

Jodi Geistfeld—2009 Hall of Fame Inductee



Coach and Science Teacher, Jodi Geistfeld was inducted into the MLHS Athletic Hall of Fame at the 2009 Spring Recognition Banquet.

Athletic Director Tom Taylor introduced the 2009 inductee saying, "For the last four years, the MLHS Athletic Hall of Fame inductee has been one of our many talented athletes. This year's inductee, however, was not an MLHS Knight Athlete. In fact, in high school she played volleyball, basketball, and softball for one of our rivals. She went on to college and played basketball for one season at St. Cloud State before finishing a teaching and coaching degree at Mankato State University. Upon completing her degree, she began teaching at Martin Luther High School where she has also been a two-season coach for the last eleven years.

"In her first season as a Volleyball coach, she inherited a raw group of girls who went 1 – 18. In the past four seasons, she has her team playing close to 500 ball. Her best season was in 2007 where the team went 12 – 12 - 1.

"As a basketball coach, she has totaled 101 wins, the most

ever by an MLHS coach in any sport. This 2008-09 season, with a young group of players, the Knights finished with a record of 17-13, and made it to the Section Final game before being defeated by Cedar Mountain Comfrey. Along the way, they upset the higher ranked GHEC Mustangs in a game that was both well coached and well played. This is the farthest any Martin Luther athletic team has ever gone in the post season.

"In basketball, Coach Geistfeld has a winning percentage of 37% with an overall record of 101 – 171. Although this number is not very impressive, it is important to remember that we are a school that is small in numbers competing against schools with many more athletes. Even though numerically we are at a disadvantage, no longer, are the Knights the doormat of the conference.

"In fact, for the last six seasons, our teams have been very competitive and as a result, they are to be respected. This turn around is largely in part due to the countless hours of hard work, and dedication, put in by our 2009 Athletic Hall of Fame nominee, Jodi Geistfeld."

Coach Geistfeld accepted her award to two standing ovations and enthusiastic cheers from students, alumni and adults.

In her humble manner she expressed her appreciation by saying (in part), "The

legendary UCLA basketball coach, John Wooden said, 'What you are as a person is far more important than what you are as a basketball player.'

"In the heat of competition winning is important, however, learning about life lessons is so much more important. If you ask any of my former or current athletes 'easy' is not one word that they would use to describe me. There is a reason for this, nothing in life comes easy. It gives me great pleasure to see former athletes and hear about the contributions they are making to society once they leave this gym. I hope that, along with their families, that I had something to do with their successes.

"For eight months out of the year I am with these young ladies five days a week. I am not only teaching them a game but my goal as well is to influence them into becoming intelligent, respectful and kind young women.

"I have had a great opportunity to be a varsity coach at MLHS. My fellow coaches and I have strived for excellence both on and off the court. As the great coach Vince Lombardi said 'the quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence regardless of their chosen field of endeavor.'"

Congratulations, Coach Geistfeld! Your commitment to excellence and rapport with young people is illustrated in the classroom as well as on the athletic court.

Red Rock Art Show

MLHS Art students participated in the first Area High School Arts Show at the Red Rock Center in Fairmont. Art students from five area high schools participated.

Art Instructor Dianne Bittenbinder chose upper level students to display their work. Judges were Char Kahler and Nancy Willette.

Seven MLHS artists displayed their work:

Emily Anders: Clay/"Melted Snowman", Oil Pastel/ Interpretation of Van Gogh's "Café at Night".

Katie Bergt: Clay/"Bowl of Fruit with Pot", China Painting/"Forget-Me-Nots"—3rd Place in 3D Category.

Cody Zarn: Clay/"Waffle with Chocolate", Chain Maille/"Vest"—2nd place in 3D Category.

Mark Meyer: 3D/"Vase of Flowers", Clay/"Sword".

Chris Matasovsky: Clay/"Bacon Cheeseburger".

Matt Osborn: Clay/"Striped Pot".

Corey Wiederhoeft: Latch Hook/"Wall Hanging", Perspective Drawing/Graphite Pencil—3rd Place.

Students attended a workshop and participated in a joint effort "Earth Day" mural. Thank you to the Red Rock Center for hosting this event.



Evie Anderson is pictured with **Ryan Wiederhoeft** (09) who was the recipient of the \$500 "The Difference is You" Scholarship given out by Hawkins Chevrolet and Cadillac of Fairmont. This scholarship will help Ryan attend Rochester Technical Community College. We thank Hawkins Chevrolet for their annual support of MLHS graduates through this scholarship.



Each year the Junior class walks several miles of road ditches picking up trash. **Matt Knutson** and **Corey Wiederhoeft** shared the duty on a nice spring day before school was dismissed for the year.

Wanted: P/T Music Director

MLHS is looking for a part-time vocal & instrumental instructor for the 2009-10 school year.
E-mail resume & cover letter to robertpatrick@martinlutherhs.com

EF Names MLHS "School of the Year"

The EF Foundation has selected MLHS over all schools nationwide as "**2008-2009 School of the Year**" in honor of our excellence in serving foreign exchange students. The Kirk and Marie Morris family were recognized for hosting Viki Racz from Hungary for the whole year and Miriam Pucker from Germany for the first semester. Dan and Lois Gahler and Dustin hosted Florian Kaempfer, Germany for the first semester.

"It is the wonderful host families that we have in our school who are willing to open their homes and their hearts to these students, and our dedicated teachers who so generously give the 'extra's' needed to help our exchange students academically that have made it possible for MLHS to receive this award," says Guidance Director, Sharon Patrick.

Thank you to families who have hosted foreign exchange students in the past: Larry & Annette Bremer, Dan & Lois Gahler, Lyle & Bonnie Wolle, Rev. Nathan & Lori Rusert, Robert & Faith Sitzman, Roger & Pam Carlson, Barb & Leonard Reinke, Mary & Ron Reinke, Elroy & Betty Mumme and others.

MLHS is looking for host families for the upcoming school year. If you would be willing to open your home, please let us know ASAP!

MLHS STARS



The Spring Recognition Night honors MLHS students for their outstanding achievements. Guidance Director Sharon Patrick began the evening thanking God for the gifts with which He has blessed our students. Everyone saluted the American Flag as Robyn Rusert sang the Star Spangled Banner for us one last time. Special scholarships and awards were given out.

Seniors shared their high school memories with everyone in the Class of 2009 in Sight and Sound produced by the Media Class. Thank you to Cody Zarn, Robyn Rusert, Tim Rusert, CJ Riewe, Jason Maloney, Nick Gronewald, Chris Matasovsky and instructor Bruce Abitz for their great job in producing this video.

Award and scholarship recipients are listed below.

Class of 2009

Katelyn Arndt: Spotlight on Scholarship for Volleyball and Basketball, Rasmussen College Achievement Award Scholarship

Katie Bergt: Academics, Drama, Class Secretary, Yearbook, Commended National Merit Scholarship Student, KEYC-TV "Best of the Class, \$500 Allen C. Berndt Foundation Scholarship, Concordia, Seward \$500 Alumni Grant, LCMS \$1,000 Grant, \$2,000 Music Scholarship & President's Scholarship \$1,500/year all for 4 years each & Alumni Connection \$1,000 Award.

Nick Gronewald: Spotlight on Scholarship for Football and Basketball, Drama

Kody Kiehl: Drama

Hayley Koeritz: Academics, Spotlight on Scholarship for Volleyball, Drama, Softball, Honors Band, Class Treasurer, Yearbook, KEYC-TV "Best of the Class", Concordia, Seward \$11,000 Regents Scholarship

& \$1,000 Arts Scholarship/year.

Jason Maloney: Spotlight on Scholarship for Basketball, Baseball

Chris Matasovsky: Newspaper, Drama, Yearbook

Mark Meyer: Drama, \$500 Allen C. Berndt Foundation Scholarship, Concordia, Seward \$7,000 Academic Scholarship, \$1,000 LCMS Scholarship both for 4 years and \$300 4-H Scholarship.

CJ Riewe: Spotlight on Scholarship for Basketball, Newspaper, Drama, Class Vice President, Student Council, Golf, \$500 WFS Scholarship

Robyn Rusert: Academics, Drama, Lewisville American Legion \$500 Scholarship

Tim Rusert: Spotlight on Scholarship for Basketball, Class President, Student Council

Daric Sitzman: Academics, Drama

Ryan Wiederhoeft: "The Difference is You" \$500 scholarship from Hawkins Chevrolet Cadillac, Fairmont.

Cody Zarn: Academics, Spotlight on Scholarship for Football, AAA Award, Drama, Student Council Vice President, Golf, \$500 WFS Scholarship, SDSU JackRabbit Scholarship.

Class of 2010

Emily Anders: Academics, Drama, Student Council President, Softball, Honors Band, Yearbook, Valparaiso University Award for Excellence-\$1,000 Scholarship, MSHL ExCEL Award

Bethany Flohrs: Spotlight on Scholarship for Volleyball and Basketball, Softball

Dustin Gahler: Spotlight on Scholarship for Cross Country, Track

Judi Grosland: Newspaper, Drama

Abbie Kietzer: Drama

Matt Knutson: Academics, Spotlight on Scholarship for Football and Basketball, Baseball, Valparaiso University Award for Excellence-\$1,000 Scholarship.

Jessica Krome: Spotlight on Scholarship for Volleyball, Drama, Honors Band

Morgan Moeller: Yearbook, Softball

Katherine Morris: Yearbook

Amanda Neumann: Spotlight on Scholarship for Volleyball and Basketball, Student Council

Matt Osborn: Track

Brielle Thate: Drama

Kacee Urban: Drama, Yearbook

Parker Weihe: Academics, Spotlight on Scholarship for Basketball, Class President, Student Council, MSHL ExCEL Award

Corey Wiederhoeft: Spotlight on Scholarship for Football and Basketball

Garrett Wolle: Spotlight on Scholarship for Cross Country and Basketball, Newspaper, Track

Kathryn Wolle: Drama, Yearbook

Class of 2011

Bowdie Bentz: Academics, Spotlight on Scholarship for Basketball, Drama, Yearbook, Baseball

Grace Bertram: Academics, Drama, Honors Band, Golf

Aly Bremer: Academics, Spotlight on Scholarship for Volleyball and Basketball, Drama, Softball, Track, Class Secretary, Minnesota MILE

Andrew Geistfeld: Spotlight on Scholarship for Basketball, Drama

Haley Geistfeld: Academics, Spotlight on Scholarship for Volleyball and Basketball, Softball, Class Vice President, Yearbook

MLHS STARS



Sydney Krenz: Softball, Yearbook
Lukas Krome: Drama

Krystopher Mohwinkel: Spotlight on Scholarship for Basketball

Aaron Riewe: Yearbook

Jon Rusert: Academics, Spotlight on Scholarship for Basketball, Drama, Class President, Student Council

Stephanie Senne: Spotlight on Scholarship for Volleyball and Basketball, Softball, Yearbook

Pat Smith: Newspaper, Drama

Jared Tonn: Spotlight on Scholarship for Basketball

Rachel Trueblood: Academics, Spotlight on Scholarship for Cross Country and Basketball, Drama, Class Treasurer, Student Council, Track

Tonya Wiederhoeft: Academics, Spotlight on Scholarship for Volleyball and Basketball, Softball

Trevor Wiederhoeft: Spotlight on Scholarship for Basketball, Yearbook

Class of 2011

Brian Bach: Newspaper, Drama, Track

Mackenzie Brummond: Academics, Spotlight on Scholarship for Volleyball and Basketball

Taylor Freeman: Academics, Spotlight on Scholarship for Wrestling, Track

Colton Hilgendorf: Drama

Micah Knutson: Drama

Jakob Krome: Spotlight on Scholarship for Basketball, Drama

Megan Maschoff: Academics, Class Vice President, Newspaper, Drama, Yearbook

Austin Morris: Spotlight on Scholarship for Basketball, Baseball

Garrett Schock: Spotlight on Scholarship for Basketball, Baseball

Spencer Schrader: Spotlight on Scholarship for Basketball, Baseball

Tanner Taylor: Academics, Spotlight on Scholarship for Basketball, Class Treasurer, Student Council, Baseball

Latisha Thomas: Academics, Class President, Drama, Student Council, Yearbook

Katy Williams: Academics, Spotlight on Scholarship for Volleyball and Basketball, Softball

Athletes Earn Area Recognition

Congratulations to Junior **Tucker Freeman** who competed at the MSHSL State Wrestling Tournament level for the fourth time. He gained the #2 state title in his weight class, bringing home the silver, losing in the final round.

MLHS Athletes names to the Sentinel All Area first team in basketball were **Haley Geistfeld** and **Nick Gronewold**. **Aly Bremer** was named to the second team. **Haley Geistfeld** and **Nick Gronewold** were named All Conference. **Katelyn Arndt** and **Matt Knutson** received Honorable Mention in basketball.

Congratulations to **Bethany Flohrs** and **Haley Geistfeld** for being named All Conference and **Stephanie Senne** received All-conference Honorable Mention in softball.



Parker Weihe (2010) will be spending the summer interning full-time at the Fairmont Medical Center in the Information Technology Department. Parker completed a job application and submitted a cover letter explaining his desire to make IT and computer programming his career choice. The personal interview was conducted in May. After he was hired, he was told that the professionalism and content of his cover letter landed him the position. He began work as a technical assistance provider when school was dismissed for the year.