



Speech success

All of Guardian Angels Central Catholic's state speech events brought home hardware from the Class C2 State Speech meet held March 19 at the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

Four different events captured state medals. Two were state titles, while one event earned a silver medal, and another a bronze medal.

Sophia Hass and Tobias Steffensmeier were duet acting champs, and Greta Wooldrik won entertainment speaking.

Earning the silver medal was the oral interpretation of drama team. Members are Tobias Steffensmeier, Evelyn Wooldrik, Avery Kreike-meier and Andie Guenther.

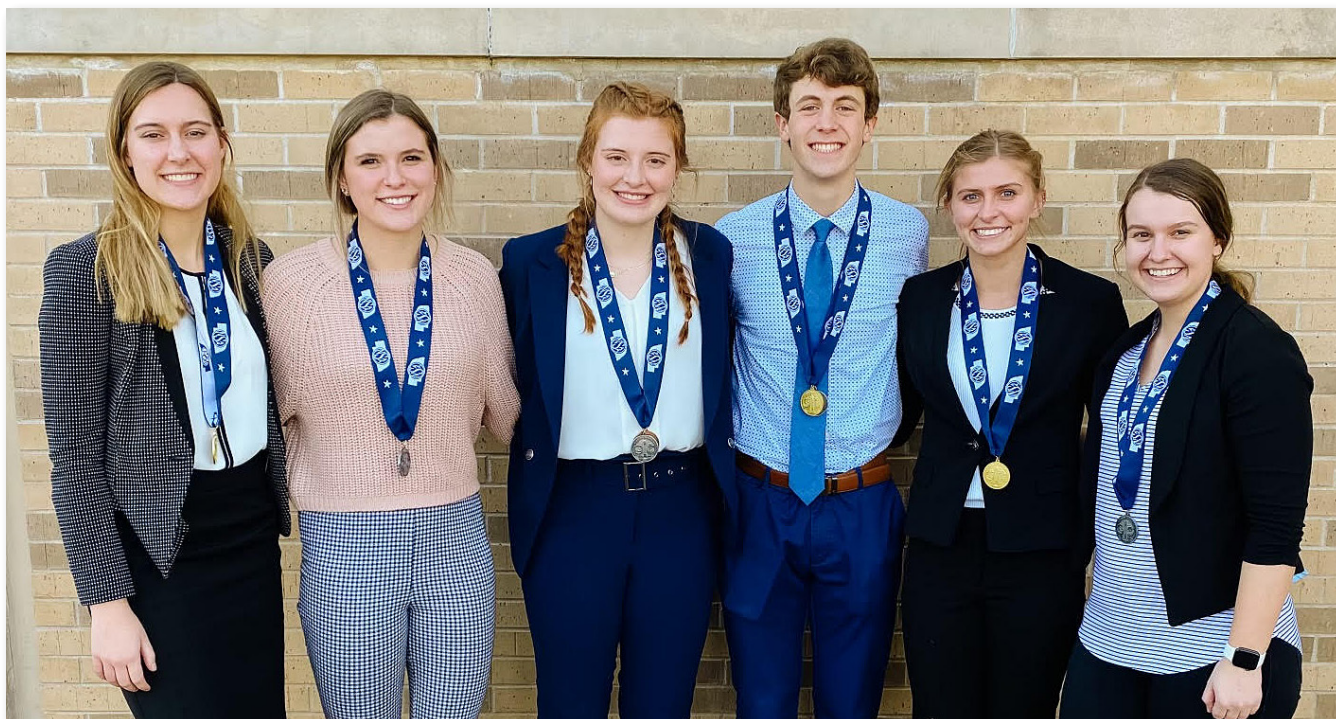
Evelyn Wooldrik added to GACC's point total with a third place finish in interpretation of humorous prose.

"The kids were all at the top of their game. There is nothing better than ending a speech season getting a medal and knowing you are in the top 6 competitors in the state, let alone having two champions," Stokely said.

Overall, GACC finished 3rd as a team in Class C2.

"All of these kids have worked incredibly hard. We had a slow start to the season, but ultimately, it led us to end on an unbelievable high," Stokely said.

Tobias Steffensmeier and Sophia Hass captured a state title in duet at the Class C2 State speech meet.



Members of the GACC speech team who earned medals at the State Class C2 speech meet Friday were, from left, Greta Wooldrik, Andie Guenther, Evelyn Wooldrik, Tobias Steffensmeier, Sophia Hass, and Avery Kreikemeier. The Bluejays finished 3rd in Class C2.



Gold medal!

Greta Wooldrik was the Entertainment gold-medal champion at the Class C2 State speech meet. Guardian Angels Central Catholic captured a 3rd-place finish. Wooldrik was one of six members of the GACC speech team to compete in the Class C2 State meet held at Kearney.

Speaking for the unborn

GACC grads are members of UNO's Abortion Dialogue Academy

Standing up for those who can't is exactly what 2019 Guardian Angels Central Catholic graduates Josh Wordekemper and Xavier Steffensmeier are doing as volunteers for a 501c3 non-profit organization called the Abortion Dialogue Academy.

The group was started a few years ago in Omaha. The purpose of the group is to promote fact-based conversations with pro-choice people.

Both GACC grads attend the University of Nebraska-Omaha. They go around campus and ask students if they are interested in taking part in a survey about abortion. Then they present five different circumstances in which abortion could be a possibility.

"If they say it should be legal in any of those circumstances, we ask them if they want to have a conversation about it, and we have an argument for them to see how they react," Steffensmeier said.

"By the end of the argument, the goal is to make the pro-choice person see the pro-life perspective and understand and agree that abortion should be illegal regardless of the circumstance, because it kills an innocent person."

Wordekemper said it's an honor to be a part of the first campus team. He got involved when a friend from the Newman Center, Erin Jones, encouraged him to join during his freshman year. Jones is the dialogue intern for the team.

A few months after Josh had joined, Xavier did the same. But for Steffensmeier, there was more hesitation. A persistent nudge from Wordekemper, however, gave him a change of heart.

"I didn't want to join because the idea of approaching strangers on campus and discussing something as divisive as abortion didn't seem attractive to me," Steffensmeier said. "However, [Josh] kept pushing me to go to the training ses-



Xavier Steffensmeier, left, and Josh Wordekemper who are 2019 GACC graduates and roommates at UNO, are also members of the Abortion Dialogue Academy together.

sion. So I agreed to just go to the training and see after that.

"I went to the training and realized what an amazing movement this is. I had gone on the March for Life in high school three times, but this was taking the fight against

abortion to another level. Josh can definitely have the credit for me joining the team."

Since joining the team, Steffensmeier has found out just how

ABORTION DIALOGUE: GACC grads speak for unborn

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many unique aspects there are to ADA.

“It’s amazing being around so many people that are passionate about the same issues as you. Also, being a part of something that is so much bigger than yourself is humbling,” Steffensmeier said. “We are able to see the difference that we’re making in the world around us, and it’s crazy to see that.”

For Wordekemper, he noted there is certainly a level of satisfaction he receives from going around campus and having these conversations.

“Regardless if the students I talk to change their mind or not after the conversation, I still rest assured that I gave them something to really think about,” Wordekemper said. “I feel an obligation to do this. I have no reason not to. I have the ability to speak up and change minds, so I do it.”

While there are certainly negative encounters, Steffensmeier said that a vast majority of his conversations with students on campus are positive.

“I have only had one or two conversations in the year and a half that I’ve been doing this that have gone badly,” Steffensmeier said. “People, college students especially, are a lot more receptive and understanding than one might think. Even if we don’t see eye to

‘I feel an obligation to do this. I have no reason not to. I have the ability to speak up and change minds, so I do it.’

Josh Wordekemper

2019 GACC graduate & ADA team member

eye by the end of the conversation, most people I encounter are open to seeing both points of view.”

Wordekemper agreed that most people respond with some curiosity on the subject. However, he too has endured some negative encounters. Responding in a proper way is important, Josh noted.

“When talking with people who argue avidly against me, it is very important to meet that person with empathy,” Wordekemper said.

“Nine times out of ten, the pro-abortion advocate has their particular stance on the issue out of sympathy for women in tough situations. These people are just uneducated [on abortion]. So after having a conversation with them they tend to realize the reality of how evil abortion is.”

The main message when talking to people on campus is that their argument against abortion is not

religious, Steffensmeier noted.

“Abortion Dialogue Academy is a secular organization, and it doesn’t have any religious affiliation. We show quotes from embryology textbooks that show that the fetus becomes a person at fertilization,” Xavier said.

“We find that most people are pro-choice because they’ve never heard a good secular argument against abortion. A lot of the people that we talk to on campus have never heard an argument like this one before.”

Steffensmeier admitted that the most shocking conversations he ever had as part of the Abortion Dialogue Academy team was his very first one.

“I was terrified to approach a stranger on campus, someone who I had never seen before. I had just learned the script and argument, and now I had to try to change someone’s point of view on an important topic. To be honest, at the time I wasn’t really sure if the argument would actually work or not,” Steffensmeier said.

“The first conversation I ever had ended up being a persuasion. The person I talked to was pro-choice at the beginning of the conversation, and by the end she believed abortion should always be illegal. After that experience, it definitely changed my way of thinking. Just having a conversation with someone on campus can be life-changing.”

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Attention: Alumni Banquet will be held June 5, 2021

Honor classes: 1925, 1930, 1935, 1940, 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1980, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2010, 2020 and 1921, 1926, 1931, 1936, 1941, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1981, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2011, 2021

Note: JayFest will be held June 4, 2021





Above: Cogsworth (Ethan Wooldrik) was turned into a clock by the Enchantress. Right: Gaston (Tobias Steffensmeier) tries to win the heart of Belle.



Beauty & the Beast

GACC and WP-B performed a joint musical at the West Point Community Theatre. Right: Monsieur D'Arque (Brianna Peatrowsky) was bribed by Gaston to take part in a scheme to blackmail Belle into marrying him.

Photos by Willis Mahannah



Townspiece Madison Brunsing and Cassie Peatrowsky.

GACC's 2021 seniors, parents

Audrey Daberkow: Kelly Daberkow & Kristin (Emanuel '90) Daberkow

Brandi Doernemann: Jim & Lynda Doernemann

Emmie Dvorak: Dean & Tammy Dvorak

Caden Ernesti: Paul & Angela Ernesti

Erin Franzluebbers: Donald & Lori Franzluebbers

Alexis Guill: Steven & Jessica Renter; John Jr & Jodi Guill

Carter Haase: Mark & Lisa (Engelmeyer '90) Haase

Joshua Jansen: Matt & Tarah Jansen

Isabelle Kaup: Trent & Kim Kaup

Thomas Kreikemeier: Bruce & Bonnie (Prinz '89) Kreikemeier

Ethan Kreikemeier: Keith A. & Jennifer (Schmader '94) Kreikemeier

Noah J. Kreikemeier: Greg & Susan Kreikemeier

Avery Kreikemeier: Jay ('94) & Denise Kreikemeier

Nicholas Landholm: Cory & Carie Schinstock; Kevin & Melanie Landholm

Aspen Lund: Casey & Nicole (Steffen '94) Lund

Cash Meier: Matt & Joani Meier

Bryan Ortmeier: Tom & Cindy Ortmeier

Brianna Peatrowsky: Chris ('85) & Nadine Peat-

rowsky

Sarahi Perez: Fidel & Doralus Perez

Brendan Rief: Roger ('93) & Jennifer (Schlecht '92) Rief

Brenna Rief: Roger ('93) & Jennifer (Schlecht '92) Rief

Angela Rolf: Brian ('80) & Jeannette Rolf

Paige Rolf: Tim ('86) & Sarah Rolf

Jenna Schinstock: Chad ('91) & Rachel Schinstock

Evie Schlickbernd: Pat ('78) & Jean Schlickbernd

Hannah Schwer: Steve & Tracy Schwer

Jaryn Smeal: Bryan Smeal; Tim & Andrea Ristau

Marshall Stalp: JoDene Stalp and the late Ron ('78) Stalp

Cody Steffen: Adam ('92) & Kristie Steffen

Tobias Steffensmeier: Ryan & Charissa Steffensmeier

Cassidee Stratman: Doug ('84) & Joy Stratman

Nathaniel Timmerman: Jeffrey ('94) & Anne Timmerman

Benjamin Ulrich: Timothy ('89) & Michelle Ulrich

Evelyn Wooldrik: Mark & Michelle (Schorn '88) Wooldrik

Brooke Wordekemper: Kenneth ('79) & Susan (Eilerts '81) Wordekemper



**Thank you to all
the Bluejay supporters!**

**You make
GACC a
very special place!!**

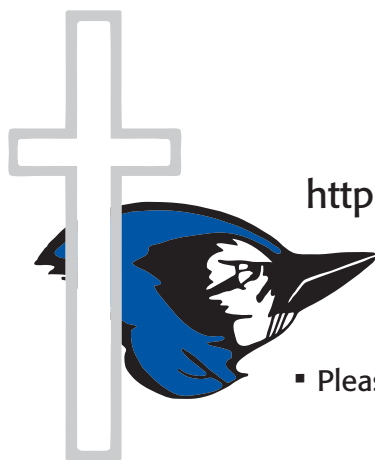
Ortmeier is national poster contest winner



Emerson Ortmeier, a freshman at GACC School, was named the winner of a National Association of Conservation Districts' poster contest with "Where would we BEE without pollinators?"



NOW AVAILABLE! Alumni Directory:

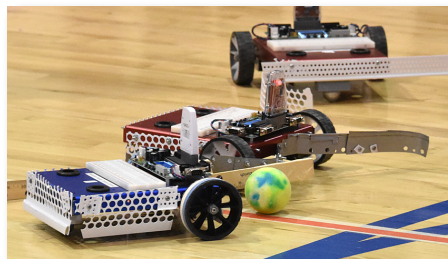
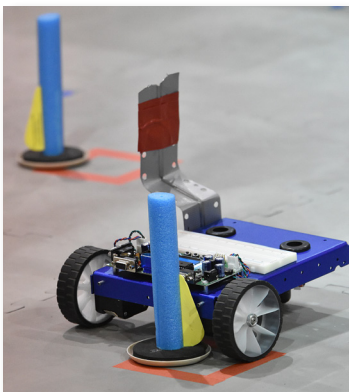


- The Guardian Angels Central Catholic Alumni Directory is up and running. The link is: <https://sites.google.com/a/gaccbluejays.org/gacc-alumni/>
- The GACC Alumni Directory features classes from 1921 to 2020. There is a link to each class that can be clicked on and viewed.
- Please email deannewieneke@yahoo.com to report any errors or omissions.

Robotics showcase



You're never too young to enjoy robotics as was the case for Makayla Ridder, who watches a robot, while sitting on the lap of her older sister, Kara Ridder, during GACC's Robotics showcase.



Above and to the left are some of the CEENBoTs that were featured in various events at GACC's Robotics showcase held in March.

GACC pulls off successful school year

**By Kate Hagemann
GACC High School Principal
WE DID IT!!**

The staff, students, and families successfully navigated the challenges of the 2020-2021 school year. We are proud that we were able to keep our students in school and participating in the majority of their regular activities.

While the school year presented challenges to all involved, the mission of leading and learning through Christ still shined brightly at GACC. Thank you to the entire Bluejay community for their efforts in making this school year a success.

We look forward to the future and a continued return to normalcy in our homes and schools.

GACC faculty recognized for their service

Guardian Angels Central Catholic has been blessed with a dedicated staff. Eight of those staff members were honored this year for either five or 10 years of service to the school.

Faculty members being honored for the 2020-21 school year were:

- Karla Throener - 5 yrs
- Sara Wangler - 5 yrs
- Leslie Kreikemeier - 5 yrs
- Pam Schlickbernd - 5 yrs
- Michelle Ulrich - 10 yrs
- Lynda Doernemann - 10 yrs
- Donna Meister - 10 yrs
- Matt Schlaebitz - 10 yrs

Some key dates to remember for GACC School

The end of the 2020-21 school year is quickly approaching for Guardian Angels Central Catholic. And as another school year winds down, listed below are some key dates to keep in mind.

- May 9: GACC High School Graduation
- May 19: Final day of school for the elementary
- May 20: Final day of school for the high school
- June 4: JayFest
- June 5: GACC Alumni Banquet

BIRTHS

Rebecca (Oligmueller) '09 & Chad Miller: daughter Moira Jo born 1/15/21

Rebecca (Koehn) '03 & Jeff Frans: daughter Cecilia Faye born 2/23/21

Blair '08 & Anna (Kirwan) '08 Koehn: twin sons Dominic Michael & Gabriel Bradley born 2/28/21

Nick '97 & Katie Hugo: son Henry Joseph born 3/10/21

Ben '11 & Julia Eilerts: son Micah James born 3/25/21

DEATHS

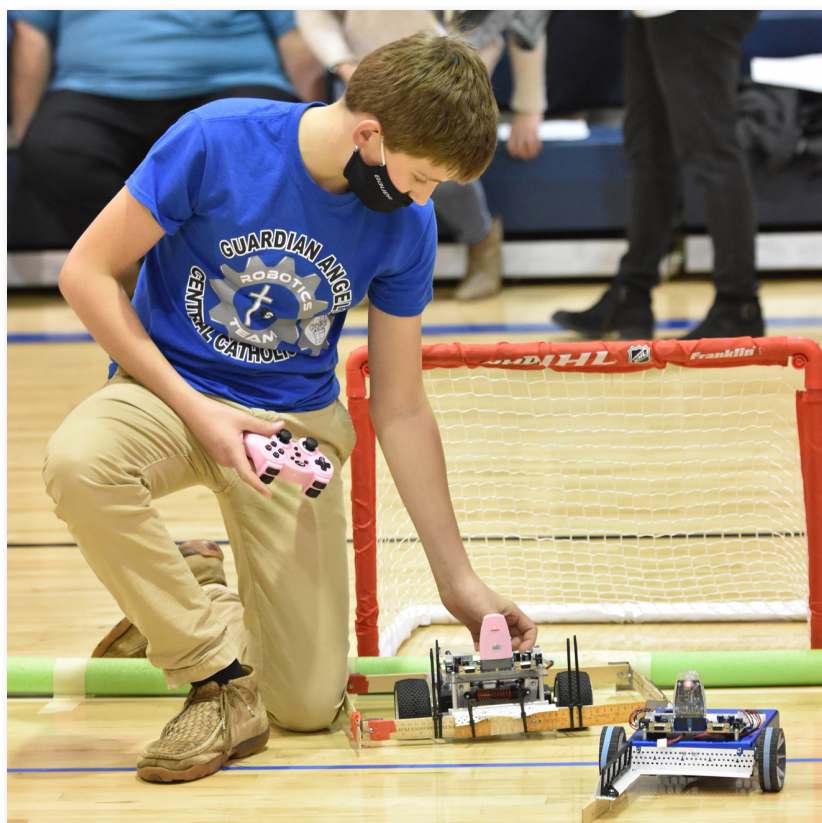
ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

Kenneth Franzluebbbers '75: Date of death 3/16/21

Evelyn (Kreikemeier) Tingelhoff '62: Date of death 3/19/21

Emails Wanted:

Please send your current email address to ranaeobrien1@gmail.com to receive our online edition of "News from the Nest" throughout the year.



Hayden Throener gets his robot ready for a game of Competition Arena (Hockey) at the GACC Robotics event in March.



In a cluster of robots, Isaac Wooldrik operates one of his.



Adrian Meiergerd controls his robot during GACC's Robotic Showcase last week.

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