



All high schools in the Iowa and Illinois counties served by the Quad-City Times were invited to nominate graduating seniors for Salute to Academics & Achievements recognition. Students were selected for each category by

their schools. Information was submitted by high school counselors.

Students also were asked to write short essays about the changes they expect to see in the world in the next 10 years.

United Township High School

UNITED TOWNSHIP High School, East Moline, has selected outstanding seniors from its class of 386 students:

Academics

JOHN PATRICK BROWN, son of Rod and Mary Ann Brown of East Moline, plans to major in biology/pre-medicine at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, or the University of Notre Dame (Ind.)

- Top achievements:**
- National Merit finalist
 - Illinois State Scholar
 - Ranked 1st in class

"In 10 years, I expect to see people become less dependent on technology and more dependent on their own abilities. People will recognize their own intrinsic worth and will interact with each other directly instead of through technology. Also, the Hawkeyes will win a national championship in football.

EMILY PALOMAKI, daughter of Jonathan Palomaki and Mary Palomaki of East Moline.

- Top achievements:**
- Illinois Quad-City Chamber Top 10 Award
 - Presidential Award for Educational Excellence
 - Illinois State Scholar

"In 10 years, I hope that people will have found and utilized many new methods of energy and will have substantially helped slow the environmental downward spiral. My expectation is that many people will want to help, in any way possible, with the diverse dilemmas occurring in the world."

The Arts

MEGAN CULLEY, daughter of Scott and Tonya Culley of Silvis, plans to major in music education at Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, Okla.

- Top achievements:**
- Presidential Award for Educational Achievement
 - John Deere Special Recognition

"Ten years from now, I expect to see India change from its original state. I want to be a missionary there and a worship leader. The possibilities are endless with what will change or what will not, but I know what I will be doing."

PAUL HOLLAND, son of Tamie and Larry Holland of Moline, plans to major in health sciences at Western Illinois University, Macomb.

- Top achievements:**
- Top 5 percent
 - Illinois Quad-City Chamber Top 10 Award, 4 years
 - Honor Roll

"I believe that the world will be much more complicated in another 10 years. Since we have witnessed the introduction of hybrids, mass technology, increased power of the media and a loss of privacy in the past 13 years, I see no way that the next 10 will be any less monumental."

Humanities

GREGORY DONLEY, son of Jeanine Donley of Silvis, plans to major in theater at Augustana College, Rock Island.

- Top achievements:**
- John Deere Special Recognition
 - Illinois Quad-City Chamber Top 10 Award
 - 3rd place, English, WYSE



CLASS OF 2010

Alissa Abram-Lamar, Matthew Adkins, Prisila Aguilar, Tiffany Ainslie, Michael Alba, Carlie Allison, Laura Allison, Brian Althiser, Joel Alvarado, Ashley Anders, Dylan Anderson, Tanner Andrew, Annette Angel, Caleb Arnold, Adnan Arshad, Arslan Arshad, Octavio Arteaga, Daniel Atkins, Benjamin Baldrige, Shannon Ballegeer, Christian Barajas, Chelsi Barrera, Cristina Barrera, Rheanna Barton, Kayla Bartz, Lena Basnet, Michael Baumer, Sean Bealer, Nicole Beals, Sarah Belman, Jakob Benson, Travante Berkley, Timothy Berrier, Reese Billiet, Cassandra Billingsley, Jonathan Bolivar, Shayla Bostic, Breanna Bowser, Eric Boyer, Jarrod Branch, Jeffrey Brewer, Jessica Brooks, John Patrick Brown, Deidra Brunat, Samantha Bull, Tori Burdick, Ryan Bybee, Yaricel Calleja, Alisha Campbell, Victor Carlos, Emily Carr, Angelique Carroll, Liliana Castillo, Christopher Castleman, Carlos Castro, Erica Cauwels, Daniel Cedillo Jr., Alexis Chilla, Tyler Church, Breanna Clark, DeAnn Clark, Nicholas Clark, Rodrigo Clemente, Hailey Cline, Jessica Cole, Dakota Contreras, Marie Contreras, David Cook, Mary Copeland, Michael Crabtree, Anna Cruz, Megan Culley, Ashling Cushing, Amber Dale, Robert Damm, Emily Danger, Seth Decker, Brandon DeGryse, Joanna DeLaCruz, Julia DeMoss, Christian Dennhardt, Scott DePaape, Sidy Diallo, Zachary Diaz, Ruben Dominguez, Gregory Donley, Jacob Dopler, Mara Doye, Ashley Eberts, Haley Eckhardt, Ebonee Ellis, Rachel Enstrom, Gage Ervin, Victor Espinoza, Shakhnoza Fahriddinova, Morgan Fallon, Eliza Fazliu, Alan Fisher IV, Julie Fleck, Lucas Foglesong, Jessica Francois, Lindsey Garner, Alexandria Garrett, Mercy Gaye, Shadon Geadeyan, Davian Giles, Kayla Gillespie, Alexia Gonzalez, Eve Granack, Amanda Green, Cassidy Green, Chad Green, Connor Green, Anthony Greer, Brant Griffith, Alexandra Grimsley, Chelsey Grooms, Chelsey Gruszeczka, Haleakala Gustafson, Abigale Habana,

Graduation: June 6, 2010

Joshua Handley, Cody Hanson, Kyle Harris, Megan Harrison, Shayla Hart-Printy, Lia Harvey, Carlsen Haskins, Alexis Hawkins, Leslie Heald, Letecia Henderson, Cole Hengl, Philippe Henriquez, Alejandro Hernandez, Katrina Hessel, Kaylynn Hill, Shawn-Jeray Hinton, Travell Hinton, Brianna Hobbs, Paul Holland, Cory Holloway, Nicholas Hoover, Andrew Horton, Samantha Houk, Jacob Houser, Luther Hughes, Timothy Hughes, Mariah Imler, Victoria Jacobsen, Anndrea Jensen, Timothy Jacobson, Ramon Jimenez, Roberto Jimenez, Nicole Johnston, Amanda Jones, Brandon Jones, Breanna Jones, Keanan Jones, Charles Jordan, Abigail Karben, Rajinder Kaur, Jonathan Keith, Kalynd Kelle, Kori Ketelsen, Aleen Kick, Sean Kilheeny, Shianne Kraan, Katey Kray, Steven Lacefield, Eleazar Lachino, James Lamacki, Nathan Lemantia, Amber Lamar, Nevin Lane, Alyssa Lannen, Chelsea Lannen, Wade Laud, Kayla Leathers, Courtney Ledezma, Collin Leigh, Heather Lentz, Dayna Lesthaeghe, Bridget Link, Holly Lock, Jennifer Love, Shaquille Lowery, Arden Luethmann, Jordan Lombard, Kyle Lutz, Elyse Maccabee, Eryn Maccabee, Jamie Mackel-Lingner, Sean Maher, Joel Marquez, Jordan Martel, Andrew Martinez, Haron Martinez, Jordan Matya, Kayla Matya, Brandon McCallum, Tricia McCannon, Breanna McCaw, Tria McCaw, Amanda McCoy, Nicholas McCraw, Anita McDanel, Taelor McKay, Tiffany McKee, Jacob McLean, Luz Medrano, Andrew Meincke, Oscar Mejia, Christopher Meldrum, Idalis Melendez, Trae Menestrina, Dylan Merrill, Kiley Meyer, Chafika Mhalli, Kyle Mierzwa, Amber Miller, Gary Miller, Kathleen Miller, Kyle Millhollin, Jenna Morrell, Jordan Munoz, Mitchell Murphy, William Myers, Mackenzie Nache, Chelsey Neal, Joshua Neal, Robert Nelson Jr., Marikka Nephew, Taylor Newberry, Brian Newlon, Uyen Nguyen, Alexander Nino, Delia Nordholm, Angelica Orduña, Alejo

Ortego, Emily Palomaki, Carlyn Pangelinan, Macy Papini, Alfredo Pardo, Kassi Park, Misti Parker, Cassalena Patterson, Chase Pavelonis, Morgan Pearce, Amanda Pease, Kasie Pedersen, Ana Perez-Martinez, Alan Peterson, Bethany Pilcher, Edgar Pineda, Tash Poremba, Kenliada Porter, Shawna Raley, Cristel Ramirez, Blanca Rangel, Jose-Emilio Rangel, Julio-Jose Rangel, Andrea Raschke, Allen Rathburn, Rachael Rathjen, Asia Ray, Antonio Raya, Cristel Raygoza, Janelle Reed, Karlee Reeves, Jay Reger, Justin Reger, Cynthia Reyes, Joey Rhoads, Morgan Ringier, Amber Robb, Jesesca Robbins, Joshua Roberts, Alysha Rogers, Ashley Rogers, Nicole Rossow, Kylie Rotz, Jacob Rowell, Adriana Sancen, Jesus Sanchez Jr., Freddy Sanchez-Rosas, Tracey Sands, David Schleuning, Adam Schnedden, Alexandria Schoen, Jacob Robert Schwartz, Shawna Seibel, Abbey Shaner, Shariene Shappard, Tiffany Shaw, Demetrius Singleton Jr., Demetriyone Singleton, Kyle Smith, Allyssa Sneed, James Snyder, Kelsey Soliz, Jessica Sommers, Justin Sondergeroth, Dean Spillum, Daniel Spindler, Samantha Spurgetis-Neels, Brian St. Clair, Joshua Stice, Cassandra Stone, Dezhona Street, Kyle Stuart, Richard Sullivan, Felicia Tapia, Donald Taets III, Alex Tapia, Jolissa Tapia, Jonathan Tapia, Dylann Teager, DeMykal Teague, LaQuest Teague, Destiny Tegtmeier, Courtney Terronez, Kayla Theofilis, Catherine Thompson, Samantha Timbrook, Tamlyn Tinker, Daniel Troutwine, Jami True, Jasmine Ibarra-Trujillo, Christian Turner, Tara Turner, Jessica Underwood, Stephen VanDusseldorp, Jared VanTieghem, Victor Velez, Katelynn Vickers, Francisco Villagomez, Allison Vols, Ryan Walker, Michael Walter, Crystal Ward, Miranda Waterman, Angel Watson, Kimberly Watson, Devin Webster, Kail Webster, Alexander Weis, Samantha Wells, Amanda Whipple, Shontel Williams, Hali Willman, Kelsey Winter, Donald Wood Jr., Carl Woodard, Jeremy York, Erik Young, Daniela Zabala and Michael Zeitler.

KELSEY WINTER, daughter of Gregg and Tami Winter of East Moline, plans to major in biology/pre-medicine at Augustana College, Rock Island.

- Top achievements:**
- 2010 State Scholar
 - Illinois Quad-City Chamber Academic Achievement Award
 - "Who's Who Among All-American Scholars"

"In 10 years from now, I expect technology to become even more advanced. Just about everything will be done by computer, even more than it is today. I hope to see major medical breakthroughs as well."

Vocational Education

SAMANTHA SPURGETIS-NEELS, daughter of Nicole Fedele and Brian Neels of East Moline, plans to major in nursing at Black Hawk College, Moline.

- Top achievements:**
- John Deere Harvester Special Recognition Award
 - President's Award for Educational Achievement
 - ECHO's Student of the Month, January

"Ten years from now, I expect to see many more advances with technology. I also expect to see new medicine and cures for diseases that cannot be cured at this point in time."

MORGAN FALLON, daughter of Diana and Gumaro Sanchez of East Moline, plans to major in nursing at Western Illinois University, Macomb.

- Top achievements:**
- Honor Roll, 4 years
 - National Honor Society
 - ACC Extended Health Occupations Class

"Ten years from now, I expect to see high school students attending class more often and not getting in as much trouble as they do now because education is more valuable as college costs are rising. I expect more high school graduates will go to college and be successful with their lives."

Young Journalist

MARIAH IMLER, daughter of Lisa Imler and Ismael Rea of Silvis, plans to major in communications at Black Hawk College, Moline.

- Top achievements:**
- Honor Roll

"The world is continuously changing, and in 10 years I hope to see changes with peace — not only between the United States and the Middle East, but peace among one another. Hatred and judgment are unnecessary. Love and understanding are what's needed to ensure the changing world remains positive."

ABBIGAIL KARBEN, daughter of John and Sondra Karben of East Moline, plans to major in experimental psychology at Black Hawk College, East Moline.

- Top achievements:**
- Top 5 percent
 - Academic All-American
 - Presidential Scholarship

"The kinds of changes I expect to see in 10 years would concern technology and human interaction. We will be able to see people perfectly, smell people, almost touch people who are actually thousands of miles away, any time we want. Long-distance relationships and homesickness are no longer problems."

Competition

"I believe that the next 10 years will see a social revolution rivaling the '60s and '70s. As jobs become more scarce and housing more expensive, families will begin living together in communal dwellings. As the economy continues to decline, people will find new ways to get what they need."

ANTHONY GREER, son of Doug and Tracy Greer of Silvis, plans to major in music education at Illinois State University, Normal.

- Top achievements:**
- Accelerated courses, 4 years
 - ISU Presidential Scholarship semifinalist
 - John Deere Harvester Award
- "The world evolves swiftly and I do not expect that to change. Ten years from now, I believe technology we have today will be considered ancient and obsolete and all modes of communication will be available at the touch of a button. We will move forward in our information age."

Leadership

KAYLA BARTZ, daughter of Douglas and Rhonda Bartz of Silvis, plans to major in history and secondary education at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville.

- Top achievements:**
- Honor Roll
 - John Deere Special Recognition

"In 10 years from now, I expect to see many things with our environment change, like gas, farming and the way we eat. I believe we will be a healthier country, with organic being the norm and genetically modified food not being the norm in our society. Also, I think technology and morals of life will be different, too."

MARY COPELAND, daughter of Joseph and Jane Copeland of East Moline, plans to major in elementary education/special education at Black Hawk College, Moline.

- Top achievements:**
- Honor Roll

- Area Career Center Student of the Month
- John Deere Special Recognition

"As I think about my years in school, one thing that has always been a part of my education has been technology. Each year, though, technology becomes more advanced. Ten years from now, I expect to see a boom in technology making it even more vital for education everywhere."

Math/The Sciences

LINDSEY GARNER, daughter of Paul and Karen Garner of East Moline.

- Top achievements:**
- Illinois State Scholar
 - Ranked 4th in class
 - Illinois Quad-City Chamber Academic Excellence

"Ten years from now, I expect technology in schools to have improved. I feel that each year we receive new resources to aid in our learning process."

'Lost Boy' pursues education to help Sudan rebuild

By Eric Peterson
The Associated Press

SCHAUMBURG, Ill. — Many of the business management students at Schaumburg's University of Phoenix campus are juggling full-time jobs and family obligations as they pursue the continuation of their education.

But William Mou of Wheaton may be the only current student to have survived gunfire, bombs, malnutrition and animal attacks on the plains of Africa to enroll there.

Mou, 30, is one of the former "Lost Boys of Sudan" who received U.S. citizenship after being relocated throughout the United States in 2001 after more

than a decade in political exile in refugee camps.

For most of the past nine years of relative normalcy, he's worked for a supplier to Motorola in Schaumburg. In 2006, he married a Sudanese woman, who also escaped civil war and slavery. They are raising two young children as well as his wife's 11-year-old first son.

But it was Mou's 2008 visit to his homeland, where he was reunited with his parents and had his four siblings he'd had no news of for 21 years, that inspired him to pursue goals above and beyond his own well-being.

"They said, 'Thank God, you came back!'" Mou said. "You are the hope of the

country!"

After the visit, he started the not-for-profit Lost Boys Rebuilding Southern Sudan, the main goal of which is to build a school near his former village.

In aid of making this enterprise successful, he began pursuing a business management degree near his workplace in Schaumburg.

There he met Matt LaRue, a national account executive for Convergent Technologies in Schaumburg pursuing a higher degree of his own through night classes.

LaRue first thought of Mou as simply a fellow student whom he might be able to help out a little with the class. But after hearing

Mou's life story and learning the overall saga of the Lost Boys in the documentary "God Grew Tired of Us," LaRue became dedicated to Mou's larger goal.

He's since met many other of the Lost Boys living in various parts of America and said a strong work ethic and a devotion to a higher purpose is something they all share.

"They're very dedicated men, and they're very religious," LaRue said. "Most have two jobs and have barely a few hours of sleep each night."

LaRue is helping design a new, more effective website for Mou's group. It should replace the current site at rebuilding-southern-sudan.org in September,

offering more detailed information about how to donate to the cause.

Mou said most current donors are either people or companies like LaRue's with whom he's had personal contact, or come out of the various speaking engagements he takes on.

Elementary schools are especially eager to have Lost Boys like Mou speak to students who've already read about the plight of children who were the same age as they are during their three-year trek from Sudan to Ethiopia in the late '80s.

Before his 2008 visit, Mou's last contact with his family had come in the middle of the night in 1987 when his village was attacked.

At the age of 7, he found himself among 27,000 other children who endured a lack of food, water and medical attention as they sought sanctuary.

They walked by night in order to hide from the soldiers in the civil war, but instead endured attacks by rhinos, lions and crocodiles that claimed many lives along the way.

One day Mou injured his foot and believed he had no choice but to fall back and let the group go on. But another walker pointed to a dead body and told him that would be him unless he found a way to keep up.

The children were driven by the promise of prosperity in Ethiopia, which Mou still considers "a good lie."