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September 27, 2000
Section: News

14 named National Merit semifinalists
Donna Smith
Oak Ridger staff

Fourteen Oak Ridge High School seniors have been National Merit semifinalists because of their high scores on preliminary college exams.

The students are: John Andrews, Nathaniel Bass, David Berry, Bryce Wesley Galen, Megan Hall, Nick Moore, Sarah Nelson, Ross Marshall Nesbit, Daria Pelech, Christopher A. Schamper, Jordan Rae Smith, Katherine Terpstra, Matthew Turner and Andrea Waddle.

The 14 are among 16,000 semifinalists across the nation who will compete for more than \$31 million in scholarships if they achieve finalist status, according to information from National Merit Scholarship Corp., Evanston, Ill.

The following biographical information was submitted by students.

John Andrews is the son of Carolyn B. and William H. Andrews Jr., 770 Poplar Creek Road, Oliver Springs.

Honors/activities: J.C. Penney Golden Rule Youth Award finalist; Tennessee Governor's School for the Sciences; Scholars Bowl; band, principal trumpet; International Relations Club; Oak Ridge Young Republicans, co-founder; Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic; Branching Out literary magazine.

Nathaniel Bass is the son of Donna and Gregg Bass, 111 Tempura Drive.

Honors/activities: Masquers drama club; Boy Scouts; disc jockey at WUTK-FM; and National Thespian Society inductee.

David Berry is the son of Linda and Lee Berry, 156 Newport Drive.

Honors/activities: crew; tutoring; Scholars Bowl; National Honor Society president.

Bryce Wesley Galen is the son of Angela and Glen Galen, 106 Wesley Lane.

Honors/activities: President's Environmental Youth Award; Discover Card Tribute Award; Prudential Spirit of Community Award; Horatio Alger Enriching America Award; Eagle Scout; U.S. Congressional Award; MathCounts chapter champion; National Honor Society; International Relations Club; Oak Ridge Rowing Association; Knoxville Symphony Youth Orchestra; Scholars Bowl; SpyreRydge string quartet; Boy Scouts; Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge junior volunteer; science club; St. Mary's Church choir; Greenways Oak Ridge; InterACT/RyLA; Southern Standard bluegrass band.

Megan Hall is the daughter of Ann and David Hall, 115 Bradley Ave.

Honors/activities: peer facilitator; band, Key Club; Covenant Presbyterian Church; chancel choir; Girls State; National Honor Society; All-East Tennessee State Band; Xerox Award for Humanities and Social Sciences.

Nick Moore is the son of Kathy Moore, 107 Dixie Lane, and Matthew Moore, 301 Briarcliff Ave.

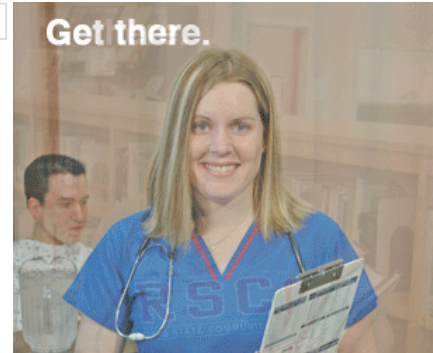
Honors/activities: State Math Contest; Outstanding Spanish Student Award; Physics Bowl; varsity soccer team; Student Council Social Committee.

Sarah Nelson is the daughter of Joan and Jim Nelson, 109 Cumberland View Drive.

Honors/activities: Dance Arts ballet, modern dance; Repertory Dance Theatre; piano lessons; First United Methodist Church youth choir; National Honor Society; Branching Out; Governor's School for the Humanities; Sewanee Award for Excellence; highest honor roll.

Ross Marshall Nesbit is the son of Belinda and Randy Nesbit, 19 Outer Drive.

Honors/activities: National Honor Society; ORHS Department of English Award; Department of Foreign Languages



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Spanish Awards; Tennessee Mathematics Teachers Association's regional competition; basketball team captain, letterman; varsity baseball, lettered in baseball; Arby's Classic All Tournament Team; peer facilitator; Youth Leadership team president; National Honor Society; Fellowship of Christian Athletes; Young Life; Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church acolyte and tape ministry; WATO engineer and commentator.

Daria Pelech is the daughter of Linda Pelech, 135 Wakeman Lane, and Orest Pelech, Durham, N.C.

Honors/activities: National Honor Society; Governor's School for the Arts; band, Masquers; Knoxville Youth Symphony; swim team; gymnastics classes; pottery classes.

Christopher A. Schamper is the son of Elaine B. and Russell D. Schamper, 111 Sweet Lane, Clinton.

Honors/activities: karate enthusiast; Kern United Methodist Church; Science Club; Duke TIP summer program; National Honor Society; Governor's School for the Sciences.

Jordan Rae Smith is the daughter of Ann and Steve Smith, 104 Amanda Drive.

Honors/activities: Presidential Gold Award for volunteer work; International Thespian Society; National Science Merit Award; Masquers; Envirothon; Oak Ridge Environmental Quality Advisory Board; National Honor Society; private voice and piano lessons; Student Council; commended French student.

Katherine Terpstra is the daughter of Peggy and Daniel Terpstra, 127 Newport Drive.

Honors/activities: Scholastic Art and Literary competition, two silver and one American Vision awards, national level; two state performance cups in the Tennessee Federation of Music Clubs competition; Brown Book Award; private piano and voice lessons; art; swim team; National Honor Society; First Presbyterian Church youth elder, church fellowship group and youth choir; Habitat for Humanity volunteer; Etude Music Club.

Matthew Turner is the son of Melody and Doug Turner, 1201 Tuskegee Drive.

Honors/activities: member of the First Baptist Church youth group, played for American Youth Soccer Organization and junior varsity soccer teams.

Andrea Waddle is the daughter of Barbara Petty and Daniel Waddle, 115 Canterbury Drive.

Honors/activities: International Relations Club; debate; mock trial, National Honor Society; chorus, National Hispanic Scholar; National Spanish Exam; state math contest; Governor's School for International Studies.

Fourteen Oak Ridge High School students have been selected as National Merit Semifinalists. They are, seated from left, **Bryce Galen**, Jordan Smith, Sarah Nelson, Daria Pelech, Andrea Waddle, Megan Hall and Katie Terpstra; and standing from left, David Berry, John Andrews, Matt Turner, Nathaniel Bass, Chris Schamper, Nick Moore and Ross Nesbit.


-- Staff photo by Kelley Scott Walli

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