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olin, run for the school's track team and attend school functions, especially football games.

"I love my school's football team," she said.

Evans' character contributed to her success at her 2008 Debutante Ball and Cotillion — she won the overall title and was crowned Ms. Pink and Green, the colors of her prospective sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha. It was one of the proudest moments in Evans' life.

Surprisingly, Evans embraces both her mother's and father's association with law enforcement — her mother is a lawyer and her father is a drug-enforcement agent. As an aspiring lawyer, Evans "really [wants] to help people out who have mental issues and are behind bars."

Among the colleges she is considering are Georgetown University, Howard University, American University and her No. 1 choice since grade school, Spelman College. ★

—Taja Jones



Kristen Ford

Seventeen-year-old Kristen Ford's bubbly personality hides a surprisingly competitive side, which she admits can get the best of her. She channels it into sports — field hockey and lacrosse — at her school, Agnes Irwin in Philadelphia's Main Line.

She'll be a senior in the fall. Besides athletics, she is the vice president of the student government, president of the Black Student Union, participates on the Multicultural Board, and is a future staff writer of her school newspaper. She is a member of the Robotics, Drill and Debate Teams. Plus, Ford sings for the school's capella group.

"Well, I guess I'm well-rounded, or maybe just confused, but I hope it's the first," Ford said of her numerous activities.

Ford has her eye on Fordham University and a career in broadcast journalism or biomedical engineering.

The chatty Rite-Aid cashier describes



herself as bold, and says she always speaks her mind. ★

—Nicole Onisick

Jennifer Gregory

In a world where "normal" has become an oddity, Jennifer Gregory embodies all the things that represent what it means to be an American teenager.

The eldest daughter of James and Lorraine 17-year-old Gregory enjoys life with her parents and 14-year-old sister, Laura, in their Northeast Philadelphia home.

"She's kind of a drama queen, but I love her," Laura said.

Jennifer Gregory will graduate from Northeast High next June. She's currently the co-editor in chief of the newspaper, *The Megaphone*; co-editor of the literary magazine, and a member of the National Honor Society. Independent and admirably off-beat, Gregory loves music and dreams of starting a music magazine geared toward the Philadelphia underground.

But first, Gregory wants her journalism degree. "Penn State's my first choice," she said. ★

—Taylor Hawes

Taylor Hawes

The youngest of eight children, 17-year-old Taylor Hawes strives to impress.

Hawes is a senior at City Center Academy and is a member of her school's newspaper, yearbook and National Honor Society. She also is a member of a club dedicated to the Invisible Children of Uganda.

Despite being a self-proclaimed perfectionist, Hawes says she can be fairly laid-back.

"I practically live in my sneakers," she said, laughing. "I'm kind of a tomboy."

When she is not studying, Hawes enjoys listening to gospel music, reading foreign fiction, hanging out with her close-knit group of friends and spending time with her family.

Where can this ambitious girl see herself 20 years from now?

"Hopefully working for *Time* magazine," she said. ★

—Jennifer Gregory



Nicole Heath

Nicole Heath, a rising junior at Washington Township High School in New Jersey, is editor of the features section of *The Patriot*, her school's paper.



She hopes that what she learns this summer at the Urban Journalism Workshop will help her improve the quality of her newspaper, which she describes as more like a newsletter. She would like it to be more like a real newspaper, but the school doesn't allocate enough money for any upgrades.

Heath hopes to take pictures for her school newspaper, a hobby she learned from her mom, a part-time photographer.

Heath's hometown is about 15 minutes from Philadelphia. She likes where she lives because it's close to the city but is still a quiet neighborhood. She wants to stay in that area so she can remain close to family.

Although her parents would like her to consider a career in medicine because "that's where the money is," she is undecided on her future plans. ★

—Andrew Bjork

Jasmine Ingram

"I'm stepping out of my box" is the credo Jasmine Ingram has followed in hopes of recreating the persona of the shy girl she was in ninth grade.

And based on her actions and mannerisms during the Urban Journalism Workshop, it's evident that she has succeeded. Her charisma matches that of the many successful people she's likely to meet and impress in the future.

Ingram was the pep-squad captain at Central High School, where she was a member of the 267th graduating class.

Now her eyes are set on the University of Pittsburgh, where she'll be a freshman in the fall. Among her goals are attaining degrees in public relations and in business so she can "sell a person's image" as a career.

However, Ingram's goals are too broad to limit her career horizons to the "publicist" title. She hopes her success will fuel



— and fund — a trip to a country she loves: Greece.

—Sean Purnell

Taja Jones

Taja Jones, 17, describes herself as a positive person who never hesitates to reassure a friend in distress.

A rising senior, Jones is an active student at Central High School, where she is editor-in-chief of the school's newspaper and participates in an organization called African Awareness: Darfur Now. The organization hopes to make other students mindful of the genocide in Darfur.

A friend encouraged Jones to apply to the Urban Journalism Program.

"I always look for an opportunity to help broaden my understanding of journalism," Jones said.

A highlight of her life, Jones said, was delivering a speech at a Peter Jennings journalism program. The encouraging feedback she received from an audience of accomplished journalists was one of the greatest feelings she ever experienced.

Jones hopes to attend Columbia University or Purdue University and wants to pursue journalism and political science. She believes her passionate attitude about current events will help her become a successful politician.

In her free time, Jones enjoys watching reality television and collecting Converse sneakers, which she loves because of their unique styles and colors.

—Kirstin Evans

Rosella Eleanor LaFevre

Rosella Eleanor LaFevre, who hails from Northern Liberties, is named after her two grandmothers.

She is a senior at the Philadelphia High School for Girls, class 253.

LaFevre is involved in the school video crew and newspaper. The video crew produces its own news program and also videotapes graduations. Because she is co-editor, most of LaFevre's time is taken up by the newspaper, the *Iris Leaflet*.

Her father has a big influence on her life. He is one reason why she likes to

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