

# With Eastern Upper Peninsula Principals Awards for 2007

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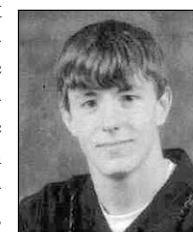
graphic artist, Northern Michigan University.

School activities and organizations: Football, track and field.

Hobbies and interests: Sports, computer-assisted art.

State of education in the future:

"I believe that future generations will be even more prepared for the real world. With the new programs added, younger students learn more and actually develop better learning skills."



### Jordan Ernst

Parents: Lawrence and Jeri Ernst

Siblings: Travis Ernst, 20, Connor Ernst, 11.

Educational or occupational goal: Undecided, Northern Michigan University.

School activities and organizations: National Honor Society, band, Pep Band, yearbook, Honors Band.

Hobbies and interests: Reading, video games.

State of education in the future:

"Our education system will continue to improve because teachers are becoming better qualified and students are taking a greater interest in their education."

### Leonie Sparling

Parents: Robert James Sparling, Astrid Sparling. Residing with Neil and Sue Harrison as an exchange student from Germany.

Educational or occupational goal: Return to Germany to attend school, and then come back to the United States and attend a university to become a lawyer. Germany: Maedchengymnasium Weiden; U.S. university undecided.

School activities and organizations: Chorus, yearbook staff, Homecoming Court, dance, and sports.

Hobbies and interests: "I am a Padi certified scuba diver and licensed glider pilot. I also enjoy being out in nature, swimming, traveling, fishing, snowmobiling, watching movies, and shopping."

State of education in the future:

"In my opinion, the American school system is very good. Every student has the same chance to achieve. It is a great idea that a student has to repeat only failed classes, rather than repeat all the classes of the whole year. I appreciate the social aspects of extracurricular activities. At Pickford High School, the teachers really care about their students and help them with any problems. The electives give the students the possibility to learn about things they are interested in. All in all, I think the Pickford education system is great."



chorale, National Honor Society - vice president",

Hobbies and interests: Babysitting, running, reading, attending Laker hockey games with friends.

State of education in the future: "I believe that the increased standards and expectations are great. This can stand to only improve our students' education and improve our society."



### Briana Kangas

Parents: Marcy and Bryan Kangas

Siblings: Christopher Jeffreys, 22.

Educational or occupational goal: Hospitality management

School activities and organizations: National Honor Society, chorale, Quiz Bowl, drama, president of chorus, band secretary, class treasurer.

Hobbies and interests: raising chickens, quilting, and watching movies.

State of education in the future: "Children need a strong education for the future."

### Jonathan Norton

Parents: Bob and Wendt Norton

Siblings: Brian Norton, 19, attending Central Michigan University for business, and Tanner Norton, 5, a kindergarten student.

Educational or occupational goal: Successfully complete undergraduate and medical school at Michigan State University to become an anesthesiologist, Michigan State University (Lynn Briggs School of Science).

School activities and organizations: National Honor Society, golf, baseball, Student Council, and tutoring.

Hobbies and interests: Hockey, serving as a referee, snowboarding, volunteering, and mentoring.

State of education in the future: "I believe standards should be raised, but only for those that need it. They need to make it more personalized and adaptable for each individual."



### Evelyne Robertson

Parents: Gene and Mary Robertson

Siblings: Raymond, 19, and Catherine, 11.

Educational or occupational goal: Biomedical Engineering, Michigan Technological University.

School activities and organizations: National Honor Society.

Hobbies and interests: Kickboxing.



### Alyssa Sexton

Parents: Robin and Cherie Sexton

Siblings: Adam Sexton, 12.

Educational or occupational goal: Northern Michigan University for pre medicine, Michigan State University for Medical School, and become a doctor of osteopathic medicine.

School activities and organizations: President of National Honor Society, senior representative on the SIT committee, chorus vice-president, student council, chorus representative, band treasurer, and theatre.

Hobbies and interests: Figure skating with the Hiawatha Skating Club.

State of education in the future: "I believe education is becoming more and more important in our changing world."



### Maria Meehan

Parents: Suesan and Patrick Meehan of Dafter

Siblings: John, 21, graduate of

UTI of Chicago and employed as a diesel auto technician in Gaylord, Joseph, 20, employed by Mittal, sailing the Great Lakes.

Educational or occupational goal: "I will enter Ferris for the fall semester 2007 Honors program, studying applied biology/pre-medicine and nuclear technology. I intend to graduate with a double major for pre-med and nuclear technology."

School activities and organizations: Student Council president, National Honor Society, chorus, chorale, drama, and senior celebration",



Hobbies and interests: Going to Laker hockey games with Sara and Amanda, hunting, volunteering for hospice, participating in annual Relay for Life ACS walk, and having fun with friends.

State of education in the future:

"I see difficulties that may arise with Governor Granholm's new requirements for graduation. It is a good idea, but we have parents who have never attained these goals. Their children will have a difficult time if there is not a good support network, be it the school, community, or family. It may create stresses and increased frustration on students, families, and schools. Can one classroom teacher accomplish all this for 30 students? It is great to believe that no one will fall behind, but the reality is that many will."

### Jeremiah Wileman

Parents: Jim and Julie Wileman

Siblings: Jenny-Rose Beckman, 24, Navy cryptological interpreter, Bob Beckman, 23, WMU degree in aviation, Betsy Wileman, 15, Rudyard High School sophomore.

Educational or occupational goal: Environmental engineering, attend Michigan Technological University.

School activities and organizations: National Honor Society, Pep Band, Chorale, Quiz Bowl, golf team, track team, band, and chorus."

Hobbies and interests: Trap shooting, fly fishing/fly tying, hunting, snow boarding, snowmobiling, and paintball.

State of education in the future: "I feel education needs to continue to challenge students so that they will be better prepared for their future, regardless if they are entering the work force upon high school graduation or pursuing further education."



### Joshua Traver

Parents: Jean and John Traver

Siblings: Jami Traver, 16.

Educational or occupational goal: Law field. Attend LSSU for one year, undecided after that.

School activities and organizations: Quiz Bowl, theater tech manager.

Hobbies and interests: Video games, books, computers, and history.

State of education in the future: "The kids have a lot of catching up to do to make it in the real world."



### Emily Laura Coulling

Parents: James and Mary Coulling

Siblings: Michael, 31, married and living in Florida; Orion, 28, artistic director of Eudaimonia Professional Theater in Chicago; Holly, 26, steward on the tall ship *The Lady Washington*; Mary, 20, studying marine mammology at University of New England in Maine; Thomas, 18, ships cook on the tall ship *The Lady Wash-*



ton.

Educational or occupational goal: Theater or musical performance; attend Roosevelt University in Chicago, or Columbia College Chicago for a bachelor's of fine arts in theater, and continue to

study with Dueling Arts International to become an actor combatant.

School activities and organizations: Secretary for the National Honor Society, three-year member of Rudyard High School Drama Club, student co-director and three-year member of chorus, three-year member of chorale, and co-captain and three-year member of Quiz Bowl team.

Hobbies and interests: Theater, voice, and piano performance, environmental and political activism, British literature, and art history.

State of education in the future: "I believe that a little more educational freedom should be allowed in order to influence the enjoyment of education. With a little more variety added to the curriculum, students may be able to understand the worth of their own education. As it is, not many students value their high school education at all, and I think that is our worst academic failing."

### Charles Rye

Parents: Ken and Jacqueline Rye

Siblings: Jesse Lynn Rye, 14.

Educational or occupational goal: Undecided.

School activities and organizations: Drama and Quiz Bowl.

Hobbies and interests: video games and fantasy books.

State of education in the future: "Too terribly wrapped around expectations for standardized tests."



### Sault Ste. Marie Schools Sean Ainslie

Parents: Rex and Margaret Ainslie

Siblings: Marissa Ainslie, senior at MSU

Educational or occupational goal: Weighing several options, considering MSU, FSU, or LSSU.

School activities and organizations: Four years on varsity hockey team, school newspaper.

Hobbies and interests: Hockey, hunting, fishing, and music.

State of education in the future: "As education becomes more challenging, schools will need to find more interesting ways to keep students engaged."



### Anna Conboy

Parents: Richard and Veronica Conboy

Siblings: Matthew, 29, working on his Ph.D. at Ohio University

Educational or occupational goal: Undecided course of study at OSU

School activities and organizations: WOW, Student Council, Class Executive Committee, Key Club

Hobbies and interests: Reading, running, listening to music.

State of education in the future: "I think the future is looking good, but I don't like the standardized tests."



### Wyatt Curry

Parents: Ted and Paula Curry

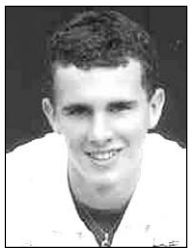
Siblings: Justin Curry, 30, and Morgan Curry, 25.

Educational or occupational goal: Geologist/environmental scientist, Hope College.

School activities and organizations: Football, basketball, and National Honor Society.

Hobbies and interests: Outdoor activities like fishing, skiing, and going to the beach.

State of education in the future: "There is always room for improvement, but I believe our educational system is strong."



### Alexia L. DePlonty

Parents: Carl and Sandra



DePlonty Siblings: Brian, 20, attends Bay Mills Community College for criminal justice.

Educational or occupational goal: To obtain a minimum of a bachelor's degree at Ferris State or LSSU.

School activities and organizations: Hiawatha Figure Skating Club, Sault High softball, National Honor Society, Miss Chippewa County Fair, Vice President of Youth Advisory Council, St. James Episcopal Youth Group.

Hobbies and interests: "I enjoy playing softball, figure skating, camping, skiing, boating, volunteering, and coaching skating and softball."

State of education in the future: "To continue to develop our youth so they may reach their greatest potential."

### Betsy Deuman

Parents: Leanne and Gary Deuman

Siblings: Matt Deuman, 20, works at Precision Edge and attends LSSU.

Educational or occupational goal: To be come a journalist. Plan on attending MSU.

School activities and organizations: Basketball, volleyball, soccer, Quiz Bowl, yearbook.

Hobbies and interests: Reading, being outdoors, going to the beach, sports, and writing.

State of education in the future: "I believe that education is going fairly well, although I don't agree with standardized tests."



### Danielle Fegan

Parents: Pat and Liz Fegan

Siblings: Abbi, 17, Josie, 14, Maddi, 8.

Educational or occupational goal: Become a veterinarian; Hope College to study biology.

School activities and organizations: Basketball, volleyball, track, yearbook.

Hobbies and interests: Reading and working out.

State of education in the future: "I think younger students will have a reason to take their K-12 education more seriously as getting a degree after high school becomes more competitive."



### Asia Ferro

Parents: Nick and Gigi Ferro

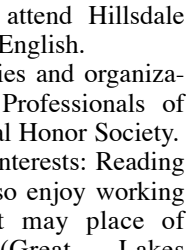
Siblings: Monique Ferro, 14, who is a freshman at Sault High.

Educational or occupational goal: I plan to attend Hillsdale College to study English.

School activities and organizations: Business Professionals of America, National Honor Society.

Hobbies and interests: Reading and writing. I also enjoy working with patients at my place of employment (Great Lakes Optometry).

State of education in the future: "I believe education will continue to improve and advance technologically in the upcoming years."



### Onawa Gardiner

Parents: Rosemarie and Lee Gardiner

Siblings: Elijah Gardiner, 25, Lucas Gardine, 23, Jacob Gardiner, 19, Shoshana Gardiner, 9.

Educational or occupational goal: Graduate from GVSU without a lot of debt.

School activities and organizations: Student Council, yearbook, Big Brothers/Big Sisters mentor.

Hobbies and interests: Working as a waitress at Palace Saloon, learning how to snowboard.

State of education in the future: "A lot more funding needs to go into the education



system and a lot of reforms need to be made to enable teachers to teach students in a more successful way."

### Ryan Glaser

Parents: William and Judy Glaser

Siblings: Adam Glaser, 16.

Educational or occupational goal: Mechanical Engineer, Michigan Technological University.

School activities and organizations: Playing football.

Hobbies and interests: Varsity football, basketball, baseball, National Honor Society, sports.

State of education in the future: "It looks good and on its way up."

### Robert Gordon

Parents: Steve and Vicki Gordon.

Siblings: Erin, 19, and Michael, 16.

Educational or occupational goal: Engineering, Michigan Technological University.

School activities and organizations: Robotics, chess, soccer, computers.

State of education in the future: "Doing good, but as the speed changes are happening, some students will be left behind."



### Robert Guimond

Parents: Richard and Kristi Guimond.

Siblings: Emily Guimond, 20, plays basketball and attends Albion College.

Educational or occupational goal: Going to college - place undecided.

School activities and organizations: Executive Committee, Science Club, basketball, cross country, Business Professionals of America.

Hobbies and interests: Basketball, science, food.

State of education in the future: "The future looks good, but don't slack freshman year."



### Kellie Kaunisto

Parents: Michael and Bonita Kaunisto

Siblings: Raymond, 20, attending NMU on hockey scholarship; twin brother Kory, 18, playing hockey in

Traverse City, and is committed to play at NMU.

Educational or occupational goal: Public relations director, minor in international relations, Grand Valley State University.

School activities and organizations: Yearbook editor, student council, Executive Committee, WOW, Youth volunteer council.

Hobbies and interests: Dancing for STARS, Sault High Poms, reading, traveling, watching my brother play hockey.

State of education in the future: "I believe education these days is opening more and more doors of opportunity and will continue doing so for the future. Everyone has a chance to become what they've always dreamed of becoming."



### Kory Kaunisto

Parents: Michael and Bonita Kaunisto

Siblings: Raymond, 20, attending NMU on hockey scholarship; twin sister Kellie, 18.

Educational or occupational goal: Plans to attend Northern Michigan University to earn a four-year degree in business and accounting.

School activities and organizations: 4.0 grade point average, National Honor Society, bantam and midget hockey player who is verbally committed to play Division I hockey for the NMU Wildcats.

