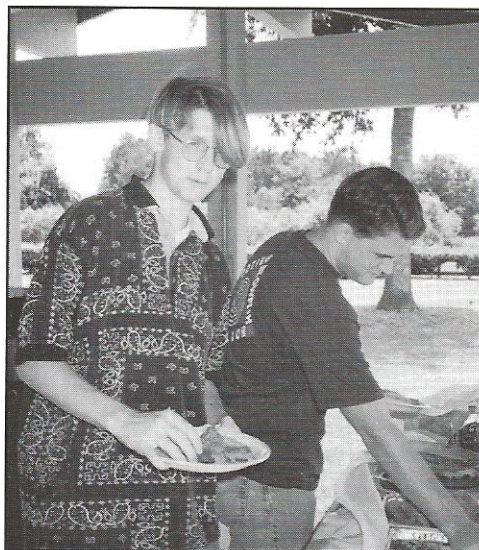


After taking the English AP exam, Co-Captain O.J. McDowell and good friend Ron Martin help themselves to some brain food. The students celebrated with a pool party at Mrs. Blocker's home.



Making the "A"

The Academic Team has long been a highly regarded organization open to anyone who passes a qualifying test that would make Einstein scratch his head. This team competed in South Carolina, Georgia, and North Carolina from October through April. Competitions could be fierce, but victory was always sweet.

The Academic Team, coached by English teacher Janis Blocker, included Ian O'Briant, O.J. McDowell, Keivy Lingard, Lisa Winter, and Frankie Nettles, seniors; Mike Turner, Margaret Young, Vicki Cunningham, Wayne Wright, and Michael Ward, juniors; Sarah Keith, sophomore; Anthony Thacker and Bill Young, freshmen; and Tony Stone, alternate. The team traveled to eight different competitions including James Island, USC, Newberry, Savannah, and AC-Flora, with the most important meet at Duke.

"I was really pleased with our performance in competition this year," said sophomore Sarah Keith.

"The trips are fun, but I could really live without getting up so early in the morning," said Mike Turner. For some trips, the team had to leave Walterboro as early as 6:00 am.

From James Island to AC Flora, the team exhibited academic excellence in each round of competition. In these travels, Walterboro went up against some of the top schools from Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and even the nation's capital, Washington, D.C.

In addition to the regional meets, the "A" Team competed semi-annually in the National Knowledge Master. In these computer-played competitions, the team competed with 1600 high schools in the U.S. in a battle to see which school was the best at academic trivia. Walterboro traditionally finished in the top 25 to 30 percent of the competition.

— Wayne Wright

