



The Bluejay Network a big hit

By Kacie Borchers

Live streaming events was an idea we had in the back of our minds and wanted to get started, but in the wake of the pandemic, it was pushed to the forefront and we had to get started.

Through a subscription with Striv, they provide the platform, equipment, and support to allow our school to live stream activities. They also provide ongoing education through videos, webinars, podcasts, articles, and workshops. In our first year, we mainly just set-up the camera and streamed the activities to our channel.

This year, we wanted to grow and get our students more involved and that evolved into The Bluejay Network.

Striv or striving to us, has really become a verb that describes what our students in The Bluejay Network are doing.

At the beginning of the year, students that were interested in the live streaming voted on our network name. A logo was then created and t-shirts were printed. The Bluejay Network was born.

Through The Bluejay Network, our students have opportunities to be the camera or computer operator, to create graphics or hype videos, as well as commentate.

You can find the computer operator running the scoreboard, switching between graphics, and monitoring sound. Graphics that our students have created range from team rosters, brackets, and match-ups.

The commentators work hard to prepare before the game by understanding the match-up, looking up statistics, and learning about the opponent. They have even done post-game interviews with coaches and players.

We have also live streamed other



GACC senior Livia Hunke gets interviewed by Becca Jansen on the Bluejay Network.

activities besides sports such as One Act, graduation, the elementary Christmas program, and much more.

We have seventeen students that have given their time and talent to The Bluejay Network this year and even had five students attend a workshop put on by the Strive company where they learned along with other students from surrounding schools.

For the past semester, if there is an activity, you can find The Bluejay Network students preparing and bringing excitement to our fans. We also find that the opposing fans enjoy watching our stream just as much.

In addition to The Bluejay Network live streaming events, it will continue to grow in new ways as the Hank Stalp Trust generously

donated money towards a brand new broadcasting studio.

The digital media class is currently using the studio to create news segments and other projects. You can view our YouTube channel to see our first broadcast.

The future of The Bluejay Network looks bright as we continue to expand and grow. The goal is to bring news and events to our community while our students are learning not only about broadcasting but also about teamwork, problem solving, critical thinking, communication, and so much more.

Be sure to be on the lookout for growth on our YouTube and Striv channel (links to both can be found on www.gaccbluejays.org). All thanks to the students involved in The Bluejay Network.

GACC's 2022 Alumni Banquet



Class of 1947: Representing the class were, from left, James Rief, Valeria Knobbe Schlecht, Louise Goebel Schulzkump and Bill Hunke.



Class of 1952: Bernie Ortmeier.



Class of 1957: Representing the class were, from left, front row: Carol Reiman Hagedorn, Jean Disher Bundy, Leona Vogel Nelson, Grace Hunke Counts, Bob Tingelhoff; middle row: Leroy Meiergerd, Janice Batenhorst Pieper, Dennis Weiler, Ted Gentrup, Erv Steffen; back row: Alvin Kloke and Dorothy Sellentin Anderson.

**More GACC alumni banquet photos
can be found on Pages 3, 4 & 5.**

Alumni photos were taken by Kelly Dinslage (Class of 1999)



Class of 1967: Representing the class were, from left, front row: Gary Kaup, Roger Wortman, Bonnie Stratmann Rief, Cathy Knobbe Meier, and Katie Lennemann; second row: David Heywood, Norma Herman Emanuel, Janet Popken Ortmeier, Glen Ortmeier, Marty Throener, Rich Reiman, Linda Ulrich Wortman; third row: Linda Kloke Kaysen, Connie Ritzdorf Moritz, John Bliemeister, Dan Brunsing, Mike Wieler, Tom Wellman, Dan Wortman; back row: Vince Hagedorn, Ken Emanuel, Fred Gelster, Steve Svoboda and Dave Meier.



Class of 1962: Representing the class were, from left, front row: Lavern Neesen, Leonard Ortmeier, Deacon Lawrence Throener, John Hagedorn, Dean Strehle, Carol Ulrich Schuetze, Bob Sendgraff; back row: Ralph Timmerman, Jerry Ortmeier, Joan Ortmeier Lappe, Joan Harstick Wolken, Karen Rolf Plagge, Eileen Meister Holzerland, Evelyn Rief Meier, Norma Disher Stubbert and Lorene Stalp Fiala.



Class of 2012: Representing the class were, from left, front row: Tia Wolken Fuhr, Erica Wimer, Patti Schlickbernd, Lauren Manley, Dalton Graybeal, Bradee Rief Schiefelbein, Anthony Guenther; back row: Spencer Leffler, Mary Kreikemeier, Jared Rolf, Vanessa Throener Gall and Heather Nesladek Bang.



Class of 1972: Representing the class were, from left, front row: Deb Schlecht Wiechman, Barb Schlecht Wortman, Diana Bliemeister Iden, Deb Reeson Reppert, Judy Schmaderer Uher; middle row: Allen Meister, Rita Hugo Armendariz, Lynelle Ritzdorf Rief, Ken Rief, Larry Steffensmeier, Leroy Steffensmeier, Mary Ernesti Kempf, Carol Meiergerd Kuhlmann; back row: Mark Harstick, Dave Schmaderer, Ralph Knobbe, Gary Schuetze, Doug Peterson, Marvin Guenther, Shirley Wieneke Rief, Loren Rief, Audrey Ortmeier Suing and Pat Knobbe.



Class of 1982: Representing the class were, from left, front row: Janet Neuvirth Zahourek, Barb Ulrich Franzluebbbers, Todd Plagge; second row: John Klitz, Alice Guenther Klitz, Margaret Schorn, Beth French Hunke, Joan Wordekemper Batenhorst, Ralph Batenhorst; third row: Randy Wolken, Lori Steuter, Gail Oligmueller Raabe, Michelle Michaelis Aylor, Dan Stalp, Duane Wordekemper, Ron Stieren, Diane Rolf Martin; back row: Rosemary Hugo Roche, Susie Tobey Petersen, Vicki Bracht and Julie Baumert Powers.

GACC students impressed with annual March for Life in D.C.

The Archdiocese of Omaha canceled the official March for Life pilgrimage due to COVID, but that didn't stop three students from Guardian Angels Central Catholic, and their dads, from attending the annual event in Washington D.C.

GACC students Helena Steffensmeier, and sisters Leah Jansen and Kate Jansen decided to go on their own. Joining them at the March for Life were dads Ryan Steffens-

meier and Matt Jansen.

This is what GACC student Kate Jansen had to say about attending the March for Life:

"Since it was my first year going, I was really impressed by the amount of people who marched. I loved knowing that so many people were marching for the same reason and it was so moving to know that we were all marching for the same thing."

Fellow GACC marcher Helena Steffensmeier had this to say:

"Attending the March for Life was an impactful experience for me. I was especially moved by the number of people who were gathered in one place to advocate for life.

"I'm so glad we decided to make the trip on our own when the Archdiocese canceled its pilgrimage. It was totally worth it."



Class of 2002: Representing the class were, from left, front row: Jake Olson, Cory Kreikemeier, Megan Luebbert Beed, Christy Fast Lens, Ryan Wolken; back row: Jared Yosten, Aaron Cihacek, Ryan Klitz, Zach Ridder and Kevin Stratman.



Class of 1992: Representing the class were, from left, front row: Owen Emanuel, David Engelmeyer, Jill Ortmeier Montgomery, Kari Schmader Simonsen; back row: Joy Langhorst Rahn, John Gustafson and Jenny Schlecht Rief.



Class of 1997: Representing the class were, from left, front row: Laura Knobbe Polanski, Justin Olson, Brad Batenhorst; middle row: Danelle Brunsing Smith, Kylie Knobbe Dirkschneider, Nick Hugo; back row: Sara Peitzmeier Nichols and Kyle Steffen.

Fr. James Weeder:

By Ashley Gaughan

West Point welcomed Father James Weeder to St. Mary's Church as lead pastor and president of the Guardian Angels Central Catholic High and Elementary schools.

Father Weeder's duties commenced July 1, 2021.

Growing up in Albion, Fr. Weeder helped on his parents' farm along with his two brothers and two sisters. He attended St. Michael's Grade School and Boone Central High School.

Having an interest in mechanical repair after high school, he attended Southeast Community College in Milford where he earned an AAS degree in Electromechanical Technology.

He worked for several years using that degree doing industrial maintenance in the manufacturing and packaging industry.

While working in that field, one of his coworkers entered the seminary. Fr. Weeder didn't think much about it at the time, but looking back that was the witness God used to place a desire on his heart to consider the priesthood.

After much prayer and consideration, he decided to further discern the call by attending seminary which he did at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio beginning in 2003.

After his third year of seminary, Fr. Weeder took part in a five-day silent retreat. It was during this retreat he decided to fully embrace the call that God put on his heart to become a priest.

In May of 2011 he graduated with an MDiv and MA in Theology. On June 4, a few weeks later, he was ordained to the priesthood.

Wooldrik wins back-to-back gold medals

By Ashley Gaughan

Greta Wooldrik has now tasted the sweet success of claiming a Class C2 State Speech championship for the second year in a row.

Wooldrik, a Guardian Angels Central Catholic junior recently competed at the state speech meet in Kearney. She clinched the gold for her performance of “Loquacious” in entertainment speaking. Wooldrik said the word means “talkative” and it makes people laugh when they hear that because, “it describes me to a tee.”

She credits her dad Mark with helping her choose her speech topics, which are true to life.

Her winning speech last year on “Birth Order Characteristics” allowed Wooldrik to shine in describing her “middle child” status while poking fun at her younger and older siblings in the process.

Wooldrik’s freshman year’s speech was about her tearing her ACL, but a try for a state gold medal that year was not to be after the speech season was cut short due to COVID.

While her father may suggest the topics, Wooldrik writes all the speeches herself. After taking a week to carefully craft her piece, Wooldrik said it comes down to “rehearsal, rehearsal, rehearsal.”

On top of knowing her performance inside and out, Wooldrik said that having success at competitions comes down to two important factors — having “amazing delivery” and “great energy.”

When Wooldrik performs, listeners are swept along for the ride,



Greta Wooldrik gives her Entertainment speech at GACC’s Night of Excellence.

laughing and smiling the entire act, nodding as they relate to her points and being charmed by her humorous additions, unexpected props, and well-timed jokes.

At each meet Wooldrik receives written feedback from the judges. One of them said, “Love the topic. So unique.”

She thanks her speech coaches, Emma Stokely and Kylie Kai, for the time and effort they invest into practicing her speeches with her and her speech teammates.

“Both of them have made me the speech contestant I am today,” she

said.

And it was the time and effort invested that led to her name being called as the state champion for the second year in a row.

The setting of the large, Kearney High School auditorium made her winning moment surreal as hundreds of speech students, coaches and parents gave a standing ovation.

Wooldrik recalled her reaction: “I was just smiling. Both last year and this year I teared up,” she said. “It just makes you feel like all your hard work has paid off.”



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Attention: Alumni Banquet will be held June 10, 2023

Honor classes: 1923, 1928, 1933, 1938, 1943, 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1983, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2013, 2023

Note: JayFest will be held June 9, 2023

Svec will always remember relationships

Mark Svec is an avid golfer. Just ask his wife, Barb. “Well, we’ll see him again in October,” Mark said in reference to what his wife would tell their two dogs once golf season rolled around each year.

While golfing was in Svec’s blood, coaching was not. That, however, changed in the early 2000’s.

The idea of coaching had been planted in Mark’s mind from parents at GACC High School. After some initial resistance, Svec attended a three-day golf school, which helped open the door to coaching.

After coaching in the Bluejay golf program since 2004, that door is now closing as Svec is retiring as the GACC golf coach.

“It’s been an enjoyable and rewarding experience,” Svec said. “What I will remember most is the relationships with the kids.”

Some of the strongest bonds were created at the state golf tournament.

“From 2009 to now, we were lucky enough to have teams or individuals qualify [for state] every year,” Svec said. “And that’s where you really get to know the kids, when you’re with them for three days in a row.”

In the Svec era, Henry Knobbe was his first-ever state qualifier. Mark also had five state medalists: Ben Eilerts (twice), Isaac Kreikemeier, Cody Steuter, Hannah Hunke and Andrew Franzluebbbers (twice).

Steuter and Franzluebbbers were the only four-time state qualifiers in program history.

One of the biggest accolades during the Svec-coached years was crowning the program’s lone state champion, Ben Eilerts, in 2011. That year, the Bluejays finished 3rd in Class D.

Ben Eilerts is the son of Mike Eilerts, who is also stepping away from the GACC boys golf program. He served as Svec’s assistant coach the past four seasons.

For Svec, his fellow coaches, Duane Mendlik, Daryl Boots and Eilerts, meant the world to him.

“I will never forget my relationships with Duane, Daryl and Mike, and what quality people they were,” Svec said.

Svec served as assistant coach for Mendlik from 2004 to 2006.

“I learned more about kids from Duane, and how to manage personalities, in three years with him than I ever would have on my own,” Svec said.

In 2007 with Boots, Svec maintained the assistant coach title but handled the head coaching duties. Then in 2019, Svec officially became the head coach.

“I couldn’t have done this without my three coaches,” Svec said.

Svec also noted he couldn’t have coached without the support of his bosses at CharterWest Bank in West Point.

“They told us we needed to get involved with something in the community, and we’ll support you. This



After serving as a GACC golf coach since 2004, Mark Svec is retiring. In this photo, Svec is with former Bluejay golfer Andrew Franzluebbbers at the 2019 state golf tournament.

was my way to be involved,” Svec said. “I couldn’t have done this without their support. They allowed me to do this.”

Support from parents in the program was also huge. It was a driving force in allowing Bluejay golf to flourish.

“We have some great kids in our school system. Parents [at GACC] do a really great job raising great kids,” Svec said. “They are young men and women their parents can be proud of.”

At GACC’s end-of-the-year athletic banquet, Svec’s message to golf parents, past and present, was:

“It has been an honor and a privilege to have been entrusted with your kids. I’ve never taken that trust for granted. I’ve gotten a lot more in return from your kids than I ever gave them.”

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