

## Kewanee Schools Foundation

# ALUMNI UPDATE

Volume #15 Number 1

Spring/Summer 2014

As a result of his dual credit classes at KHS, Drew has been admitted as a second semester sophomore at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he will double major in political science and legal studies.



*Drew Becker '14*

Andrew Becker is the valedictorian, and Zoey Vogt is the salutatorian, of the Class of 2014 at Kewanee High School. The son of Steve and Joan Becker, Drew was the president of Key Club and L.E.A.D. and participated in T.E.A.M. and J. Kyle Braid.

He was a member of the Student Council and played football and golf. At KHS, Becker was president of the National Honor Society, earned highest honors all four years, was an Elks Club Student of the Month, a member of the Student Council, played football and golf. He earned the Silver Cord for 300 hours of service.



*Zoey Vogt '14*

Zoey Vogt is the daughter of Jill Kinsella. At KHS she was a member of FCCLA, Student Council, Key Club, L.E.A.D. and the National Honor Society, participated in volleyball, cheerleading, the contest play, fall play and the spring musical, was an Illinois State Scholar and an Elks Club Student of the Month. Zoey was on the highest honor roll and had perfect

attendance all four years at KHS. She will be attending Bradley University in the fall to major in nursing.

### KHS COMMENCEMENT 2014

Valedictorian Andrew Becker and salutatorian Zoey Vogt addressed the audience that filled H.F. Brockman Gym for graduation 2014.

Superintendent Dr. Chris Sullens reviewed many of the class members' individual accomplishments, and the academic top 10 class members were recognized:

Andrew Becker, Elizabeth Bral, Madeline Breedlove, Carlos Bretado, Emily Burmeier, Ashley Folger, Ryan Hicks, Stephanie Hollis, Ajay Minton, John Moraski, Zachary Murphy, Paige Reeser and Zoey Vogt.

After Assistant Principal Chris Gustafson and school board President Dan Nolan handed out diplomas to the graduates, Principal Jamie Bryan announced the winners of the more than \$68,000 worth of awards and scholarships.

Go to [kewaneeschools-foundation.org](http://kewaneeschools-foundation.org) for a complete listing of the 2014 award and scholarship recipients.

## SCHOOL ADDITIONS AT KHS, LYLE AND CENTRAL SCHOOLS

An addition is being constructed at Kewanee High School this summer that will double the size of the current chemistry, biology, and art rooms. State of the art laboratory equipment will be installed as well. The classroom expansions are scheduled for completion before school starts again in the fall 2014.

Two other major construction projects in the district — an additional gymnasium at Central School and additional restrooms at Lyle School — are also being built this summer. The Central gym, which will be built at Lyle and Elm streets on the southeast corner of the Central campus, is expected to be finished in November.

The Kewanee School Board has issued \$3.4 million in bonds to pay for these school construction projects. The bonds will be repaid from the money the district will receive from the special school facilities sales tax approved by Henry County voters in April. Superintendent Chris Sullens said the bond payments will require about two-thirds of the money the district receives from the sales tax.

For more pictures of the construction, go to [www.kewanee-schoolsfoundation.org](http://www.kewanee-schoolsfoundation.org).



## KHS PLACES 7TH AT STATE TRACK MEET



Rolando Aguilar

The KHS boys track and field season concluded with the Class 1A state track and field finals held at Eastern Illinois University's O'Brien Stadium. Kewanee's Rolando Aguilar earned a seventh-place medal in the 3200.

Rolando didn't surpass his sectional time in the 3200, which was a source of disappointment for the KHS sophomore, but he didn't mind the end result on the medal stand. "I didn't think I did very well," said Aguilar. "I ran a worse time than I did at sectional."

Aguilar sat in fourth place for much of the 3200, but lost a few positions late in the race to finish in the seventh slot. "I tried to catch up to the first group, but I fell behind," said Rolando.

"That's all I wanted. I just wanted to go on the medal stand."

## THREE RIVERS CONFERENCE ALL-ACADEMIC HONORS

Forty-four Kewanee High School athletes earned Three Rivers Conference all-academic honors in 16 different sports during the 2013-14 school year. Boilers named to TRAC all-academic teams were:

Girls Cross Country — Alex Cordrey and Beth Cordrey.

Football — Michael Ensley, Cody Goforth, Ryan Hicks, Raful Solano and David Washburn.

Girls Golf — Paige Dougherty.

Boys Golf — Andrew Becker, Dylan Galloway, Logan Hamilton and Will Kelley.

Tennis — Elizabeth Bral, Alexandra Chayer, Chelsea Chayer, Haley Conner, Victoria Gleichman, Maranda Grabbe, Anne Claire Kroger and Kaylene Miller.

Volleyball — Katie Blume, Maddie Breedlove, Ashley Folger, Ali Gustafson, Victoria Gustafson, Stephanie Hollis, Gabby Kubiak, Alysh Oetzel, Paige Reeser, Danielle Steffen and Zoey Vogt.

Pom Pon — Dana Burhorn, Emily Burmeier, Brittany Edwards, Stephanie Hollis, Alysh Oetzel and Liliana Ruiz.

Cheerleaders — Thalia Currie, Paige Dougherty, Ajay Minton and Zoey Vogt.

Bowling — Victoria Gustafson and Linnea Hepner.

Boys Basketball — Cody Goforth, Ryan Hicks, Alex Kenney, John Moraski and David Washburn.

Girls Basketball — Gabby Kubiak and Danielle Steffen.

Wrestling — Brendan Jamison, Raful Solano and Bo Walters.

Boys Track — Cody Goforth, Joey Heene and Will Kelley.

Girls Track — Dana Burhorn, Alex Cordrey, Beth Cordrey and Alysh Oetzel.

Baseball — Ryan Hicks and John Moraski.

Softball — Katie Blume, Haley Conner, Gabby Kubiak, Paige Reeser and Casey Verway.

Athletes earning academic honors in three sports were Cody Goforth, Ryan Hicks, Alysh Oetzel and Gabby Kubiak.

Athletes earning academic honors in two sports were Stephanie Hollis, Paige Dougherty, Zoey Vogt, Victoria Gustafson, David Washburn, Danielle Steffen, Raful Solano, John Moraski, Will Kelley, Dana Burhorn, Alex Cordrey, Beth Cordrey, Katie Blume, Haley Conner and Paige Reeser.



## MARC NELSON SELECTED STAR COURIER TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Central School art teacher Marc Nelson received a round of applause from his students following the surprise announcement that the educator had been selected as the Star Courier's 2014 Teacher of the Year. Nelson was nominated for the award by two fourth-graders, GianCarlos Garcia and America Sanchez.

"He is very nice, I think he is the nicest teacher of Kewanee Central School," GianCarlos wrote. Both students wrote that in addition to Nelson's love for art, he also shares a passionate interest in music with the kids.

"When we work on our art projects he even puts on music so we don't get bored," wrote America. "When I ask him a question he answers it promptly." The students also appreciated the fact that Nelson will speak to them in Spanish. Nelson has also been commended by former students for his teaching skills.

"This is awesome and I want to thank you so much. But what I really like is your writing skills," Nelson said to the students

who nominated him. The annual award is presented by the Star Courier during National Teacher Appreciation Week.

Nelson has been an art teacher at Central School for the past six years. Before that he taught preschool children for two years in Iowa City.

## FARMER JASON VISITS LYLE SCHOOL

Pre-kindergarten students at Kewanee's Lyle School are about to become stars of the world of children's entertainment. Earlier this year students and staff responded to an online request from Jason Ringenberg (aka Farmer Jason) for funds to back his first Christmas CD.

It's apparently becoming common for independent artists, like Ringenberg, who don't have a record deal with a major label, to secure financing for their projects by going right to fans or anyone else who finds them on the internet and contributes. Suzy Bogguss, now on the road promoting her new CD of Merle Haggard songs, put the word out on a site called Kickstarter and raised a chunk of money to bankroll the album, tour and promotion.

The Lyle kids have a special bond with Ringenberg, a native of Sheffield. Best known as the front man for the punk/country band Jason and the Scorchers in the 1980s, Ringenberg settled down with his family on a farm near Nashville and, about 12 years ago, created the character "Farmer Jason" and a career in children's entertainment.

He won an Emmy for a PBS video, "It's a Farmer Jason," and produced three CDs, all using farm themes he remembered from childhood, and



used them to promote nature, positive relationships and good behavior. His 2012 CD, "Nature Jams," featured a song sung by Bogguss as well as a number of other country, rock and folk artists.

Even though most adults probably never heard of him, among grade school children around the U.S., Farmer Jason has become a rock star. Several years ago he was visiting his mother, Betty, who still lives in Sheffield, and offered to perform a couple of concerts at Kewanee High School for the pre-K pupils who attend Lyle. They were ecstatic. Ringenberg has returned to Petersen Auditorium each year since to perform an afternoon show for elementary students and an evening show for families. When the Lyle gang heard Jason needed help raising funds for a CD, they jumped on board and went to the community asking for funds. The response, to say the least, was overwhelming.

Soon they had raised \$600 for the cause, a feat which did not go unnoticed — or unappreciated — by Farmer Jason. In March he informed Lyle parent coordinator Karen Rogula they had made the largest donation to date. In appreciation, Jason said if they could somehow take a photo of the entire Lyle student body and staff, he would include it in the packaging of the CD.

## TWO NEW SCHOLARSHIPS ESTABLISHED AT KHS

### JAMES GOLBY AGRI BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP:

The James Golby Agri Business Scholarship was established by the Class of 1963. This \$500.00 scholarship is awarded annually at commencement to a graduating student who has been admitted as a student to any accredited two or four year college, university, or technical school.

The recipient will be selected by a committee consisting of the Principal or his/her designee, FFA advisor, and a representative of the Class of 1963. The criteria for selection are as follows:

1. The recipient must be a senior graduating in the year that the scholarship is awarded AND must have proof of enrollment for his/her post secondary education.

2. The recipient must have at least an overall C/2.0 grade point average.

3. The student should display good character and be involved in FFA for a minimum of two years.

4. Preference will be given to students demonstrating financial need or other hardship(s), and has not been awarded other significant monetary scholarships or awards.

5. Characteristics displayed by the recipient shall include: academic diligence, congeniality, determination, and compassion.

This year's scholarship recipient was Emily Pettis.

### JACOB M. GRABBE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP:

The family and friends of Jacob Grabbe have established an annual scholarship award in loving memory of Jacob. Jacob graduated from Kewanee High School in 2010.

The criteria established for this scholarship are:

1. The scholarship must be awarded to a graduating Kewanee High School student in good academic standing (C average or above).

2. The student must be enrolled in an accredited college, university, community college, or trade school for the fall semester following graduation.

3. Preference will be given to a student demonstrating financial need and receiving no other scholarship at graduation from Kewanee High School or the Kewanee Schools Foundation.

No application is required other than the Scholarship Data Form printed in the Kewanee Schools Foundation Awards and Scholarship Guide.

This year's scholarship recipient was Donovan Murphy.



Jacob Grabbe '10

## DONATIONS HELP MAKE DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM SUCCESSFUL

Kewanee High School has partnered with Black Hawk College to offer dual credit and articulated credit for current KHS students. Dual credit classes are held at Kewanee High School and taught by KHS teachers who are fully accredited to teach at the community college level.

Students are given high school credit, plus college credit appears upon their Black Hawk College transcript upon completion of the courses. These credits can be used for Black Hawk

College programs or transfer to other colleges or universities.

During the 2013-2014 school year, 180 KHS students took over 2,300 college credit hours while simultaneously earning high school credit! Research shows the following advantages of dual-credit programs:

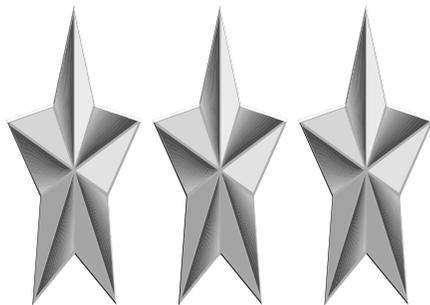
They facilitate the transition between high school and college; Reduce the cost of a college education by shortening the time needed to complete a degree; Raise student motivation and aspiration; Reduce remediation and drop out rates; Offer greater advanced credit opportunities in rural areas.

Your donations will be even more important in the coming school year as the costs for dual credit classes will increase 50% for the 2014-2015 school year, from \$30 for a three-hour class to \$45. The cost of a similar class on campus would be almost \$400. These fees are paid for by students and their families. During the 2013-2014 school year, over 60 KHS students who demonstrated financial need received over \$8,000 in Dual Credit scholarships to offset their tuition.

## AUSTIN JOHNSON COMMISSIONED A MARINE SECOND LIEUTENANT

Austin Robert Johnson of Kewanee was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps on May 19. During the commissioning ceremony his parents, Kathy Johnson and Glen Johnson, pinned the gold lieutenant rank insignia bars on his uniform. Austin's brothers, Marine veteran Sgt. Sean Johnson, gave him his first salute during the ceremony. Several family members attended the ceremony.

Austin had graduated two days earlier from the University of Illinois-Champaign. As a U of I student, he received a number of leadership awards: The Admiral Zumwalt Scholarship Award, the Chief Naval Operations Distinguished Midshipman Graduate Award, the Daughters of the American Revolution Award, the American Legion Department of Illinois Military Excellence Award, the Christopher Michael Outstanding Leadership Award, the Legion of Valor Award and others. In January, he will report to Quantico, VA for several months.



## A PATRIOTIC SPECTACULAR HELD AT PETERSEN AUDITORIUM

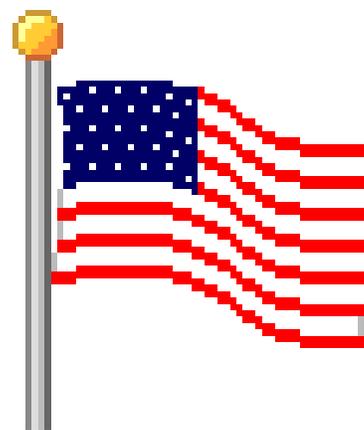
'A Patriotic Spectacular' was presented in the Petersen Auditorium at Kewanee High School on Saturday evening, March 1. The Kewanee High School Band and Choir was featured, as well as the Kewanee Community Band and other local vocalists.

The show had many patriotic selections and included: Lincoln at Gettysburg; A Jefferson Portrait; Armed Forces – The Pride of America; Within These Hallowed Halls; The Ultimate Patriotic Sing Along.

The Gettysburg Address was read by Mr. Kurtis Smyth, History teacher at KHS, during the musical piece "Lincoln at Gettysburg". Various parts of the Declaration of Independence was read by Logan Hamilton, KHS Speech Team state qualifier, during Jefferson Portrait.

The story of Benjamin Franklin was told by Larry Flannery, KHS Custodian, during "Let These Words Ring True"; and during "Within These Hallowed Halls" Central School Math teacher, Bonnie McCommons, read famous words from our past presidents.

A major highlight of the evening featured the presentation of flags by the Kewanee VFW color guard during the Armed Forces piece.



## PASSINGS:

### Class of '34

Darlene (Fisher) Boswell - 5/1/13

### Class of '38

Frank Kursock - 2/5/14

Mirilda "Tootie" (Lee) Greiert -  
2/21/14

### Class of '39

Madalyn (Bengston) Anderson -  
3/24/14

Doris (Wickblom) Osborne -  
5/31/14

### Class of '42

Robert Ainley - 12/29/13

### Class of '43

Etta May Adams - 10/26/13  
Shirley (Adams) DeBord -  
5/30/14

### Class of '44

Edna (Haddad) DeMorest

### Class of '45

JoAnn (Landis) Hadank - 2/19/14  
Shirley (Wilsey) Beard - 2/19/14

### Class of '46

Anna (Cokich) Francis - 2/4/14

### Class of '47

Mary (Terry) Bader  
Jerry Hurd  
Robert Perry

### Class of '48

Jack Heaton - 2/8/14

### Class of '50

Donald Norquist - 2/1/14  
Mary Nelson - 6/1/14

### Class of '56

Jack Morgan, Sr. - 2/7/14

### Class of '57

Michael Ptasnik - 4/20/14

### Class of '58

James K. Smith - 3/10/14

### Class of '60

Arlene (Currie) Folger - 5/12/14

### Class of '62

Richard Bennett - 9/8/13  
Sheila (Samara) Grant - 4/1/14

### Class of '66

Mary Ann Miskinis - 12/11/13  
Bernard Polowy - 1/17/14

### Class of '67

Shirley (Fisher) Hall - 1/26/14

### Class of '69

Sandra (Jones) Gillespie - 3/8/14

### Class of '73

Heather A. Walker - 1/6/14

### Class of '77

Ken Puckett - 1/19/14  
Dorothy (Crain) Self - 3/21/14

### Class of '82

Boyd Davis - 4/17/14

### Class of '85

Patty (Larson) Ince - 1/11/14

### Class of '88

Christine Rusk - 5/21/96

## REUNIONS:

The Class of 1959 has begun planning their 55th reunion. For more information contact Jeanne (Vannieuwenhuysse) Deconinck at 309.231.4780 or [deke43@frontier.com](mailto:deke43@frontier.com).

The Class of 1964 will be having their 50th class reunion homecoming weekend of October 10, 2014. For more information contact Paul Ptasnik at 913.397.8337 or at [pptasnik@kc.rr.com](mailto:pptasnik@kc.rr.com).

The Class of 1970 is planning their 45th reunion for September 5, 2015. The reunion will be held at Kewanee Dunes (former Midland Country Club). For further information contact Bill Mattingly at [bvamattingly@dishmail.net](mailto:bvamattingly@dishmail.net); Don Vanderostyne at [donvanderostyne@yahoo.com](mailto:donvanderostyne@yahoo.com); or Bill Breedlove at [lettering@Breedlovetshirts.com](http://lettering@Breedlovetshirts.com). Also visit Facebook at Class of 1970 Kewanee High School.

The Class of 1979 has begun planning their 35th reunion. The reunion will be held on October 11, 2014 at The Elks in Kewanee from 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. For more information contact Crystal VanWassenhove at 309.852.3399, [cristole15@hotmail.com](mailto:cristole15@hotmail.com).

The Class of 2004 is planning their 10th reunion for October 11, 2014. For more information contact Rosie Guerrero at 309.883.1505. Also visit Facebook at Kewanee High School Class of 2004.

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*John Moraski and Jared Nimrick*

## Two Ways to Give!

1. By credit card online at [www.kewaneeschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.kewaneeschoolsfoundation.org)
2. By check using this form.

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

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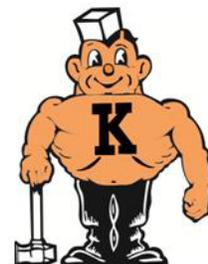
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Please accept my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ KHS Alumni Class of \_\_\_\_\_

### Support the Dual Credit Scholarship

Please make your check payable to the Kewanee Schools Foundation

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



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