

Ten Outstanding Young Americans

The Ten Outstanding Young Americans (TOYA) project exists to recognize and honor ten Americans each year who exemplify the best attributes of the nation's young people, aged 18 through 40.

The Ten Outstanding Young Men program was officially adopted in 1938 and has been conducted annually since 1940. In 1984, The U.S. Junior Chamber admitted women as members and, in accordance with this change, reorganized this awards program to reflect the organization's membership. In 1985, the program was officially changed to Ten Outstanding Young Americans, recognizing the accomplishments of young women and men.

Winners are selected on their achievement or contribution in at least three of the following areas: personal improvement or accomplishment; financial success or economic innovation; social improvement to major contemporary problems; philanthropic contribution or voluntary service; politics or government service; scientific or technological contributions; legal reform; cultural achievement (literature, history, education, arts); academic leadership or accomplishment; moral and religious leadership; athletic accomplishment; success in the influence of public opinion; any other important contribution to the community, state, or nation.

Copies of all entries are sent to screening judges who independently select and rank the twenty semi-finalists. The entries of the semi-finalists are sent to finalist judges who independently narrow the selection to the ten men and women selected as TOYA honorees.

Of the more than 600 young Americans honored, many were recognized before the achievements for which they are now known: John F. Kennedy, Gerald R. Ford, Ann Bancroft, Gale Sayers, Elvis Presley, Dan Quayle, Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, Larry Holmes, Bill Clinton, Jeanna Yeager, Kaye Lani Rae Rafko-Wilson. Refer to the USJC website for a complete listing of the past honorees

The 2007 Class of Honorees is:

Amber Lynn Coffman, 25, Los Angeles, California. Jobs Program Supervisor of Best Buddies International, an organization that enhances the lives of people with intellectual disabilities through one-on-one friendships, Coffman also founded the Happy Helpers for the Homeless organization in 1993, which has the mission statement of providing food, toiletries, and clothing [to the homeless] with compassion and a smile, and to spread the belief that if all those able got involved, the human tragedy of homelessness would be solved.

Garrett Gravesen, 27, Marietta, Georgia. Co-founder and Co-executive Director of H.E.R.O. (Hearts Everywhere Reaching Out) for Children, Gravesen is committed to improving the quality of life for children living with HIV/AIDS through H.E.R.O., an organization that provides opportunities for children affected with HIV/AIDS to enjoy life and have fun, and its mentoring program, SuperHEROes, which pairs children affected by HIV/AIDS with positive role models, Through these efforts, H.E.R.O. is pushing quality-of-life care to the fore-front of the AIDS agenda.

Captain Frederick M. "Don" Haley III, 30, Goldsboro, North Carolina. Flight Commander in the 335th Fighter Squadron, U.S. Air Force, Haley is directly responsible for the training and professional development of 16 Air Force Officers to prepare for and participate in combat operations, in the F-15E "Strike Eagle" as well as being a peer counselor, Bible Study leader, church worship leader, tutor, and Boy Scout leader, organizing drives for the local food bank, implementing a Partners in Education program, and coordinating sponsorship of a Make-A-Wish for a child in

need.

Dr. Lisa Ellen Hensley, 35, Frederick, Maryland. A microbiologist with the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, Dr. Hensley has emerged as one of the premier scientists in the discovery of medical countermeasures against lethal diseases such as Ebola virus, SARS, and smallpox. She has identified a candidate therapeutic for the SARS virus and at least two candidate therapeutics for Ebola, one of which has also demonstrated some effectiveness against the Marburg virus.

Captain Sean Pernel Hoggs, 39, Plainfield, New Jersey. Commander of the 816th Aerial Port Flight, U.S. Air Force, Hoggs' unmatched leadership has resulted in major mission success for the Air Force's Special Operations Command, Special Operations Command—Pacific, and Headquarters Air Mobility Command. In addition to his many successes supporting the Global War on Terror, Hoggs has been an outstanding mentor, role model, and humanitarian to those in and out of the military.

Vail Blackwell Horton, 30, Portland, Oregon. Founder and CEO of Keen Mobility Company, and Founder and Chairman of Incight Foundation. Horton was born without legs and improper bone growth in his arms. He founded Keen while graduating from the University of Portland. Keen generates over \$2.5 million in sales and offers more than 25 product lines which includes 7 patents. Incight Foundation provided 70 college scholarships and 15 internships nationwide in 2007. He serves on The US State Department Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities under Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and enjoys speaking as a motivational speaker all across the US. He lives with his wife Elizabeth and their 4 children in Portland Oregon.

Doctor Rahul N. Khurana, 31, Baltimore, Maryland. A clinical instructor and surgeon at the Wilmer Eye Institute at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Khurana works in the areas of research, teaching, and treating patients with a focus on the visual system. Khurana has been actively involved in the community through tutoring underprivileged children, spending time with Alzheimer's patients and participating in humanitarian missions abroad to restore vision to those too poor to obtain care. Finally, he has discovered and published on new insights regarding various blinding diseases.

Captain Marisha Malik, 27, Potomac, Maryland. Currently Officer in Charge of the 18th Aircraft Maintenance Unit at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. Malik leads disciplined teams delivering combat-ready aircraft, equipment, and people, including 22 assigned Block 40 F-16 C/D aircraft. She directs and implements maintenance plans supporting more than 3,000 sorties and 5,000 flying hours annually, as well as holding responsibility for the morale, training, discipline, and management of 230 personnel in nine Air Force specialties.

Kyle Scott Maynard, 21, Suwanee, Georgia. Born with a rare disorder called congenital amputation, Maynard has no elbows and no knees, yet graduated from high school with a wrestling record of 35 wins and 16 losses along with a 3.7 GPA. Maynard was a recipient of the 2004 ESPN Espy Award for the Best Athlete with a Disability; has written a bestselling memoir titled No Excuses; and spoken on motivation for numerous Fortune 500 companies, universities, and charitable organizations throughout the world.

Matthew Terrence Trivett, 33, Frederick, Maryland. A Research Associate with SAIC-Frederick, a subsidiary of Science Applications International Corporation, Trivett is currently finishing his Master's in biomedical sciences while working as a researcher with a special type of T-cells important in the control of HIV infection. His current research experiments will assess the ability of the T-cells to either prevent infection entirely or reduce the peak viral load associated with infection.