

2016 GHS Hall of Fame Inductees

The Glenwood High School Hall of Fame, which includes students who have graduated from the former Ball and Chatham Township High Schools, was created to honor those individuals or groups whose actions or achievements in their chosen fields bring honor and distinction to the heritage of Glenwood High School. Categories of recognition include: Achievement, Service, Posthumous; Lifetime Recognition, Athletics (Individual), and Athletics (Team).

The Glenwood High School Hall of Fame, which includes Ball High School and Chatham High School, was created to honor those individuals or groups whose actions or achievements in their chosen fields bring honor and distinction to the heritage of Glenwood High School. For nomination information go online to ghs.chathamschools.org, click on the "About Our School" tab at the left then "Glenwood Hall of Fame" on the drop down menu.

Inductees:



Jean (Herr) Russell – Jean Russell has been selected for induction in the Achievement category. Jean is a 1986 graduate of Glenwood High School, and received her bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Illinois, Champaign and her master's in Elementary Education from the University of Indiana-Purdue. While at Glenwood, Jean was active in Band, and received the John Philip Sousa Award as a senior. She also participated in class plays, and received the Best Actress award her senior year. She was active in Track and Field and held the record for the 4 x 100 for several years. She was also an Illinois State Scholar. Jean began her teaching career at Pawnee Elementary School and from there taught in Buffalo Grove, Illinois. In 1994, she began teaching at Whispering Meadows Elementary School in Ft. Wayne, Indiana where she was named Teacher of the Year. She then became a literacy coach for Haverhill Elementary School in 2011 where she was also named Teacher of the Year at Haverhill, and Teacher of the Year for Southwest Allen County Schools. On October 2, 2015 Jean was announced as the 2016 Indiana Teacher of the Year. Further, on October 28, 2015 Indiana Governor, Mike Pence, presented her with the Sagamore of the Wabash award – one of the highest awards which the Governor of Indiana can bestow. She is also Indiana's nominee for National Teacher of the Year. She and her husband, Tom reside in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.



Ron Schwermin – Ron began his teaching career at Virden High School after graduation from Eastern Illinois University in 1972. He came to Glenwood High School in 1975, teaching woodworking and drafting. Through the years, he also coached baseball, golf, and girls basketball. While successful in all of these endeavors, he is perhaps best known for his work developing Glenwood's first television network, GCNN and teaching an extensive broadcast curriculum for over 20 years. Because of Ron and the station he created, hundreds of students were able to find their niche, or their passion, that may have otherwise gone undiscovered. In practical terms, because of the advanced curriculum and cutting-edge technology, GHS broadcast students had an edge over their peers at college and in the industry. Approximately 5,000 students went through the communications/broadcasting classes during his tenure, and many are working in, or have worked in, the broadcasting field today. Some of these alums include: Nate Baliva, Mike Carver, Katie Dudenhausen Clarke, Paul Dankoski, Kyle Dierking, Craig Felber, Daric Gates, Ryan Hermes, Wyatt House, Justin Leach, Megan Lynch, Jeff Lipsky,

Chris McHugh, Megan Mulford, Jason Nevel, Zach Pillsbury, Aaron Sample, and Adam Stark. Ron retired from teaching in 2005, but his legacy continues today.



Ray D. Skaggs, Sr. (Posthumous) – Ray was a life-long Chatham resident who was born on the land where the current high school sits. He began his schooling in a one-room schoolhouse led by Mrs. Keltner. He attended Ball-Chatham schools until the 10th grade, when family obligations pulled him away. He joined the Army and served his country for two years in Germany. After his return, he earned his GED as education was important to him. Ray was a diehard supporter of Glenwood athletics. He attended nearly all home basketball and football games until he became too ill to do so. He loved Chatham and the Ball-Chatham School District. So much so that he sought employment in the District and worked in the maintenance department for 20 years. He took extreme pride in his work and had an amazing work ethic. He taught his family to have pride in the town and its schools. He and his wife raised three children who all graduated from Glenwood, along with five grandchildren who also are all Glenwood graduates. His three great grandchildren are currently Ball-Chatham students as well. Ray Skaggs was a great example of what it means to have pride in the community and in the school district. His death in April 2011 is a loss still felt by both the Redskin and Titan nations, but no one can deny that the Chatham community and schools are better because of his pride and dedication.



Kevin Rogers – Kevin, a 1977 graduate of Glenwood High School, has been selected for induction in the Lifetime Achievement category. Kevin has turned his passion for Highland Games into his life’s work. He is the founder of the St. Andrew’s Society of Central Illinois’ Ancient Athletics organization, becoming a medalist in numerous state, national, Pan American and World Champions in Olympic Weightlifting and Scottish Highland Games. In 2012, Kevin broke two MWC records at Highland Games competitions. He threw the 22-pound Scottish hammer 79 feet, 11.75 inches at a competition in Chatham and heaved the 16-pound hammer 93 ft., 6.5 in. in Greensboro, S.C. In addition, he won a WMC title two consecutive years: the first in 2008 in Saline, Mich.; and again claimed the title with his father in 2009 in Inverness, Scotland. It marked the first time a father and son have won a championship in the same year. Kevin is the current Master’s world record holder in Scots Hammer Throw, and a 2016 silver medalist in the U.S. Masters National Championships in Olympic Weightlifting.



Hillary Werth – has been selected for induction in the GHS Hall of Fame Athletics category. Named one of the top 15 athletes to ever come out of Springfield by the State Journal-Register, Hillary Werth holds a slew of Glenwood High School records: 100, 200, and 400 meter dash, 100 and 300 meter hurdles, long jump and high jump. Her freshman year she was the Class AA sectional champion in the high jump, 200 and 400, and the second-leading scorer for the girls basketball team. Sophomore year she had state qualifying bids in the high jump, 100, 200 and 400, and placed seventh in the high jump, while leading the basketball team in steals and assists and a team high scoring average of 14.9. Junior year she won the state title in the 100-meter hurdles, and was runner-up in the long jump and third in the 300 hurdles, becoming Glenwood’s first state track champion. Prior to her senior year, she won the heptathlon in the 17-18-year-old Young Women’s division at the AAU Junior Olympics. Because of this, she was ranked as the nation’s top high school heptathlete in the country, securing a full ride scholarship to UCLA. From there she earned a degree in art history, but while pursuing a graduate degree in art education at the University of Nebraska, she decided to put her studies on hold to try out for the U.S. National Bobsled Team. Hillary was chosen as one of eight women to represent the United States, and traveled the

world competing as an Olympic hopeful for an entire year. Things changed in 2012 however, as multiple head injuries forced her to focus instead on her art, where she has thrived ever since. Hillary has had solo exhibitions in Los Angeles, St. Louis, Lake of the Ozarks and Springfield, all while shipping her original paintings and sculptures to fans in nearly every state. She has been featured in multiple publications including *MLB.com* and *The Washington Post*, and dedicates significant resources and efforts to a variety of charities like The Nationals Dream Foundation and Concordance Academy. She currently resides in St. Louis with her two pit bulls, Louis and Ruka, where she continues to make a living as an art educator and artist.



Griff Jurgens, a 1999 Glenwood High School graduate, is being inducted into the GHS Hall of Fame in the Athletics category. Having excelled in three sports, Griff earned a Central State Eight (CS8) Athlete of the Year recognition by the State Journal-Register in 1999. Throughout his Glenwood career, he was selected All-Conference twice in football and basketball and once in baseball. In addition, he was selected All-State honors in football and Special Mention All-State in basketball. In football, Griff set various passing records as he and his teammates captured Glenwood's first back-to-back CS8 championships in 1997 and 1998, the first quarter final playoff berth in 1997, and their first State Championship in 1998. In basketball, Griff established new 3-point shooting records, attained the 1,000 point club, and led the Redskins to two regional championships in 1997 and 1999. In baseball, he was part of a CS8 championship in 1997, and three winning campaigns. At Harper Community College, Palatine, Illinois, Griff continued to establish new passing records and led the Hawks to one conference championship in 1999 and two bowl appearances in 1999 and 2000. He was selected MVP at the Dixie Bowl in St. George, Utah and earned All-Region and Jr. College All-American honors. His college career concluded at the University of Northern Iowa where he led the Panthers to their first Gateway Conference championship in six years and their first semi-final berth in the 1-AA playoffs in 2001. He compiled an 8-3 record with his only losses to two 1-AA National Champions and to Oklahoma State. Today, Griff is in his 11th year as an educator, teaching middle school science at a uniquely designed charter school with an emphasis on sustainability in Honolulu. He also assists in the production of oceanography documentaries, as well as performs in his blues garage rock band on the island of Oahu.



2007 Boys Cross Country Team – The 2007 Boys Cross Country Team has been nominated for induction into the Hall of Fame in the Athletic (Team) category. If timing really is everything, then the 2007 team's timing was perfect, as they ran their best race of the season in the biggest race of the year. Led by All-State runner Neal Anderson's 3rd place individual finish with a 14:48 clocking, the Titan's cross country team ran to a 2nd place team finish (the best ever by a Glenwood high school team) at Detweiller Park in Peoria at the IHSA Class 2A State Championships. Other team members competing on that memorable day included Greg Staley, Adam Aydt, Brian Dixon, Jon Carrigan, Aled Fain, Pat Gray, and Ryan Anderson. The 2007 team was a perfect example of an outstanding group of overachievers with a "never say die attitude." The nemesis of the season was Springfield High, as the Senators defeated the Titans at the conference, regional, and sectional meets. At the State Championships however, the GHS boys team defeated SHS as the Titans claimed the runner-up team trophy with SHS placing fourth. As Coach Johnson stated at the end of the season, "the 2007 accomplishment was due to the total effort of all team members to be the very best they could be, and the support they gave each other in practice every single day. Members of the entire team were: Neal Anderson, Ryan Anderson, Adam Aydt, Ryan Cantrell, Jonathan Carrigan, Dustin Charles, Christopher Crowell, Brian Dixon, Aaron Enteman, Aled Fain, Gage Fink, Tyler Fulks, Gregory Garrett, Christopher Gray, Patrick Gray, Kenneth Hall, Luke Harness, Brandon Johnson, Brian

Johnson, Connor Jones, Tyler Landess, Nelson Pearson, Brandon Rovey, Gregory Staley, Thomas Stone, Alec Thompson, Ryan Wendel, and Michael Zink. Coach Johnson was assisted by Jay Rogers, and Ryan Staley.

Past Hall of Fame Inductees

2015 - Jim Fox, Robert Fielding, Pam Charlson Speer, Chad Young (posthumous), and the 2005 Boys Soccer State Champions.

2014 - The Rev. Peter Alexander, Jane (Birtch) Vatchev, Charles Bush, Don Udey, and the 2000-01 Girls Soccer Team

2013 - Marianne Challis (posthumous), Colonel Joseph Ori, USAF (Ret.), Todd McClure, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Matthews, Pam Martin, and the 1988-89 Boys Basketball Team

2012 - Valerie (Louderback) Gaynor, Ken Boyle, Judy Guinan Theobald, Paul Stout, Susan (Schroeder) Langheim, and the 1999 Softball Team

2011 - Ted Chase, Brian McClure, Lozelle H. Cleaves (posthumous), and the 1998-1999 Wrestling Team

2010 - Homer Fletcher Bartholomew (posthumous), Lauren Brown Schmid, Donna Marie Hypke Corriveau, Pat Dowling, Samuel D. Nichols, and the 1978 Football Team

2009 - Madison (M.J.) Post, Richard B. Greenwalt (posthumous), SSgt. Robert Aron Ballance, William L. Gaule, and the 1998 Football Team

2008 - Monty Carbonell, Dr. Grant Rivera, Vernie and Opal Lee (posthumous), and the 1986 Girls Basketball Team

2007 - Robert Morrison (posthumous), William D. Hovey, Tom Leahy, Norm Smith, Robin Cook, and the 1996 Baseball Team

2006 - William Clark (posthumous), Charlie Cottle (posthumous), Ellis Mir Arjmand, Shannon (Staley) Metzger, Donald Kauerauf, Arlen Nelson, and the 1975 Boys Basketball Team