

# Meet the students of UJW

## Brandon Alston

Brandon Alston, 16, was born in East Falls and is the youngest of six children. As the “baby” of the family, Alston admits to being “a little spoiled.”

Alston, a junior at The Academy of Palumbo, maintains a 4.01 GPA and takes advanced-placement courses. He also is involved in various extracurricular activities including the school newspaper, literary magazine, student government and the Elite Group, an entrepreneurship organization.



He likes to listen to R&B, play basketball, read, use the computer and text-message.

“I like expressing myself through writing,” Alston said.

Alston plans to attend Howard University in Washington, D.C. He wants to pursue a career in communications or as an English professor.

In regards to any obstacles he encounters, Alston takes a light approach.

“Sometimes you just have to laugh.” ★

—Gabrielle Carrion

## Andrew Bjork

This summer, 15-year-old Andrew Bjork decided to take a risk.

The rising sophomore at Downingtown East High School strayed from his norm and applied for the Urban Journalism Workshop.

Not really a fan of English, he opted to do something outside of his comfort zone, hoping it would help improve his writing.

Bjork usually spends his time playing video games or skiing. But his favorite hobby is snowboarding, which perfectly matches his very chill personality.

Bjork enjoys relaxing and listening to his favorite band, Linkin Park, whose concert he attended last weekend. Aside from alternative rock, he listens to other genres like rock and even rap.

To go along with his laid-back manner,



Bjork likes to watch comedy films, with movies like “Borat” and “Knocked Up” at the top of his favorite-movies list.

But Bjork is not all fun and games. He also works a part-time job as a caddy on weekends at Whitford Country Club in Exton. On a typical Saturday morning, you can find him dressed in his white polo shirt and khakis, sporting the green Whitford Country Club vest. There, he and other boys his age wait for the caddy master to pair them with a golfer. Not entirely happy with the task of having to carry around golf clubs for 18 holes, Bjork presses on because “it’s really good pay.” ★

—Nicole Heath

## Matthew Borrelli

Matthew Borrelli is a 17-year-old senior at The Woodynde School, a small school accessible by a 50-minute train ride from his home in the city.

Nina, Borrelli’s girlfriend of 15 months, attends the same school.

Borrelli, a member of the student council, also works on the school yearbook, the newspaper staff and the sports paper staff. He plays basketball and soccer and wrote a story about lacrosse for the *Suburban Times*.



His first choice for college is Syracuse University, but he also is considering Ithaca College, Penn State University and Temple University.

“I was ready to leave [high school]

last year,” he said.

Borrelli wants to focus on the business side of communications. He said he would enjoy a career in marketing or news production.

An only child, Borrelli is close to his cousins, 7-year-old Nir and 4-year-old Tal.

“In the summer,” he said, “they are like siblings.” Borrelli also has a cat named Edy. ★

—Rosella Eleanor LaFevre

## Gabrielle Carrion

“I’m a Christian,” is how 17-year-old Gabrielle “Gabby” Carrion describes herself.

Carrion, a native of Northeast Philadelphia, is a senior at Northeast High School where she is involved in the Magnet program, a curriculum for advanced students.

Carrion holds a 3.88 GPA and says she always strives to be her best. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the National Academic League, the literary magazine and the school newspaper.

Carrion, whose birthday is Dec. 19, is a Sagittarius, which means she is someone who is in search of something special. For Carrion, that something special is college. Carrion is looking at two colleges, Penn State and Temple University.

When she is not thinking about college, she enjoys writing, playing video games, walking, playing with her dog and cat, going to parks, traveling, eating and sleeping.

Carrion values spending time with her family and believes it is most important.

“Friends change, but your family is forever,” she said. ★

—Brandon Alston

## Will Crowley

Will Crowley, a 17-year-old senior at Radnor High School, is a member of his school’s golf team. In 2006, he helped his team win the PIAA State Championship.

Crowley is dealing with the pressures of applying to college. He is considering Boston College, Clemson University, the



University of Michigan and the University of South Carolina. But nevertheless, Crowley plans to enjoy his final year of high school, especially by taking part in LM Week, which is the week leading up to the Radnor vs. Lower Merion football game.

In his free time, Crowley likes to hang out with his friends, go to the Shore, play basketball and listen to music, all things

that he says “help get my mind off of everyday stress and allow me to enjoy life.” ★

—Asha Marchaman

## Jessica Dunbar

Seventeen-year-old Jessica Dunbar is a much more determined person than her bubbly, energetic personality first reveals.

Her tight-knit family and fear of failure have shaped the self-confidence of this rising senior at Kensington High School. Dunbar’s go-getter mindset helped her get elected vice president of her junior class. She also serves as the benchmark



testing representative for the class of 2009, won the Youth + Entrepreneurship = Success Program award, and is a city-wide representative for her class.

Dunbar aspires to be a journalist, actress and fashion designer all before hitting age 20. And although she says she takes herself too seriously, she understands the value of a good laugh and doesn’t hesitate to share her most embarrassing moment: As a kid, she ran into one of her friends while her dress was tucked into her underwear.

Dunbar enjoys chatting about her celebrity crush, Usher, and her weakness for Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups. ★

—Lauren Melendez

## Kirstin Evans

“Do what you have to do so you can do what you want to do,” are not only words from the film “The Great Debaters” but also are the words by which 17-year-old Kirstin Evans lives her life. As a senior at Cherokee High School in Marlton, N.J., Evans’ numerous accomplishments transcend the expectations of both her peers and others who have contributed to her success.

Aside from being the president of her school’s chapter of the National Honor Society, Evans still has time to play the vi-

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