

## IN THE TOWNS

# Adventure in Thailand the trip of a lifetime for Maplewood teen

**Name:** Daniel Ives

**Age:** 14

**Hometown:** Maplewood

**Achievement:** From March 26 to April 5, Daniel embarked on a journey that he won't soon forget. He was chosen to participate in the Nick News Adventures show on Nickelodeon hosted by Linda Ellerbee. He along with five other contestants traveled to Thailand to visit Royal Thai Elephant Reserve. While in Thailand, Daniel adopted an elephant and learned how to train it. He also ate food that is different from what he is accustomed to eating in the United States. Daniel ate mealworms, which he insists tastes like French fries. He also ate ant eggs, which are a good source of protein. Bee larva was also on the menu.

He. "absorbed the culture of Thailand while the camera wasn't rolling and was very observant." Daniel was amazed by how enormous the elephants were and believes that an elephant wouldn't harm anyone, unless it was put in harms way. He admits that he had culture shock for a few days.

## NEIGHBORS

"Not every culture is the same and no matter where you go, you'll get to meet new friends and learn a little about their culture," he said. The program was televised on July 22.

**The selection process:** Kristopher M. Harrison, principal of Maplewood Middle School, nominated him for the program. Daniel was given a phone interview and asked to submit an essay along with photographs. From there, he was selected from a national pool to participate in the broadcast.

**Sequence of events:** He met the cast of Nick News Adventure show at Los Angeles International Airport; the crew was already assembled on location. Daniel traveled on a plane, for 18 hours to Thailand. He was also given an on-air screen play. Later that day, he got to see the elephant he would be responsible for caring for. The second day, he learned what to do in order to command an elephant. On the third day, he learned how to wash

an elephant and participated in an elephant race. He visited a baby elephant that was injured on the fourth day. Day five consisted of interviews as well as tours of Thailand.

He also met the director of the sanctuary. "Established by the king himself, to protect elephants from endangerment." In addition, he went camping and was allowed to sleep outside with the elephants. On the last day, he said his final goodbyes to the elephants and departed Thailand.

**Interests and activities:** BMX biking, swimming, and enjoying the company of friends, Evan Walters and Jack Vena.

**Long-term goals:** Daniel knows that having a good education is the gateway to success. And because of this, one of his main objectives is "to get better grades in school."

**School and beyond:** He attends Columbia High School. Daniel likes art, gym, and language arts classes. His career plans include becoming a teacher because he enjoys interacting with children.

**Favorite book:** "Kindred" by



Octavia E. Butler.

**Summertime fun:** Daniel likes when the summer season approaches because he can take a break from the daily stress of school.

**Proudest moments:** Daniel was happy that he got the opportunity to travel to Thailand. He also likes diving off the second tower of the swimming pool.

**Family:** Father, George, 44; mother, Martine 36; sisters, Emily, 12; Jill, 7.

— Kimberly Williams



## IN THE TOWNS

# Award-winning teacher strives to motivate students to innovate

**Name:** Kenneth Zushma

**Age:** 26

**Residence:** South Plainfield

**Education:** Zushma attended Kean University, where he received a bachelor of science degree in industrial arts education and a master of arts degree in educational leadership.

**Achievement:** He recently received the Innovative Technology Educator award from the Technology Educators Association of New Jersey, which is sponsored by the Martinson Family Foundation. Zushma teaches technology education to, seventh- and eighth-graders at Heritage Middle School in Livingston.

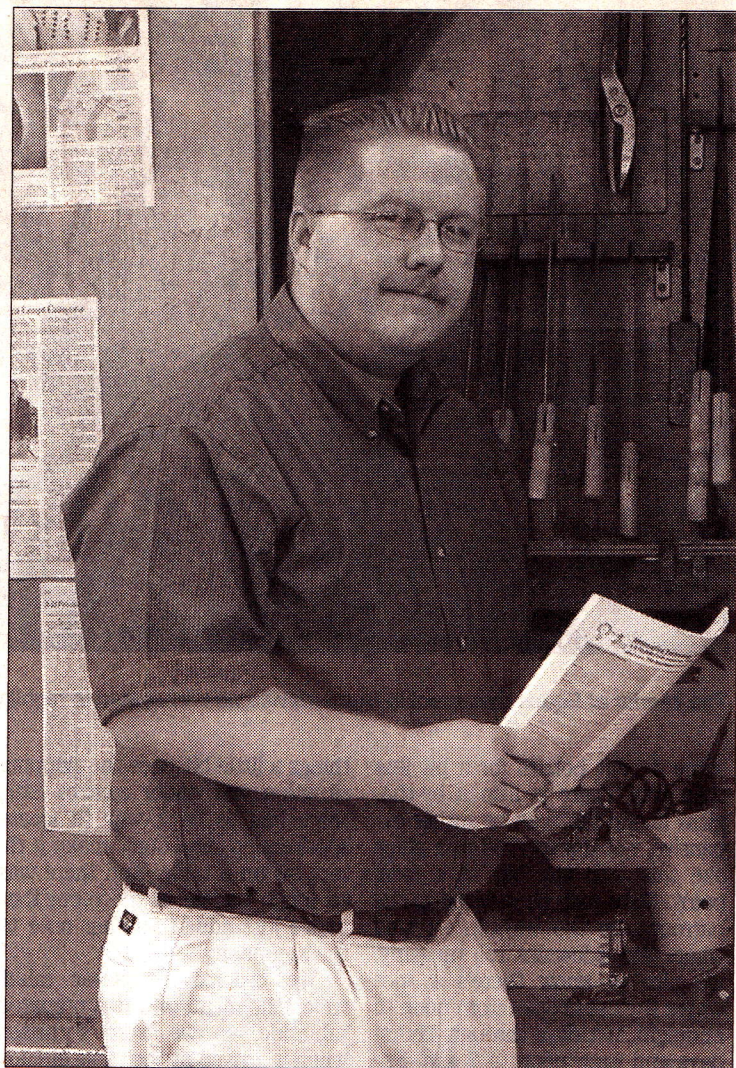
**About the award:** He won the award because of a project he worked on with his seventh-grade class. Zushma instructed his students to design and build an electronic game. This trifecta of design, manufacturing and electronics grabbed the attention of the awards committee. He is grateful for receiving the technology award, which five teachers win per year. The winners are chosen by the executive board, which also includes previous winners.

**The classroom and beyond:** His style of teaching includes instilling confidence, organizational skills and the ability to communicate ideas. Zushma says New Jersey is known as the "innovation state" and hopes his classes do just that: motivate his students to be innovative.

**Biggest challenges:** He says "keeping things fresh, for the sake of the students," is his biggest task. Zushma tries to teach in a manner that is very "cross-curricular." He says by teaching this way, students can apply the knowledge they gain in his classes, to other subjects. He compares his courses of study to other teachers, to make sure his classes are "current and still deliver the same instruction." This requires him to make constant revisions to his curricular.

"As teachers, we always inspire them to do better than we do," he said.

**His muse:** His inspiration came



from his teachers at South Plainfield High School. The industrial arts and design program prompted him to get into technology, education and design.

**A knack for teaching:** He has been teaching at Heritage Middle School since 2003. Zushma started as a long-term leave replacement teacher.

After a year and a half, he transferred to the district's high school. Though he returned to junior high, Zushma has the opportunity to continue teaching high school. He believes this experience would be rewarding because he may get to "see his students grow up."

**Career objectives:** He wants to continue teaching and hopes to be known as a leader in education.

**On his bookshelf:** He enjoys reading author Tom Kelley. He

cites "The Ten Faces of Innovation" and "The Art of Innovation" as his favorites.

Zushma likes these books because they "break down the innovation process and demonstrate that best ideas don't always come from a conforming atmosphere."

**A piece of mind:** His happiness comes from being in the classroom, Zushma said. The highlight of teaching is when his students are in his presence. He also likes the fact that he can "make them aware that they have the ability to produce results."

**In his spare time:** Zushma keeps saltwater reefs and finds it relaxing. He says a person would normally have to go scuba diving or snorkeling to see them, but as an added bonus, he gets to see them in his office.

**Family:** Wife, Elizabeth, 26.

— Kimberly Williams



## EXECUTIVE MOVES

■ **Lakeland Bank** in Oak Ridge has announced the appointment of Lisa Nienaber to serve as vice president, compliance officer. Nienaber has 15 years of banking experience, most recently with Sussex Bank in Franklin, where she was vice president and compliance officer since 2007. Prior to that, she was with First Morris Bank & Trust (now Provident Bank) in Morristown for nine years as compliance officer. Nienaber is a graduate of the American Bankers Association Compliance School and is a resident of Parsippany.

■ **SorinRand** in East Brunswick hired Scott M. Smedresman as an associate for the firm's East Brunswick and New York locations. He holds a B.A. from New York University. Smedresman also earned a J.D. from Fordham University School of Law.

■ **Jarmel Kizel Architects and Engineers** in Livingston named Richard Robina as vice president of business development and marketing. Robina will spearhead the sales team and handle new client relations. His experience includes servicing corporate contracts for such well-noted companies as Oticon, ImClone, Celgene and inVentiv Health.

■ **Universal Display Corporation** in Ewing announced the appointment of Mauro Premutico as vice president, legal and general manager, patents and licensing. His earlier work includes being managing vice president and chief patent counsel at Walt Disney.

■ **Unity Bank** in Washington Township has three new hires, Vanessa

Galante, Angela Russo and Tracy Tortorello. Galante is assistant vice president/relationship manager. She is a Washington Township resident. Russo has been appointed to the role of personal banker. She also lives in Washington Township. Tortorello is the company's assistant relationship manager. She lives in Union Township.

■ **Prism Capital Partners** in Bloomfield selected Sergio Tigeleiro to serve as senior vice president of finance. He earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Montclair State University.

■ **Norris McLaughlin & Marcus** in Bridgewater named Annmarie Simeone second vice president for the Resource Center of Somerset. Simeone holds a B.A. from St. John's University and a J.D. from Seton Hall University. She is a Woodbridge resident.

■ **CHA** in Princeton hired John Cimino as regional director of business development. He obtained a B.S. from Providence College. Cimino is a Hamilton resident.

■ **Planned Parenthood Affiliates of New Jersey** in Elizabeth appointed Ed Remsen as executive director. Previously, he held the role of regional vice president at the American Heart Association. Remsen is a resident of Montclair.

*Kimberly Williams*

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## EXECUTIVE MOVES

■ **Quantitative Management Associates** in Newark, an asset-management business of Prudential Financial, hired Roy Henriksson as chief investment officer. Henriksson holds a bachelor's degree in economics, a master's degree in management and a Ph.D in finance from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

■ **Sen. Robert Menendez'** office in Newark named Karin Elkis as state director. She will oversee the senator's state offices in both Newark and Barrington. Elkis previously worked for Sen. Frank Lautenberg, as well as for former governor Jon S. Corzine. She lives in Haddonfield.

■ **Turchette Advertising Agency** in Fairfield hired Gillian Deak as art director. She will have a hand in every facet of the marketing design process. Prior to joining Turchette, Deak served as senior graphic designer/project manager at Fifth Room Creative.

■ **New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company (NJM)** in West Trenton appointed Charles A. Prall to the position of senior vice president/chief financial officer. Prall also will serve on the board of directors. He graduated from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., and holds a B.S. in accounting.

■ **Covance** in Princeton named Alison Cornell to the post of corporate vice president and chief financial officer. She previously was vice president, global financial planning and analysis for the company. Cornell has an M.B.A from Rutgers University, where she also attained her undergraduate degree. She is a Warren County resident.

■ **Provident Bank** in Iselin named Keith Stinchcomb first vice president of middle market lending. Stinchcomb earned a bachelor's in marketing and a master's degree in finance from Fairleigh Dickinson University. He resides in New Providence.

■ **Winchester Gardens** in Maplewood hired Nancy J. Ulanday as director of health services. Ulanday received a B.S. degree in nursing from Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester. She also holds an M.S. in nursing as a clinical specialist in primary health care of the aged from Seton Hall University.

*Kimberly Williams*

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## EXECUTIVE MOVES

■ **Corporate Resolutions** in New York named Wes Rigler as director of investigations. Rigler previously spent 28 years with the FBI focusing on organized crime investigations and labor racketeering, and conducted several investigations that led to the prosecution of labor leaders and contractors. He obtained a B.S. from William Paterson University and attended Pace University School of Law.

■ **Columbia Bank** in Fair Lawn elevated Margaret Hochkeppel to financial services officer for its Hawthorne branch. She joined the company in 2003. Since then, Hochkeppel held the posts of teller, customer service representative, assistant branch and branch manager. She is a Kinnelon resident.

■ **Provident Bank** in Iselin announced that Monte G. Hoagland has been named vice president and assistant controller in the organization's finance department. Hoagland earned a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University. He is a Somerset resident.

■ **ADP** in Roseland appointed Dermot J. O'Brien as chief human resources officer/corporate vice president. O'Brien earned an undergraduate degree in finance from the Lubin School of Business at Pace University. He will work closely with ADP's senior leadership team to

develop plans and programs that align with ADP's strategic objectives.

■ **PHH Corporation** in Mount Laurel announced that David E. Tucker has been appointed president of the firm's mortgage origination and servicing subsidiary. He earned a B.S. degree from Bentley College.

■ **Cushman & Wakefield** in East Rutherford promoted Curtis Foster to executive vice president of commercial real estate services. Foster started with the company 27 years ago and is credited with consistently being top-producing leasing broker. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from American University-Kogod School of Business. He lives in Livingston.

■ **Mint Advertising** in Branchburg named Caitlin Ward to the post of art director. Ward holds B.A. degrees in communication and graphic design from Rowan University. She is a Denville native.

*Kimberly Williams*

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## EXECUTIVE MOVES

**Nestlé Nutrition** in Florham Park has promoted Steve Goodyear to vice president of retail sales for the U.S. division. Goodyear will lead the retail sales team that oversees the company's product portfolio.

**ITT Exelis**, which has an office in Clifton, has named Henry Bourne senior director of engineering. He holds a B.S. in electrical engineering, an M.A. in computer sciences from New Jersey Institute of Technology and presently is enrolled in an executive M.B.A. program at Stevens Institute of Technology.

**Sills Cummis & Gross P.C.**, with offices in New Jersey and New York, announced that four new hires recently have joined the firm. They are John T. Gallagher, Michael R. Leighton, Paul M. Sayegh and Jonathan Young. Gallagher will be a member of the intellectual property practice group at the New York office. He received a J.D. from St. John's University School of Law and a B.S. in chemical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Leighton will be a part of the real estate practice group at the Newark office. He earned a J.D. from Georgetown University Law

Center and a B.A. from George Washington University. Sayegh joined the company as a member of the corporate practice group in the New York office. He received a J.D. from Fordham University School of Law and a B.A. from American University. And Young has rejoined the organization as a member of the litigation practice group in the New York office. He holds a J.D. from Georgetown University Law School and a B.A. from the University of Virginia.

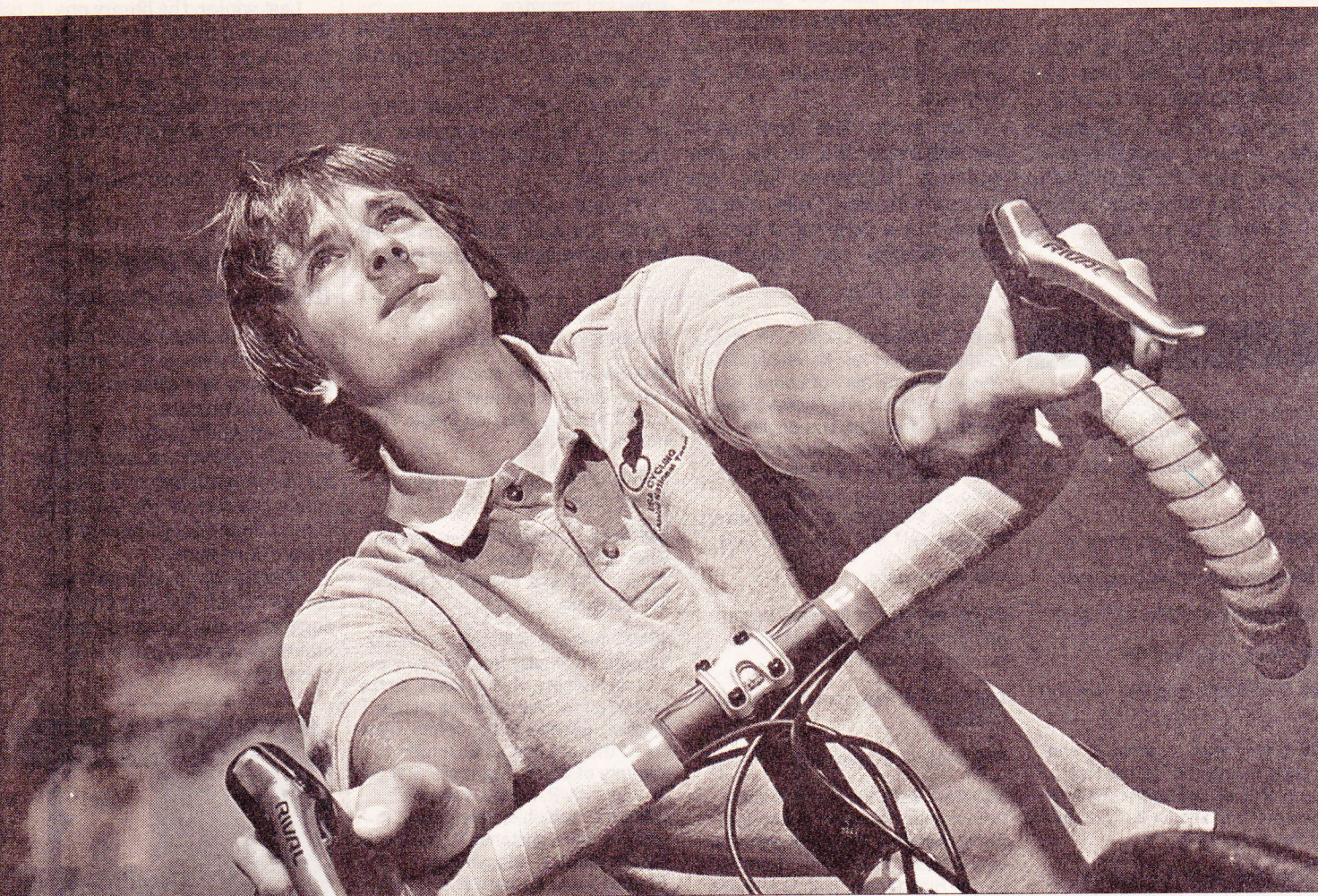
**ExhibitCraft** in Wayne has selected Nick Bragin as a member of the firm's graphic design team. He has a degree in art and design. Bragin also holds a M.A. in architecture from The University of Architecture and Civil Engineering in Saint-Petersburg.

**Keller Williams**, which has an office in Montclair, has appointed Seton Beckwith as a saleswoman for the organization.

*Kimberly Williams*

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JIM PATHE/THE STAR-LEDGER

Carter Jones, 18, of Maplewood competed recently on the USA Cycling Junior National Team. He will attend the University of Colorado.

## Teen's road to cycling extends to college

**Name:** Carter Jones

**Age:** 18

**Hometown:** Maplewood

**Education:** Columbia High School

**Future:** He will attend the University of Colorado at Boulder in September and will be joining the university's cycling team. His major is undecided as of right now, but Jones will probably be a science major.

**Accomplishment:** Jones was introduced to cycling three years ago by his high school physics teacher, Mike Novemsky. He has since transitioned from mountain biking to road racing. Jones was then directed to the coaches on a junior team and started racing locally. He was recruited by Ben Sharp, who is the USA Cycling Junior endurance coach.

Jones was chosen to participate with the team following his outstanding performance at the Junior National Road Championships in July 2006. USA Cycling is the official cycling organization that is responsible for identifying and training cyclists to represent the United States in international competitions. After his acceptance, Jones attended the Jun-

ior National Team Camp at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

**On the road:** In May, Jones competed on the USA Cycling Junior National Team in Europe. He was the only cyclist from New Jersey on the team. While in Europe, he participated in a series of three races. The first race, Wortegem-Petegem, lasted for a day and took place in Belgium. The next race, Course de la Paix, took place in the Czech Republic and lasted for five days.

The final race, which lasted two days, was called the Ronde Van Axel and took place in the Netherlands. In the Course de la Paix race, Jones placed 26th, and in the Ronde Van Axel race he ranked 16th. Because Jones placed well in the races, he will have the chance to play for the Junior World's Long Team in Abitibi, Canada. Jones also will compete in Byrds, Idaho. If he does well in Idaho, he may be chosen for the Under 23 National Team.

**Hobbies:** Cycling, golf, snowboarding, soccer, football and spending time with friends.

**Long-term goals:** To graduate from college and have a career as a pro cyclist in Europe.

**Favorite television show:** SportsCenter on ESPN

**He is happiest when:** "I get a good race result in a big race."

**A cyclist at heart:** His dedication to cycling is not only prevalent in racing, but through his current job as well. He works as a salesman at High Gear Cyclery in Millburn. He is also captain of the Colavita Junior Racing Team, which has the largest junior cycling program on the East Coast. He said the Colavita program is unique because it only works with children who are new to cycling.

**His inspiration:** Jones credits his father for cultivating his interest in the sport.

**Proudest moments in life:** He was excited to have the opportunity to travel to Europe and race against national teams. Jones also was elated to receive his cycling results for his participation in these races. Graduating from high school and being accepted into college is also among his proudest moments.

**Favorite color:** Blue

**Family:** Father, Stewart Jones; mother, Arlene Sommer; sister, Kimberly Jones

— Kimberly Williams



## MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

# Teen recognized for work with Y

**NICOLETTE ZORN**

16, Maplewood

**Education**

Nicolette is a junior at Columbia High School.

**Achievement**

She recently received the Russell Colgate Youth of the Year Award from the Metropolitan YMCA of the Oranges. The award is given to a handful of individuals in metro YMCA branches. Neighboring YMCAs divisions include West Essex, Sussex County, South Mountain, Fairview Lake and East Orange.

**Changing lives**

At the South Mountain chapter in Maplewood, Nicolette is a member of the Aces gymnastic team. She is also a volunteer who teaches gymnastics to schoolchildren. After receiving instruction from her, the children are eligible to join a gymnastics team.

Nicolette also contributes her talents to this organization by donating her time and services whenever needed. Nicolette volunteers at the YMCA because "the opportunity always presents itself, and the YMCA is always

looking for people who are willing to do it. I get to make new friends and help out. It's really fulfilling," she said.

**At a glance**

She was inspired to become a member of the Aces team while watching the Olympic games four years ago. Nicolette became engrossed in the tournament and decided to try her hand at gymnastics. When first trying out for the sport, she was placed on the C team, but she then climbed the ranks to the B team.

She is also enrolled as a member of her school's gymnastics program. "I like gymnastics because it is something new. I like being able to tell people I can do a back flip," Nicolette said.

**Service and beyond**

Nicolette has plans to continue working with the YMCA. Her charitable efforts embody what the YMCA is all about. "I feel good after I volunteer. I feel that I made a difference and really helped someone out," she said.



Paul Kieltyka, executive director of the South Mountain YMCA in Maplewood, gives Nicolette Zorn of Maplewood the Russell Colgate Youth of the Year Award from the Metropolitan YMCA of the Oranges.

**True life**

She is a model student who excels in academics. With everything on her plate, Nicolette still manages to maintain a balance between attending school, working at the YMCA and her personal life, "hanging out with friends."

**Self-projection**

She plans to study art or art history in college.

**Family**

Father, Andrew, 45; mother, Amy 46; sister, Jocelyn, 13; brother, Quentin, 10.

— Kimberly Williams