



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.

Nominees will be saluted on special pages in the Q-C Area section on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Coming Wednesday: Tipton, Camanche high schools.

Annawan High School

ANNAWAN (Ill.) High School has selected these outstanding seniors from its class of 28 students:

Academics

JENELLE CHAPMAN, daughter of John Chapman and Elizabeth Chapman of Annawan, plans to major in biology and chemistry at Eureka (Ill.) College.

Top achievements:

- Ranked 1st in class
- Elks Student of the Month
- Illinois State Scholar

“Ten years from now I expect the medical field to have made huge advances with technology and discoveries, such as a cure for Alzheimer’s disease and cancer and ways to prevent them. In 10 years, forensics will also be advanced and many cold cases will be solved.”

The Arts

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON, son of Dennis and Sally Johnson of Prophetstown, plans to major in nursing at Black Hawk College, Moline.

Top achievements:

- National Honor Society
- Student of the Month
- High Honor Roll

“I believe that the future will bring great economic growth to all means of living. Technology will grow, making health care easier and more efficient. I also believe that there will be a huge



Jenelle Chapman



Christopher Johnson



Amara Specht



Aron Jackson



Joe Sierens



Kane Vandersnick



Heath Rakestraw

CLASS OF 2009

Thomas Baele, Jenelle Chapman, Alex Coppejans, Tara Cravens, Riley Dynes, Christopher Fronk, Aron Jackson, Christopher Johnson, Nikki Katschnig, Chase Kuelper, Justine Miller, Brittney Mitro, Aaron Morey, Alyssa Morosko, Christopher Nelson, Benjamin Pritchard, Heath Rakestraw, Karisa Shendelman, Joseph Sierens, Jordan Sommers, Rafael Souza, Amara Specht, Eric Thurston, Kane Vandersnick, Valerie VanHyfte, Luke Wells, Emily Wheeler and Alecia Wilson.

‘green’ stage due to the growing number of environmentally friendly materials and vehicles.”

Humanities

AMARA SPECHT, daughter of Paul and Jamie Specht of Annawan, plans to major in biology at Iowa State University, Ames.

Top achievements:

- National Honor Society
- Academic All-Conference
- High Honor Roll

“In the next 10 years I expect the world to change dramatically. This year we elected our first African-American president. In

the next 10 years, I am certain that we will see our first female president. I expect that we will still be striving for a healthier planet; and finding new and improved ways to do so. I also expect our country to be making amends with all other countries. The world can change a lot in just 10 years.”

Leadership

ARON JACKSON, daughter of Loren and Valerie Jackson of Annawan, plans to major in elementary education at Monmouth (Ill.) College.

Top achievements:

- High Honor Roll
 - National Honor Society
 - Academic All-Conference, volleyball, basketball, track
- “A lot can change in 10 years — from simple things like growing up and entering high school, to larger scale things in our world today. Our cell phones, iPods, and other now ‘necessary-to-survive’ technologies would not have been thought of 10 years ago; our effect on global warming has skyrocketed in the last 10 years, and vot-

ing our first African-American president into office would have been unheard of 10 years ago. The role of leadership has changed, too. Being a leader has changed immensely with all of today’s challenges and temptations.”

Math/The Sciences

JOE SIERENS, son of Mike Lucas and Wanda Sierens-Lucas of Annawan, plans to major in industrial engineering at Bradley University, Peoria, Ill.

Top achievements:

- Academic All-State
 - Illinois State Scholar
 - National Honor Society
- “I believe that there will be many changes in schools in 10 years, but I believe that the technology used in classrooms is going to change the most. Every classroom is going to have computers for every child and there are going to be many programs that will teach the students. Teachers will have interactive whiteboards and they will be able to run the programs from the front of the room.”

Vocational Education

KANE VANDERSNICK, son of Mark and Paula Vandersnick of Annawan, plans to major in ag business at Black Hawk College-East Campus, Kewanee.

Top achievements:

- FFA president
- Student of the month
- 4-H president

“The world is changing every day, whether we realize it or not, and I hope it is for the better. I feel that we will see many more technical advances toward renewable fuels such as ethanol. That will help the world stay cleaner and use less oil consumption.”

Young Journalist

HEATH RAKESTRAW, son of Kathy and Dave Rakestraw of Annawan, plans to major in business at Illinois State University, Normal.

Top achievements:

- National Honor Society
- Academic All-Conference
- High Honor Roll

“The big news lately is change, change for a better tomorrow. That’s exactly where we’re heading. A new president, such high advancements in technology, and the security of a great education sets a great track for the next 10 years of success.”

Riverdale High School

RIVERDALE High School, Port Byron, Ill., has selected these outstanding seniors from its class of 97 students:

Academics

LEART NEZIROSKI, son of Musa Neziroski and Abibe Neziroski of East Moline, plans to major in pre-med at Augustana College, Rock Island.

Top achievements:

- National Honor Society
- IHSA Academic Achievement Award
- Three Rivers Academic All-Conference

“In 10 years, there will be many changes in the world. We will turn to alternate sources for fuel and start using more windmills for power. The economy will hopefully have recovered by then, providing for business growth and funding for new discoveries.”

The Arts

ARIEL SCHRONICK, daughter of Charles and Donna Schronick of Port Byron, plans to major in marine science/marine biology at the University of Tampa (Fla.).

Top achievements:

- IHSA Academic Achievement Award
- State Speech Team qualifier
- Dean’s Scholarship

“Within 10 years, I foresee society becoming more environmentally conscious. Today, there are efforts to construct buildings that are more energy-efficient, running on solar or wind energy. Hopefully within 10 years, the



Leart Neziroski



Ariel Schronick



Doug Peters



Emma Vandercar



Chase Geigle



Amber Anderson



Elizabeth McCorkle

CLASS OF 2009

Marc Alfou, Amber Anderson, Aaron Bennett, Samuel Bippus, Briar Black, Jeff Black, William Boucher, Ryan Brummet, Kathleen Buster, Kelsey Campbell, Ashley Case, Justin Claus, Sean Coffey, Kevin Coverdill, Logan Creen, Jessica Crowe, Tara Cullison, Ian Day, Mary DePauw, Cassidy DeWitt, David DuBois, Cody Durbin, Laken Franklin, Lucas Fry, Chase Geigle, Megan Gibson, Colin Girot, Briana Grymonprez, Louis Guinn, Krystin Heavener, Sarah Hebel, Megan

effects of the global climate change will diminish to a steady level instead of exponentially becoming worse.”

Humanities

DOUG PETERS, son of Joel and Julie Peters of Port Byron, plans to major in biology at Augustana College, Rock Island.

Top achievements:

- Illinois State Scholar
- Top 5 percent
- English Award

“By far the most dramatic change I foresee is the continual integration of digital technology into our daily lives. It will undoubtedly evolve to serve purposes for which we have yet to develop a need, much like cell

phones have done in the past decade.”

Leadership

EMMA VANDERCAR, daughter of Tony Vandercar and Tami Vandercar of East Moline, plans to major in business administration at Illinois State University, Normal.

Top achievements:

- Illinois State Scholar
 - Top 5 percent
 - DAR Citizenship Award
- “I think that in 10 years we will have flying cars and time machines. Just kidding. I believe that we will be out of our economic crisis and will have a thriving country once again. Jobs will

be plentiful, and our national debt will be lower than ever.”

Math/The Sciences

CHASE GEIGLE, son of Angie and Elmer Geigle of Port Byron, plans to major in computer science at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Top achievements:

- Illinois State Scholar
- Teaching a seminar to math teachers at Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics conference
- Top 10

“I foresee computers becoming a more integral part of everyone’s lives as a form of everyday communication. The adults of the

future will be the children of now, so social networks will permeate through the entirety of society rather than just the more technically advanced.”

Vocational Education

AMBER ANDERSON, daughter of Kevin and Julie Anderson of Port Byron, plans to major in accounting at Augustana College, Rock Island.

Top achievements:

- Perfect attendance
- Accounting Award
- Dean’s Scholarship

“Over the next 10 years there will be stricter laws on cell phone usage, and laws that will affect teen drivers. As the chance for a career becomes more competitive, I expect that there will be a big increase in students attending high school and college.”

Young Journalist

ELIZABETH MCCORKLE, daughter of Kathryn McCorkle and William McCorkle of Hillsdale, plans to major in journalism at Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff.

Top achievements:

- National Honor Society
- Editor, yearbook and Ram Page
- Top of the class in English 11

“I expect to see new and improved changes in technology and medicine along with the economy. Soon we will be out of our recession and back on our feet. I also hope to see that we will no longer be almost completely dependent on foreign oil.”



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