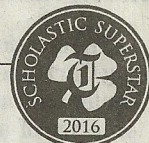


# Scholastic Superstars



Twenty-five students were chosen by judges from local colleges and universities to represent the best and brightest of NEPA's graduating classes as part of The Times-Tribune's annual Scholastic Superstar program.

## Meet Kyle Yatsonsky

**School:** North Pocono High School

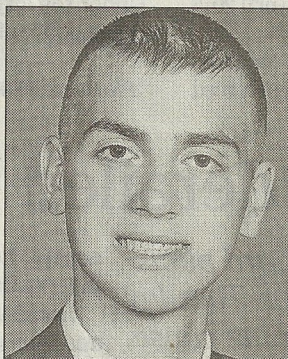
**Parents:** Dr. David and Linda Yatsonsky

**Plans:** Earn a bachelor's degree in biology and matriculate at a dental school

Kyle Yatsonsky has a passion for working with veterans.

So much so that he racked up more than 200 hours of service at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, earning the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Award.

"Volunteering at the VA for the past several years has been incredibly rewarding," Kyle said. "I have been privileged to meet some of the most honorable people our nation has to offer. I have learned of their sacrifices for our country and have learned many things that veterans have endured to



afford us our freedom and lifestyle."

Kyle puts this drive toward every part of his life.

Ranking first in his class his entire high school career, Kyle never stopped challenging himself, taking 11 Advanced Placement courses and earning the AP Scholar with Distinction Award, Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit Scholar of the Year honors and being named class valedictorian.

His efforts earned him acceptance into the University

of Pennsylvania's School of Dental Medicine combined program with Muhlenberg College and the presidential scholarship for the University of Scranton.

Kyle got his college career started early at Wilkes University, doing field research regarding local bird species' hierarchical food web, which will be presented at a symposium in Washington, D.C., this summer.

"It was very rewarding because it gave me an introduction to collegiate-level research, and my team members were excellent mentors," Kyle said.

A four-year member of North Pocono's Science Olympiad team, he also has served as a mentor.

"This has been a very rewarding experience because during my younger years the older team members were excellent role models," Kyle said. "Now that my tenure with the team is coming to a close,

I am trying to have that same impact on the underclassmen so that the cycle will continue."

His work ethic is a trait that has moved through family, starting with his grandfather, William Fells.

"I admire him because whatever he is working to achieve he expects no less than the best and that is precisely what he produces," Kyle said.

One of Kyle's grandfather's passions is restoring Ford trucks from the 1950s and '70s. He passed on one of those trucks to Kyle.

"This truck is one of the few material things that has much significance to me," Kyle said.

An avid sports fan, Kyle likes the Philadelphia Eagles, Penn State Nittany Lions, Syracuse Orange and the New York Yankees. He also enjoys playing sports, and has competed in baseball, basketball, golf and tennis for the school.

— JOE BARESS

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