

Academic all stars: Sentinel celebrates graduating artists, writers



Dennis R.J. Geppert/The Holland Sentinel

Front row, from left, Tyler Tub, Emma Schoenfelner, Sophie Boudreau, Brenna Dunn, Anber Yeh;
Back row from left, Bobbilyn Bruursema, Sarah Kuipers and Laura Crouch.

By STEPHEN KLOOSTERMAN

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Holland, MI —

Each year the Sentinel asks local high schools to nominate award-winning performing artists, visual artists, writers, poets, dancers, musicians, actors, scientists, mathematicians, techies who exemplify the spirit of creativity, innovation and ingenuity of our most valuable future resource: 21st century intellectual capital. Hats off to these local examples:

Black River Public School: Laura Crouch, writer

Daughter of Ruth and David Crouch

CREDITS: National Honor Society; Artwork chosen twice for inclusion in Debut, the Holland Area Arts Council's area high school juried exhibit; poetry published in "Through the 3rd Eye," a web project of Grand Rapids Poet Laureate Rod Torreson; "Cultivating a Sense of Place," published by the Grand Rapids Council for the Humanities; Kaleidoscope magazine and Mad Hatter magazine (June 2010).

IN HER WORDS: "I write poetry because I love finding just the right combination of words to describe a place or a feeling. Whenever I see something beautiful or unusual, I am inspired to try and capture it with words. Also, reading great poetry by other writers motivates me to write a poem that is just as impressive, and use language that is just as memorable.

"I make art because I like experimenting with colors and capturing detail the same way I enjoy portraying moods and images with words. In both art and writing, I can use my imagination to create something unique and expressive."

Fennville: Abrielle Gonzalez, writer

Daughter of Stephanie and Padro Paco Martinez

CREDITS: National Honor Society, National Art Honors Society, Students Assisting Students Anonymously, Student Council, Yearbook, Multicultural Club.

IN HER WORDS: "There are many things that inspire me but the most important is my family and God."

Holland Christian:

Sarah Kuipers,

sculptor and painter

Daughter of John and Karen Kuipers

CREDITS: Recipient of Gold Medal in sculpture in the National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards; Gold Keys in painting and sculpture and a Silver Key for Ceramics in the Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.

Received honorable mention in 2010 Debut, a juried show at the Holland Area Arts Council.

IN HER WORDS: "I draw my inspiration from the world around me. There is never a specific place that I can think of; it is more often that I stumble across an idea. The encouragement I receive from my friends, family and teachers is a lot of help in the finishing process, because just having an idea on a piece is rarely enough. I need their support and motivation to see the piece through to the end, no matter how many late nights it takes to make a deadline."

Holland Public Schools: Sophie Boudreau, writer

Daughter of Tim and Jeannie Boudreau

CREDITS: Yearbook, columnist for The Holland Sentinel, Holland Youth Advisory Council Clerk, National Honor Society.

IN HER WORDS: "My primary inspiration comes from everyday interactions with my close friends, family members and classmates, who are always quick to provide me with interesting topics to write about. On a broader level, I'm incredibly influenced by Tina Fey, whose position as the first female head writer for Saturday Night Live has inspired me to seek a similar career path. Finally, I have always been inspired by my dad, who is a journalist and professor."

Saugatuck: Emma Schoenfelner, writer

Daughter of Sharon and Barry Schoenfelner

CREDITS: National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, yearbook editor.

IN HER WORDS: "I am inspired by the beautiful place that I live in and the people that I surround myself with."

Wavecrest Career Academy: Tyler Tubbs, writer

Son of Andy and Terri Tubbs

CREDITS: Interning at Ray's Automotive.

IN HIS WORDS: "I try to relate my writing to real life."

West Ottawa: Anber Yeh, visual artist

Daughter of Dong Yeh and Hsiu Chang

CREDITS: American Vision Media in the National Scholastic Art and Writing competition 2010, three Gold Key awards in the Regional Scholastic Art and Writing competition, selected for Debut at the Holland Area Arts Council, first place in Michigan State Creative Arts Scholarship.

IN HER WORDS: "Everything around me inspires me to create art and express myself. How I live everyday and what I encounter inspires my creative thinking process and helps me think of what I can do."

West Ottawa: Brenna Dunn, visual artist

Daughter of Barbara Gaynor, Denis Dunn, Andy Gaynor

CREDITS: National Art Honors Society, creative studies scholarship, Art Day Competition award for Kendall College of Art and Design.

IN HER WORDS: "Movement inspires."

Zeeland East: Emily Chilvers, visual artist

Daughter of Brad and Mellisa Bultman

CREDITS: Recipient of the Kendall College of Art and Design Portfolio Review Scholarship and the Holland Area Arts Council Friends of Art Scholarship.

IN HER WORDS: "My grandfather inspires me the most to make art. Being an artist himself, since I was little he taught me the basics — drawing animals, correct proportions. Sadly, he recently was diagnosed with terminal

lung cancer. And because of chemo treatments and being so weak, it's hard for him to carve wood like he used to. I dedicate my work and accomplishments to him."

Zeeland West: Bobbilyn Bruursema, painter

Daughter of Edwin and Michelle Bruursema

CREDITS: Vice President of the set for the Zeeland High Players.

IN HER WORDS: "I try to evoke feelings with pictures. I try to get people to help make a difference, such as my poverty pictures. I usually paint pictures that mean a lot to me and bring back memories of me and my friends or family."

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