

Top Seniors Of The Year Are Students Of Distinction!

By James Cuthbertson
Post Staff Writer

The "Top Seniors" of the year are students of distinction. All have exhibited discipline to study and to commit themselves to learn as much as was offered.

The "Top Seniors" included Donnell Walton, Valia Blackwell, Ruben Johnson, Roslyn Johnson, Hughart Roberts, Lavette Young, Paul Latten, Darnelle Best, Detra McCullough and Rona Reid.

Donnell Thaddeus Walton is under the guardianship of Mrs. Mary Williams of 800 Walnut Ave. He is a South Mecklenburg senior who ranks 24 of 634 students. He has been active in the National Honor Society and Inroads.

Originally from Michigan, he moved to Charlotte when he was in the 11th grade and has maintained a high average that is now 4.5 CRI.

He was most valuable player on the track team last year and was nominated for a Morehead and Elk Scholarship this year.

The Who's Who Among American High School Students honoree will attend either Georgia Tech. or Michigan to major in Electrical Engineering or Pre-Medicine.

Walton takes pride in being a student-athlete saying that he thanks his aunt, Mrs. Williams, who supported him through high school and replaced his grandmother as his source of inspiration.

His grandmother died during his early high school years.

Valia Dionne Blackwell, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Blackwell of 1834 Haines Street, is a West Charlotte senior. She ranks 17 of 415.

Ms. Blackwell said the desire to achieve has been a motivating force that has inspired her to be successful.

"A successful person is one who is involved in activities, that will enhance his or her future being," she said. "Because I am learning to be assertive, improving my leadership skills, and engaging myself in work similar to that of my future career, I am on the road to success."

Ms. Blackwell has a CRI of 4.18. She was active in the chorus, National Honor Society and Order of the Lions. She was chosen to become a Delta Debutante as well as a junior marshal.

Ms. Blackwell will attend North Carolina State University to major in Electrical Engineering.



Donnell Walton
.... South Meck.



Valia Blackwell
.... West Charlotte



Ruben Johnson
.... Olympic High



Roslyn Johnson
.... North Mecklenburg



Paul Latten
.... Myers Park



Rona Reid
.... West Meck.



Detra McCullough
.... West Charlotte



Hughart Roberts
.... Garinger High



Darnelle Best
.... Olympic High

Valia Blackwell received a four year scholarship to Bennett College.

Olympic High School's Ruben Marshall Johnson ranks 26 of 339 and has a class rank index of 4.0. He is the son of Mrs. Mary Deese of 121 Rollingwood Dr.

"Engineering will be my major field of study and by building a strong academic background I will be able to compete on a high level of study," Johnson exclaimed.

"Subjects such as chemistry, physics, calculus, analysis and advanced subjects of English and history show my hard work and motivation for achieving an education," he added.

McCullough of West Charlotte in describing her academic career.

Southern Bell helped to further familiarize me with engineering and shows my eagerness to learn."

Johnson was on the varsity football team, participated in Project Excel and is a member of the Honor Society.

He is also a member of the 1984 Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Beautillion Militaire, and was awarded a scholarship to UNCC. There he will major in Mechanical Engineering.

"I am constantly striving to reach a higher goal of being a truly excellent student," said Detra Lee McCullough of West Charlotte in describing her academic career.

"I know that I can accomplish this goal if I apply myself. I can uphold this goal through very hard dedication and a lot of help from my peers and parents."

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.A. McCullough has a CRI of 4.18.

She lives at 1107 Log Cabin Road and ranks 17 of 415 in her class.

She is active as a junior marshal, in the National Honor Society and Marching Band.

The Morehead Nominee and 1984 Delta Debutante will major in engineering, mathematics and science.

Deidra McCullough received a four year scholarship to Bennett College.

Rona Levetta Reid is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Reid of Rt. 14, Box 396.

The West Mecklenburg senior is a model of leadership at her school. On one occasion, the band instructor has let her lead the class and she has done it effectively.

Rona ranks 11 of 296. She is in the French Club, Marching Band, National Honor Society, and Inroads.

She was nominated for a National Merit and National Achievement Commended Student Scholarship.

She plans to attend North Carolina State to major in Chemistry, Engineering or Textile Chemistry.

Roslyn Johnson of North Mecklenburg believes in pushing the extra mile to

win the race and accomplish what you want in life.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Johnson and has a CRI of 4.52. She lives at 2816 Dalecrest Drive and ranks 13 of 371.

Johnson is active in Junior Achievement, the National Honor Society, Inroads, the French Club and was Who's Who and a Junior Marshal.

"Because studying until three in the morning is not easily accepted, this self-discipline has been a key factor in my academic achievements," she said.

Hughart Osworth Clayton Roberts is the son of Mrs. Veda Clayton and Mr. Rennex Roberts of 3304 Winchelsea Drive. He attends Garinger High.

"Through the activities of soccer, the Future Business Leaders of America, walk-a-thons, food collection for the needy," Roberts believes he has learned that to do something well you have to be dedicated.

"You have to be dedicated and practice hard," he said.

"I want to help my classmates and the community in whatever I can," he said.

Roberts is a member of the 1984 Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Beautillion Militaire.

He was All-Conference in soccer and has been named to the coaches' All-Conference Team. He also made the Coaches Association State Soccer Team.

He plans to attend North Carolina State University to major in aeronautical engineering. He wants to become a pilot.

Lavette Helaine Young is the daughter of Mrs. Amelia Leonard of 5801 Quiet Cove Court.

The Garinger High student ranks 3 of 441 at her school and has a CRI of 4.89.

She is a member of The Keyettes, National Honor Society, Project Excel, and the All-State Band.

The junior marshal plans to attend Brigham Young University to major in medical technology.

Fellow Garinger Wildcat Stephanie Denise Watts is the daughter of Mrs. Vera Watts Mal Melton of 401-C Hilo Drive. She ranks 13 of 441 with a CRI of 4.2.

She is a member of the Keyettes and Lettergirl squad and was a senior class and junior class officer.

At Garinger, she has been named to Who's Who and was the Military Ball Queen.

The Delta Debutante plans to major in electrical engineering at North Carolina State University.

Paul Leon Latten is a Myers Park Senior High School senior.

Latten is the son of Mrs. Glennie Latten of 2921 Baltimore Avenue. He has a CRI index of 4.333.

Ranking 20 of 373, Paul has been active as a junior marshal, Student Body President, and named

National Merit semi-finalist.

He received the DAR Award, was inducted into the National Honor Society and was named to Who's Who.

The Boys State scholar was also Inroads' "Student of the Year"...

He plans to attend North Carolina State University or Morehouse to major in Engineering.

Latten believes that Black students are advancing more each day socially and educationally.

At Myers Park he takes pride in being the first Black Student Male president.

"I heard and felt the inspiration generated when one Black out of 36 students was inducted into the National Honor Society. (getting an overwhelming amount of applause compared to the others), I heard the excitement among Black students when one of them was named a national merit semi-finalist, and I sensed the intensity brewing when one of them was chosen to represent their school in various activities," he said.

"This trivial triangle of incentive that I provided to some helped them to feel that Blacks could enter the ranks of the scholarly," he added. "Moreover, it provided me with the confidence needed to set higher goals, obtain more and possibly give more. Similar criterion which inspires others to achieve is what a Top 10 Senior is made of and should possess."

Darnelle Michelle Best is the daughter of Mrs. Brenna Bethea of 701 Huntsmoor Drive. She plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Charlotte to major in chemical engineering.

She is active on the annual staff, the Red Cross and the National Honor Society.

The National Merit

See TOP On Page 3B