Milton and become a doctor.

## **Davison High School: Matt Shanafelt, Principal Dave Beamer, Athletic Director**

**Kristina Button** has a GPA 4.02, playing Volleyball & Track. SVL, Volleyball: First team All League & All Region, Track & Field: 2<sup>nd</sup> team All State & All League, All Academic in both sports, Team Captain. She is involved with DECA, National Honor Society Secretary and over 120 hours of community service.

Kristina Button brings to all of her activities energy, enthusiasm, commitment, and a drive to excel like no other. This is to be expected in any successful student, athlete, and active citizen of the community. She always seems to be looking for ways to better herself and service others. She has been ever-willing to work hard at establishing trusting relationships around the school with all. She truly has a deep-rooted spirit of helpfulness that I believe has come from her personal life and her parents, who have done an amazing job in raising her. Because of this and her dedication to her two sports, volleyball and track, Kristina has gained a great attitude, basic values, and good moral character. Young people like Kristina do not normally command or demand attention but simply do what is right in class, on the playing field, and in the community because it is engrained into her moral values.

Any task that I have seen Kristina take on, has been accomplished with a very positive attitude, and a “work hard” mentality, regardless of the situation that she finds herself in. She is an amazing teammate both on and off the playing field and is seen as a go to teammate for encouragement and mental toughness when needed. Her dedication to excellence is seen in the classroom just as much as in the world of sports, proving herself to be the ultimate student – athlete, as a team captain with a 4.02 GPA. Has competed in the D! Track & Field State Championships the last three years, hoping to make it four. In Volleyball, she has helped her Varsity team go to Regionals two out of the last three years, and went to the district finals this year. You couldn’t ask for a better young person to represent the Davison Cardinals!

**Frank Vukaj** has a GPA 3.4, SVL-South Boy’s- Basketball League Co-MVP: Avg- 20 pts, 15 rebounds, & 5 blocks per game, 2 time SVL South - 1st Team and Team Captain. Last year Frank was honorable mention All-State by BCAM and we’re hoping he’s on BCAM’s BEST and possibly AP, All State Teams this season -

Community: Hill Elementary Reading Buddy Mentor, Youth Basketball Official, and Summer Basketball Camp worker: each for the past 3 years.

Reader on Mlive “I had the wonderful pleasure of meeting Frank at Swartz Creek High School. The Davison Varsity Volleyball team was competing in the MHSAA district against Swartz Creek. He was the LEADER of his classmates as they chanted and cheered for the Davison Volleyball team. He returned the next night as Davison played Lapeer in the District final. Even though the team lost the contest to Lapeer, Frank was loudly encouraging the girls until the final point. He is a fine example of great sportsmanship, leadership and citizenship. His parents must be truly proud of him.” – Anonymous Reader

The post that was written above is a great indication as to the kind of young man Frank has grown to become as a basketball player and a human being. He has been the face of not only the basketball program but also the DC Athletic program this year and has helped to set the bar extremely high for present and future student athletes coming up as students, athletes, and community members. Frank approaches everything he does with the same high intensity and passion. He is everyone’s favorite teammate and friend because they know he would do anything to help out for a positive cause! I couldn’t think of anyone that better demonstrates all of the great attributes of a student-athlete as Frank Vukaj.



**Flint Northwestern High School: Tim Green, Principal  
Mike Thompson, Athletic Director**

**Na'kyah Wright** is the daughter of Lisa Anderson and Damontay Wright. Na'kyah was a 4 year member of our girl's basketball team where she played the last two years on varsity. She was co-captain her senior year. She also played varsity volleyball for 3 seasons where she was voted team MVP and she also was team captain. Na'kyah is Senior Class President and received an ACT SCORE OF 19. She will be attending Michigan State in the fall where she will be studying to be a pediatrician. Na'kyah was a Majorette Dancer in the marching band for three years and is ranked 3rd in her senior class. Her community service includes Peer mentoring/tutoring, donating blood to Red Cross, baby sitting, fundraising for school events, and putting together school dances. She also ran the school store. Vice President of the National Honors Society, she has been on the honor roll since the 9th grade. This year she has maintained a 4.1 GPA.

**Deonte Hopkins** is the son of Robert & Trina Hopkins.

Deonte Hopkins has maintained a gpa of 3.5 he was a member of Northwestern basketball team for two years where he averaged 15.2 pts., 3.2 assists, and 3.1 steals a game. He was first team All Valley and Honorable Mention All State his junior year. In his senior year he averaged 17.4 pts., 4.2 assists and 3.1 steals. He was 2nd team All Valley and Honorable Mention All State. Deonte also ran varsity track for 2 years and varsity cross country for 2 years. Deonte was a member of our after school program Teen Quest where he help mentor our younger students. He also volunteers in the athletic director's office where he performs different duties, where he received over 120 community service hours. Deonte is also a very active member in his church. He is undecided in his college choice as he is taking his official visit.

**Flint Southwestern Academy: Cheryl Tate, Principal  
Ernie Stewart, Athletic Director**



**Lapeer High School: Doug Lindsay & Tim Zeeman Principals  
Shad Spilski, Asst. Principal/Athletic Director**

**Annika Grupp** is the daughter of Janet Schwenzer and Matthias Grupp. She carried a 4.07 GPA while participating in four years of Volleyball, three years of Tennis, at Lapeer High School. Flint Metro League Scholar Athlete Award Varsity Volleyball 10th, Flint Metro League All Conference Award 2nd team 11th, Saginaw Valley



League 2nd team volleyball 12th grade and All Academic Volleyball team. Annika has held leadership positions as National Honor Society president 12th grade, Links council vice president 12th grade, Peer Resistance four years, pep club 12th grade and High Honors four years.

In the community, Annika volunteered at the Lapeer Rec. Center 4-6th grade volleyball team coach.

Through participating in athletics, I have learned the importance of communication and dedication. These skills go hand in hand on a team, as it was essential for all teammates to be on the same page and put in hard work to achieve goals. These are skills I will use in college to dedicate myself to academic success.

This fall I will attend Oakland University and major in Biology. I plan on furthering my education in medical school to become a doctor.

**Bradley Miller** is the son of Jane and Jeffrey Miller. He carried a 4.07 GPA while participating in JV wrestling and Varsity Soccer 2012-2014 and captain in 2014. He was All League Second team in Soccer 2014. Bradley has held leadership positions as a member of the National Honor Society for three years, Vice President 2014 & 2015, Omni Council member 2014, 2015. Honor honors 2012 thru 2014, Family Consumer Science Departmental Award 2012, Flint Metro League Math-Science Competition 3rd place, 2014 Mott Community College Mathematics Competition 11th place in 2014 and 7th place in 2015.



Bradley also participated in the FIRST Robotics team 5460, 2015, Lapeer High Math Club and Leadership Seminar, 2014. He has volunteered at the Flint North End Kitchen, Summer Youth Soccer camp and did private tutoring for two years.

This fall Bradley will attend Michigan State University Lyman Briggs College and Honors College for an education in neuroscience. He intends to pursue a career in neurosurgery and neuroscience research. He also plans to receive some education in computer science and/ or mathematics.

**Midland High School: Janet Greif, Principal  
Eric Albright, Athletic Director**

**Mariah Sherman** is the daughter of Marc and Julie Sherman. She has carried a 4.28 GPA while participating in four years of volleyball and track at Midland High School. Mariah has held leadership positions as a member of the National Honor Society, has served as a counselor at Camp Newaygo, and is involved in Big Brothers Big Sisters of Midland County.



“Athletics has taught me to be disciplined to my time commitments, push to the finish line, and not to quit.”

Mariah will study psychology at Michigan Tech. and play volleyball.

**Ravdeep Dhingra** is the son of Sandeep and Raveena Dhingra. He has participated in swim, cross-country, and track at Midland High School. Ravdeep is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, and orchestra at MHS; serving as the treasurer of the orchestra.



“Athletics has taught me that the human body is physically capable of many things, but with teamwork, unit cohesion, and a positive attitude you can accomplish more.”

Prior to his senior year, Ravdeep was selected to attend the West Point Summer Leadership Experience and after graduation will study engineering at the United States Naval Academy while serving in the Marine Corps.

**H.H. Dow High School: Pam Kastl, Principal  
Ted Davis, Asst. Principal/Athletic Director**

**Jenna Queary** and her parents Fred and Tina Queary. Jenna carries a 4.51 weighted GPA and a 3.96 non-weighted GPA at Dow High School. Jenna is a member of National Honor Society and ranked in the top 5% of her graduating class. Jenna has been a member of the volleyball and basketball programs for 4 years. She has received All-Academic SVL Conference award for 3 years in both volleyball and basketball. Jenna was named to the SVL 1st team in basketball and honorable mention in volleyball.



Jenna has been part of many community activities such as Breast Cancer Awareness fundraisers, volunteering at her church and working as a camp counselor at the Midland Community Center. Jenna's art work has been selected as a finalist for the new Midland Public Schools logo as well as the winning design for the Dow Run/Walk logo. Jenna plans on attending Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology to major in Chemical Engineering and minor in Computer Science. Jenna will also play basketball for the Fightin' Engineers.

**Matthew Flanagan** is the son of Kristin and John Flanagan. Matthew carries a 4.37 weighted GPA and a 3.74 non-weighted GPA at Dow High School. Matthew is a member of National Honor Society and been named to the Academic All-State teams in Football and Baseball. Matthew has competed in football and baseball for 4 years as well as hockey for two years. Matthew was named to the SVL 1st team as a linebacker in football as well as selected to the Dream Team in the same position.



Matthew has been part of many activities such as NHS recycling program, tutoring students in Math and Science as well as working at Baseball Heaven. Matthew is very active in Robotics. He is currently the Vice President for Robotics. His team was recently selected to attend the world finals competition to be held in St. Louis this spring. He is also an AP scholar with Honor. Matthew is currently involved in A. H. Nickless Innovation Competition for Dow High School. Matthew plans on attending Purdue University next year to major in Engineering.

**Mount Pleasant High School: Denny Starnes, Principal  
Jim Conway, Athletic Director**

**Brianna Zimmer**, daughter of Lisa & Shawn, eleven (11) Varsity letters earned. Four yrs. Ski Team: 4 yrs. All-Conference, 2 yrs. All State, 4 yrs. team MVP. Four yrs. Soccer: 3 yrs. SVL All Conference, Team MVP. 3 yrs. Volleyball: 2 yrs. SVL All Conference, Team MVP. Extracurricular include: Key Club Member, Soup Kitchen volunteer, Haunted Yard Volunteer, Tutor for 6th Graders, Christmas Outreach, Vacation Bible School, National Technical Honors Society. Plans to attend Alma College and play Volleyball.



**Mitch Ridley**, son of Nancy & Tom, nine (9) Varsity letters earned. Three yrs. Football, 3 yrs. SVL 2nd Team All Conference, Honorable Mention All State; 3 yrs. Soccer, 3 yrs. 2nd team SVL All Conference. 2 yrs. Baseball. 1yr Basketball. Extracurricular include: Vice President of BPA, National Honors Society, National Technical Honors Society, Key Club Member, Student Senate Senator, SVL Scholar-Athlete 3 yrs., 1st team Academic All State in Baseball, Rotary Citizen of the Month, Special Olympics Volunteer, Kids Hope USA, Haunted Yard volunteer, Christmas Outreach. Undecided on College choice plans to study Business.



**Powers Catholic High School: Sally Bartos, Principal  
Brian Sheeran, Asst. Principal/Athletic Director**

**Lindsay Kooy** is the daughter of Patti and Don Kooy. She earned a 4.21 grade point average, scored a 30 on the ACT and is top 20 in her class. Lindsay played basketball, soccer, cross country and track for Powers Catholic. Lindsay achieved first team All League, 1st team All District, 1st team All Region, and honorable mention All State in soccer. In basketball, she was honorable mention All League and named a captain for both the soccer and basketball teams. Lindsay takes a full load of AP courses, was honored with our student service award in 2013. She is a member of NHS, the school choir and Students for Life. She will attend Hope College next year where she will continue her soccer career.



**Matt Ammerman** is the son of Beth and Carl Ammerman. Matt earned a 4.25 GPA, scored a 34 on his ACT, and was top 10% of his class. During Matt's senior year, he has been a member of the Powers Catholic wrestling and soccer team. Matt was a 3-year wrestling team captain. Over the course of his career, Matt has showcased his versatility while playing for the football, baseball and track teams. Matt is a 2 year honoree for the school's Student Service Award and is a member of the National Honors Society. Matt plans on majoring in chemistry or biochemistry at Hope College. After college, he plans on attending medical school.



## Saginaw High School: Ramont Roberts, Principal Dan Szatkowski, Athletic Director

**Arizsia Staton.** Attends both Saginaw High School and Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy. I have attended both schools my entire high school career. Some of my accomplishments and honors that I've received in the midst of my high school career are: Daughter of the American Revolution Good Citizen of Saginaw High, Martin Luther King Jr. Scholar Recipient, Distinguished Scholar In Recognition of Superior Achievement in the Arts 2013 and 2014, International Thespian Society Recognition for Superior Monologue, 2014/15 Best Flag of the Mighty Marching Trojan Band, National Honors Society, Outstanding Junior Award-Michigan State, and Outstanding Achievement in Academic Performance. My extracurricular activities include: Saginaw High School Mighty Marching Trojan Band Flag Line, volleyball and softball team, National Honors Society, Ivy letter Youth Group, True Believers Outreach Ministries Praise Dance Team, International Thespian Society Troupe 7940, Great Lakes Bay Regional Leadership Institute, Barbizon USA Acting and Modeling School, and Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy theatre program. Through everything I do I would like to thank my support system at school: Trisha Baker, Robert Sanders, Alycia Giles Nicole Beougher, Dan Szatkowski, Ms. Welch, and the rest of the Saginaw High and SASA staff. You are all truly appreciated. Next I would like to thank my mother, father, brother, and family for supporting me through all of my aspirations and all the effort they put toward helping me get succeed. In the fall I'm attending Western Michigan University Majoring in Theatre Performance and studying biology as my minor. My motto is "I can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens me."



**Jalen Parham** is honored to be the 2015 Male Scholar Athlete of the Year for Saginaw High School. While academics always came first, athletics played a big role in making me the person that I am today. As a student at Saginaw High School, I followed the college prep course work, maintaining a grade point average of 3.0. I play clarinet, tenor saxophone, and trumpet in the Mighty Marching' Trojan Band; I served as a member of our Teen Advisory Council; was member of our Student Law Day team; and a member of the Junior Executive Development Program, offered through Sodexo. As an athlete at Saginaw High School, I played football, basketball, baseball, and most recently, tennis. I played in the quarterback position, and sometimes outside linebacker. I was the starting pitcher for the varsity baseball team. If nothing else, participation with our athletic teams taught me responsibility, accountability, and self-discipline.



I plan to further my education at Wayne State University in the field of business administration. My future includes managing, and eventually owning a professional football team. My motto in life is a great one, taught to me by my high school band director. Ms. JC always says, "Don't let the world tell you who you are; you tell the world!" Look out world because here I come!

**Saginaw Arthur Hill High School: Priscilla Arocha-Roby, Principal  
Fred Townsend, Athletic Director**

**Essence Jeffries** is the daughter of Robert and Michelle Jeffries. Some of her awards include Optimist Award-11th grade; Stand Up Student Award-10th grade; Honor Roll 9th–12th grade; Academic Excellence Award 9th–12th grade; and National Honor Society Inductee 11th–12th grade. Essence has served as Secretary for the National Honor Society-11th grade, and National Honor Society Vice President-12th grade.



She has participated in Pom Pon Captain- 9th grade; Volleyball 10th–12th grade; Cheerleading 11th-12th grade; and Track and Field 9th and 12th grade.

Community/Volunteer Activities include: Make A Difference Day; Spring into Service Day; Homeless Awareness Penny Drive; Saginaw Rescue Mission (Christmas Decorations); Special Olympics; Becka's Closet (AHHS); SVSU Great Lakes Bay Region Leadership Institute-2015.

I have learned not to let frustration get the best of me. It has shown me that no matter how frustrating the situation might be, never give up! I have also learned how to be a leader since I was the first freshman captain for the Pom Pon team.

I plan to be a full time student at Michigan State University and major in Civil Engineering. I will minor in Structural and Construction Engineering. I would also like to play volleyball, dance and cheer in college. After college, I plan to work for a major construction company and then start my own company.

**De'qavion Johnson** is the son of Tameka Murphy. His awards include Honor Roll 9th – 12th grade; Academic Excellence Award 9th–12th grade; National Honor Society Inductee 11th –12th grades; NAACP Youth Sportsmanship Award- 2015.



Athletic Activities: JV Basketball-2012; Varsity Basketball 2013, 2014, 2015; Varsity Football 2014; 2nd Team all Conference 2015; Varsity Track and Field 2014.

Community/Volunteer Activities: Blood Drive, Basketball Camp, and Word of Faith Church Member

Athletics have instilled maturity, perseverance, and integrity in my life. There were many times in my athletic career that I showed leadership, especially while being a team captain on the Arthur Hill High School Varsity Basketball team. Being a captain of a team isn't always easy, but it teaches you a lifelong lesson. Leadership can reflect an attitude and set the tone for the team which is a skill I will use throughout my life.

I will attend a four-year university, but have not made my final decision. I will major in Pre-Dentistry and minor in Biology. I would also like to play Men's Basketball in college. After college, I plan on attending dental school and majoring in Orthodontics. Eventually, I will open my own practice.

**Saginaw Heritage High School: Michael Newman, Principal**  
**Pete Ryan, District Athletic Director/Assistant Principal**  
**Jim Noble, Athletic Director**

**Indigo Rae-Ann Dudley** is the daughter of Marc and Sonya Dudley. She has a G.P.A 3.504.

Indigo's awards are; Saginaw Pan-Hellenic Fine Arts Competition 2009-2014, This competition focuses on African-Americans from previous years to modern day I Can Make a Difference 2014, Wrote a Song about how I can Make a Difference \$2,000 Scholarship, AMDA 2015, Voice Performance, Music Conservatory in Los Angeles, CA, \$4,000 Renewable Scholarship Athletics: 3 Years of Volleyball, 1yr. JV, 2yrs. Varsity (Senior Captain), 4 Years Basketball 1yr. Frosh, 1 yr. JV, 2 Varsity and 4 Years Varsity Track and Field



Coach's Award: 2014, my track coach because of the enthusiasm and love I shared for my teammates awarded this

Scholar Athlete 2011-2014, in all three sports (Volleyball, Basketball and Track and Field) I maintained a 3.0 or higher during my athletic season, and career Heritage high school 2015 Scholar Athlete

Activity: Church Youth Committee Member 2013-2014 promotes our standards. Organize service projects that serve the community in various ways Habitat for Humanity, Emmaus House, Painting Churches, Youth Camp Leader (YCL) 2013-2014, Mentor girls 12-15 years old and set a positive example of someone they rely on for help Teach skills and crafts for lifelong learning, Church Youth Group Young Women's President 2014, Recognize the needs and the wants of the youth in my church and find ways to provide for them spiritually and emotionally, Great Lakes Bay Regional Youth Leadership Institute Member 2014.

**Nickolas Kinachtchouk.** Nickolas carries a 4.159 GPA and is Co-Valedictorian for Heritage High School. He was awarded the AP Scholar Award as a Junior and has been a student representative for his class, been involved in the Multi-Cultural Club for 4 years, the Euro Challenge/Fed. Challenge for 4 years, is a member of NHS and DECA.

Nickolas has participated in four years of Varsity Tennis, four year of Varsity Swimming and two years of golf. He has been on the All-Academic team in Swimming and Tennis all four years. In his free time he has been active at Healthsource and has attended the National Student Leadership Conference.



Nickolas was selected the Volunteer of the Month as well. Participation in athletics has taught Nickolas that many lessons including that hard work and determination can you reach a goal. The discipline had taught him how to succeed in the classroom and on the court or in the pool. High school competition taught him the importance of being respectful no matter what the quality of the opponent. Nickolas is undecided on his choice for college, but would like to pursue and MD or MBA.

## Bay City Central Teacher of the Year

There are few educators in this world that really make significant impacts on their students. **Mr. Matthew Reid** has touched the lives of countless students over the course of his 14-year teaching career. Anybody who has had the pleasure of having a class taught by Mr. Reid can attest that he's one special teacher.



Mr. Reid has been a teacher since 2001, he started his career at Central High School then spent six years at Wenona High School before coming back to Central High School in 2012. Although this is a very prestigious award, Mr. Reid is no stranger to winning these types of awards. In 2010, he received the Milken Family Foundation National Educator of the Year award, and in 2011 he was awarded the Michigan Alternative Education Teacher of the Year. He also achieved the Hal Peterson Award for Teaching Excellence in 2014. So his resume says it all, Mr. Reid truly deserves this year's SVL Teacher of Year Award

Mr. Reid hadn't had the best high school experience so when he became a teacher he believed he could make high school a much more positive experience for students. Mr. Reid's favorite subjects to teach are American Literature and Film Literature. Outside of school, Mr. Reid volunteers with most of his free time, and when he's not volunteering, he enjoys working on his classic 1963 Chevy Corvette.

Central High School is very proud of Mr. Matthew Reid and his accomplishments. We are also very proud that he is part of our family.

## Bay City Western Teacher of the Year

Western High School recognizes **Mr. Todd Hutchins** as our 2015 Saginaw Valley League Teacher of the Year Award winner.

Todd graduated from Central Michigan University in May 1989 and did his student teaching at Western High School. He was hired by Bay City Public Schools and joined the Social Studies staff at Western High School in 1992. He has taught a variety of content area in Social Studies including Geography, U.S. History, Civics, Current Affairs, World History, AP Government, and AP U.S. History.



Todd is married to Sherri Hutchins and has one son, Gage.

Our students and staff nominations note:

“Mr. Hutchins has surpassed any predispositions I could have created for him and remains nearly ineffable to depict. In short, he is one of the most caring and thoughtful teachers, and he meanwhile challenges students beyond what each thought they could achieved.”

“Mr. Hutchins is always enthusiastic about what he’s teaching. He never spares any details and makes sure to answer all questions to the best of his ability. There have been many moments that students have approached his desk, tears running down their face because they don’t understand the material presented in class that day. Rather than sending these students away and telling them to figure it out for themselves, Mr. Hutchins sits them down, talks them through their problem, and calms them down.”

“He attempts to get to know them on a deeper level than just a kid sitting in a class for a trimester. Mr. Hutchins makes a personal connection with all of them. Whether he’s sharing his motocross videos with a student or reminiscing about his days of civil war reenactment, it’s always in an attempt to bond with the student that way they’ll be more motivated to learn. Since he becomes so familiar with the students, by the end of the trimester, most students refer to him just simply as, Hutch.”

“I am challenged beyond the purely historical nature of the class . . .”

“He never fails to help a student in need, is compassionate, caring, and is dedicated to doing what he loves. His enthusiasm makes learning pleasant and motivates every single student to want to be just like Mr. Hutchins.”

Western High School is proud to have Mr. Hutchins making differences in student’s lives on a daily basis.

## Carman-Ainsworth Teacher of the Year

**Benjamin Jones** is in his seventeenth year of teaching in the Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools. For the past ten years, he has held the position of Director of Instrumental Music at Carman-Ainsworth High School where he directs the Symphony Band, Concert Band, Freshmen Band, Orchestra, Percussion Ensemble, Brass Ensemble and the Blue Brigade Marching Band. The previous seven years, he taught 5th & 6th Grade Band and served as the Assistant High School Director. Benjamin has also been involved in several Carman-Ainsworth musical productions as both a conductor and orchestra member.



Benjamin received his Bachelor of Music Education Degree from the University of Michigan-Flint where he studied tuba with Dr. Lois Alexander and Dr. Joseph Skillen and conducting with Michael Gillan. Benjamin was a recipient of the University's Maize and Blue Award in 1998.

The Carman-Ainsworth High School ensembles consistently perform well at Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association Festivals. Students in the program participate in District and State Solo and Ensemble Festivals and several have been selected to participate in various Honors Ensembles throughout the state. The Blue Brigade Marching Band has been a Michigan Competing Band Association State Finalist four of the past five years.

Benjamin is an active member of the MSBOA District III Executive Board where he serves as Vice-President for Band and Orchestra Festival. In addition, Carman-Ainsworth High School has served as one of the host sites for MSBOA District III Band and Orchestra Festival for the past eleven years.

In 2014, the Carman-Ainsworth School Board selected Benjamin as the MSBOA District III Teacher of the year as well as an APPLE Award winner.

Outside of school, Benjamin enjoys spending time with his wife, Jenny, and son, Landon, attending Drum Corps performances and Major League Baseball games throughout the country.

Benjamin is truly humbled and honored by this recognition. He gives all the credit to the many wonderful students, families and colleagues with whom he has had the privilege to work over the years.

## Davison Teacher of the Year

As her nomination letter put it, Kateri Blake is the SVL teacher of the year from Davison High School because she is “awesome”. She has been instrumental in the lives of so many through her 20 years as a Special Education teacher at Davison High School. Throughout her career, she has been an incredibly kind, thoroughly trusted, highly respected and beloved member of our teaching staff. Every year she strives to make her classroom a home away from home for her students, spending a lot of time and money making her classroom look and feel spectacular. Through everything she does, Kateri’s goals are to help her students connect, to be engaged in school and to learn math. She consistently seeks out new and innovative ways for her students to learn, and is not afraid to try something new. She quite often works with some of our hardest to reach students in their most difficult subject area, differentiating, motivating, loving, pushing, pulling, encouraging and doing everything in her power to help her kids learn Math as well as life lessons. She does whatever it takes to help her kids succeed and to build the positive connections that are so vital, from extra time before and after school to making home visits. She impacts the whole child, their self-esteem and self-worth, knowing that if they believe in themselves, anything is possible. Kateri is an incredibly positive member of our faculty and her love and passion for what she does is there for all to see, both in her perpetual smile and in the way she treats all those she encounters. Kateri is a gem of a teacher and a friend to many, and we are blessed to have her on our staff making an incredibly positive impact in the lives of kids every day.



## Flint Northwestern Teacher of the Year

Byron E. Gilmore graduated from Martin Luther King Jr. Senior High School in Detroit, MI. It was there that Byron decided to become a music educator. After graduating from King High, Gilmore studied music education at Michigan State University, graduating in the fall of 1986. Davison High School was where he did his student teaching, studying under Mr. Ray MacLean.



Gilmore taught briefly in an African American private school in Detroit but left the educational field the following year. After a ten (10) year hiatus from teaching, Byron began working for a job bank that offered Fine Arts to the Catholic School Community in the greater Detroit Area. In 1997, Byron moved to Flint and in 1998 began subbing at Holmes Middle School, teaching instrumental music. Gilmore was finally hired in as the Instrumental Music teacher at Holmes during that school year. The next year, Byron was given the job of Marching Band Director at Flint Northwestern High School while continuing to teach at Holmes. In the fall of 2006, Gilmore returned to Northwestern High as the Instrumental Music teacher and Vocal Music teacher where he still holds that position today.

All songs performed by the band are arranged by Gilmore and every field show is written by him. Mr. Gilmore also volunteered many hours with the school volleyball and softball team. He also started the Glee Club.

## **Flint Southwestern Teacher of the Year**

## Lapeer Teacher of the Year

**Amy Linton** is Lapeer's Saginaw Valley Leagues Teacher of the Year. Amy has been an Art teacher in Lapeer Community Schools for ten years, before finally landing a spot at the high school, teaching Art, Digital Media, and Yearbook. Prior to teaching, Amy worked as a graphic designer.



She has the ability to work with all ages (K-12) and has even been known to work with adults as well. She is a relentless worker, often spending numerous hours with her students, completing deadlines for the Lapeer High School Yearbook. She is a constant face at events (Yes, she oversees the yearbook, so she is there taking pictures or overseeing the picture-taking.), but she is a supporter of students.

A student commented, "Ms. Linton never goes home. She is the one of the teacher who spends time with us and truly cares about us." Another student stated, "Ms. Linton has great knowledge of the media world and is very tech-savvy. I appreciate so much what she brings to class every day."

Amy earned her BA in Graphic Design from Western Michigan University, earned her Teaching Certificate in Art from the University of Michigan – Flint, and earned her MA in Educational Technology from the University of Michigan – Flint.

In her spare time, Amy enjoys traveling, photography, painting, drawing, and spending time with family and friends.

## Midland High Teacher of the Year

“Come here you gotta see this.” The words of **Mark Camilleri** as he shows off the latest science lab he prepared ...the hours that Mark puts forth in creating an environment for his students to discover the world of science.

Mark Camilleri began his teaching career at Central Middle School and later moved on to teach Biology at Midland High School. Mark graduated from Eastern Michigan University and grew up in Ypsilanti, Michigan.



Mark is a teacher who is enthusiastic, hardworking and has the ability to reach a variety of levels of students. He always puts students first and is a model teacher. Mark has been credited as the teacher that transformed the Biology program for the entire secondary department of Midland Public Schools. He is not only an expert in his craft of teaching; he is a master of the content. Mark has been instrumental in guiding the Biology labs and innovative project-based labs in the community for well over a decade.

Mark believes in all students at all levels. Mr. Camilleri or simply, “Cam” has worked countless hours to develop life-changing courses that have been pivotal in the lives of his students, including the courses of Human Anatomy and Physiology, Biology, and Survey of Biology. Cam truly believes every student has the potential to learn.

Mr. Camilleri goes above and beyond the long hours of the day as a high school teacher and devotes time to the students and our local community. For example, Cam has been a class advisor, assists with the Gay-Straight Alliance Club, and is extremely active in Habitat for Humanity and his church.

As quoted from Mr. Camilleri’s students, “I wish the world had more teachers like Mr. Camilleri.” “I know Mr. Camilleri cares about me...he is always willing to help me understand.” A long-time colleague stated, “Mark is like a life coach, he is humorous and is always willing to put himself out there to make connections with people and to help anyone with lessons good or bad in life.”

Camilleri resides in Midland County with his wife, Teresa, and is vocally proud of his three sons, Anthony, Derek, and Noah. In Mark’s free time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and taxidermy...a word of advice...don’t eat anything he offers you.

## H. H. Dow Teacher of the Year

H. H. Dow High School recognizes **Mrs. Amy Bushey** our 2015 Saginaw Valley League Teacher of the Year Award winner. A former graduate, she is a 20-year veteran Social Studies teacher who specializes in guiding our Drama, Debate and Forensics programs.



Amy graduated from Albion College in May 1991 and later attained her Master of Education in Principalship from Saginaw Valley State University in 2000.

She was hired by the Midland Public Schools in August of 1995 to join the Social Studies staff of Central Middle School later joining the H. H. Dow High School instructional staff in the fall of 1997. Currently, she is a member of our Social Studies department, teaching .2 Economics, Honors Economics, and Debate. Our Debate and Forensics programs are always world class with her students consistently ranked in the top 1st-3rd placements in annual state competition. She also has mentored many Detroit News Outstanding Catch Award Winners.

Amy is a dedicated staff member outside of the classroom. Since 1997 she has directed our fall, spring plays and musicals, has been an assistant softball coach and annually directs our Ren Fair, HHD's talent show held at the MCFTA. Each year MPS recognizes exemplary teachers via their Gerstacker Proficiency in Teaching Awards. Mrs. Amy Bushey received this award in 2011. Amy was also recognized as the Michigan Debate coach of the Year 2010-11 by the Michigan Speech Coaches, Inc.

Amy is married to Jonathon Bushey and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Ott. Our students and staff nominations note:

"She teaches students, through her actions, her passion, her time and love, how to be active and productive community members."

"She models an against all odds approach to her own life's challenges. She models the behaviors she cultivates in us."

## Mount Pleasant High Teacher of the Year

**John Klak** has been teaching for twenty-three years and is currently in his twentieth year at Mt. Pleasant High School. He teaches English and drama courses. In his time at MPHS John has produced, designed, built, and directed 20 musicals and 26 plays, and has overseen 42 student lead productions. He also wrote the play *Twelve Nights at the Regency* that was performed at MPHS in 2013 and is currently being prepared for publication.



In addition to teaching classes and directing productions, John does all the lighting, sound, and staging for all the events in the MPPS Performing Arts Center Auditorium. He also owns and operates the Off-Broadway Performing Arts Studio in downtown Mt. Pleasant where hundreds of people from infants to the elderly take dance, acting, and fitness classes. John has also spent 12 years as the MPHS English Department Coordinator, was an active volunteer and Board of Trustees member at the Broadway Theater for five years, and was a member of the board of directors for the Michigan Story Festival for four years. He is a graduate of Central Michigan University where he received his B.S. in Education and M.A. in Community and Educational Leadership.

## Powers Catholic Teacher of the Year

**Julie Stewart**-Teacher of the Year 2014- 2015. It is with the utmost pride that I present the Powers Catholic High School Teacher of the Year- Julie Stewart. Julie has been teaching at Powers Catholic High School for the past 37 years and has also coached basketball, golf and softball where Julie was named Big Nine Coach of the Year. Julie holds her degree in Biology.



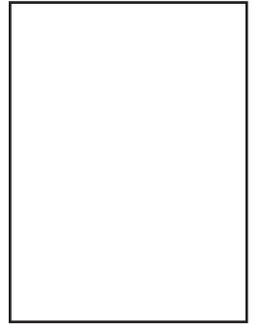
Her fellow members of the Science Department nominated Julie for Teacher of the Year. Julie served as the Science Department Chair for nearly two decades and currently serves as a mentor teacher with the following advice for new teachers, “Never believe that you are “good enough,” always strive for improvement.” Julie passed on the reigns of department chairperson this past year and the newly appointed department Science Chairperson said, “Julie is

When I asked Julie why he went in to teaching, she said, “ Teaching is a passion and a true calling and my love of science, my fascination of all living things, the opportunity to problem solve, and my obsession with detail, led me to the path of becoming a high school biology teacher. “ I can honestly say that Julie gives her all to Powers Catholic and is there whenever I need anything. I am eternally grateful for the leadership and expertise that Julie gives every day to the students and staff alike. There is no doubt that Powers Catholic is blessed to have Julie Stewart as a teacher on staff and I am blessed to call her friend.

## Saginaw High Teacher of the Year

**Crystal Luckyado** is Saginaw High Teacher of the Year.

She has taught English for 7th, 8th, 9th, and 12th grades. Ms. Luckyado has taught at Webber Middle School, Central Middle School, Reuban Daniels Middle School and Saginaw High. Ms. Luckyado has been a teacher with Saginaw Public Schools for 10 years.



Ms. Luckyado brings an enthusiasm and energy to the activities that she mentors. She makes it a true high school experience for the students. Ms. Luckyado is the YES Club advisor and was the Student Council advisor in the middle schools. But, she also gives of her time for the National Honors Society and organizing the prom and homecoming events at the High

Ms Luckyado has brought back the spirit of high school clubs. She organizes the students to do Talent Shows, bake sales and volunteer projects. I know this is a lot of work for her but it creates great memories for the students. Ms. Luckyado shares her energy with the high school. She is a good teacher who takes the time to help us with our work.

## Saginaw Arthur Hill Teacher of the Year

**Mark Hellebuyck** receives the highest honor a teacher can receive is to be recognized and acknowledged by their students. Mark Hellebuyck is such a teacher whose quiet and calm demeanor is a welcomed attribute to many students. Mark has taught at Arthur Hill High School for many years, and has always been flexible and open to trying new experiences. When we approached him about starting a Robotics team at AHHS, he agreed even though it was totally new territory to him. He worked with students afterschool, on weekends and helped with fundraisers to be able to travel to meets and compete throughout the state. His students believe he makes learning fun and he explains difficult concepts to them very well. Students appreciate that he respects them and never shows disrespect towards them. He volunteered to teach credit recovery afterschool to help students graduate on time. His students welcome his assistance when they need help. The greatest compliment students give to Mr. Hellebuyck is that he makes learning fun, he has fun with them and he is a good role model.



He has coached girls' tennis for a few years. Mark has also been part of a team of science teachers to create common assessments for the high school science courses. He currently teaches Chemistry, Human Biology and Robotics. Mark received his Bachelor's of Science from Central Michigan University and his Master's from Saginaw Valley State University. It is teachers like Mark Hellebuyck that offer students opportunities in and out of the classroom that students will remember for life. Mark manages to do all of this for his Arthur Hill family while having a wife, Stephanie, and two small sons, Aiden and Ashton, at home. He is always giving of himself which students and staff appreciate. AHHS is very fortunate to have Mr. Hellebuyck as a part of their staff!

## Saginaw Heritage Teacher of the Year

Heritage High recognizes **Mrs. Melissa Fila** as our 2015 Saginaw Valley League Teacher of the Year Award winner. Melissa graduated from Saginaw Valley State University in May of 1997 and later attained her Master of Education in Teaching from Marygrove in 2002. She was hired by Saginaw Township Community Schools in August of 1997 to teach English and Psychology at Heritage High School. Currently, she is a teaching Leadership, Intro to Psych and Psych II at Heritage.



Melissa is a dedicated staff member outside of the classroom. She jumped into the role of Class Advisor for the seniors three years ago when their advisor left. Melissa has rejuvenated the Leadership program at Heritage and spends countless hours helping to coordinate events. Sometimes she starts at 4:30AM for example with the ABC 12 Food Drive and many nights she leaves well after 11PM. Her passion for student success led her to take on the advisor role this year for Heritage Youth Providing Enthusiasm which is our spirit club. She also is involved with Prom planning and Homecoming.

Beyond her classroom and the school, Melissa is one of the most caring people you will ever meet. This past year she was getting ready to sell a home but heard that a couple of her students and their family were homeless. She gave the family the home to use with the only responsibility for them would be to pay the utilities until they could get back on their feet. This is just one example of the many acts of kindness that Melissa does for others in our community.

Melissa Fila is married to Chris and they have a sophomore daughter at Heritage named Haley. Heritage could not be more proud than to have Melissa Fila as its 2015 Saginaw Valley League Teacher of the Year.