

2019 MHSFCA Awards Luncheon

Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was created in 2006 with the first inductees Max Mothersbaugh of Putnam County, Kelly Odneal of Westran and Don Edwards at Jefferson. In 2007 Angie Resa of North Shelby, Diane Jurgensmeyer of St. Elizabeth and Fred McConnell at Parkway South received the honor.

Following are the inductees to present:

2008-Rhonda Ratledge of Kelly, Terry Early of New Franklin.

2009- Roger Lower - Blue Springs, Mike Schmidli - Putnam County, Mark Pettegrew - Mid-Buchanan.

2010-Walter Resa of Webb City, Tim Jermain of Jefferson/Conception Junction and Rick Burlesmeyer of Fatima.

2011-Mike Thorne-Republic, Dianne TenEyke- Highland, Paul Lorbert of Kearney.

2013- Kurt Morrison- Notre Dame DeSion and Sharon Buschjost of Blair Oaks.

2014-Tom Jacobson of Lawson and Jill Angell.

2016-Matt Blythe of Maysville and Marj Locker of Southwest Livingston.

2017- Darrell Jeffries-Lafayette County, Steve Tingler of Smithville and Brad Wallach at Eureka.

2018-Jeff Graviett-Notre Dame and Rob Davenport at Platte County.

2019 Inductees:

Rob Davenport Platte County High School

Rob coached at Platte County for 14 years as the head coach. Prior to that, he spend 3 years in Odessa two seasons as the assistant and one as the head coach. His overall record is 262-139. His teams have won 5 conference championships, 5 district titles. Rob's teams reached the final 4 in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2014 winning the state championship in 2008.

Rob has been selected to coach in the MO-Kan All Star game. He was selected the 2008 coach of the year. Rob has served the association as an all-district/region/state coordinator and representative. Rob says he just loves the game of softball and loves to share that with his players. Rob is married to Christi and they have two children; Trevin and Penelope.

Mickey Byrd of Vienna High School Introduced by Ellie Glick.

Coach Byrd coached two state championship teams and has nine district championships and 26 conference championships. His team won 34 straight conference games from 1996-2004! Coach Byrd is a Vienna graduate that came back to Vienna to teach history for 31 years.

Linda McQueen of Lutheran South. Introduced by Ashley Crump

Coach McQueen has been the head coach at Lutheran South for 20 years and prior to that spent ten years as its assistant coach. As head coach the team has a record of 352-191 with 11 district championships, 11 conference championships, 7 elite 8's, two third place finishes in state and one state championship in 2002.

She received the Hal Whiteaker Memorial Award as the 2001 Softball Coach of the Year, was inducted into the Meramec Magic Hall of Fame, and in March 2018 was inducted into the St Louis Softball Hall of Fame. She has spent 18 years on the All-State Committee and is a previous member of the MSHSAA Advisory Board. To Linda, it is all about the relationships and seeing the girls grow as people. Linda is married to Jerry and they have two children, Julie and Michelle (both who are former players), son-in-law Dan Petke (who coached with her), and 2 grandchildren, Ty and Kenley.

2018-2019 Scholarship Winners

Class 1-Kirstain Goddard

Kirstain attends DeKalb High School and was coached by Aaron Matthews. Next year she plans to attend South East Community College of Nebraska where she will be a starting outfielder after a successful career at shortstop for DeKalb.

Raised by a single father who “did his best to make sure I was at every game and had everything I needed to practice.” Kirstain said, “We played each summer, practiced all winter and I never felt that I was missing life. Softball made me feel like I was living life.” Only one other girl on her team had a single parent (a mother), and that girl became her friend. Through that friendship and her softball team the parents were son dating and today they are married and have given Kirstain the family she always wanted, including a new sister. Said Kirstain, “Without softball I wouldn't have family.”

Coach Matthews commented that Kirstain “is one of the most competitive players I've been around. She is a great leader on and off the field to all the girls. She has left an everlasting impact on us coaches and her teammates.”

Myranda McVay

Myranda goes to Walnut Grove High School and was coached by Jeff Dishman. Myranda not only is an active member of her high school culture she is also a USSSA certified umpire. She hasn't chosen a school for next year yet, or if she will continue her softball career there, but, she says, “no matter the outcome, I will always find a way to stay connected the game; whether it be playing, umpiring, or coaching, softball will be a part of my life.”

In her essay Myranda shared her inspiring story, “Softball had always been there for me and always would be. Or at least that's what I thought.” Myranda's junior year she was diagnosed with a muscle deterioration disease and legally labeled disabled. After surgeries became a regular thing softball grew harder. She was challenged to even clothe herself in the mornings and she found herself without softball.

She decided to stop feeling sorry for herself and to work hard to return to softball. Therapy began to kick in and she improved. Through hard work she exceeded her coach and doctor's expectations and by her senior year she had made first team all-conference, all-district and all-region.

Said Coach Dishman, "I have never had a student athlete that is so driven. Myranda doesn't need to be asked, she does it. One of the best student athletes I have ever been around. Her heart and determination is extraordinary."

Class 2-

Haley Berhorst

Haley hales from New Bloomfield High School and was coached by Dara Reinkemeyer. She will attend State Fair Community College of Sedalia next year. Haley advanced from centerfield to third base to shortstop by her senior year after extensive knee surgery her sophomore year and was an all-conference and all-district selection while also excelling academically as she participating and held offices in six groups.

Haley said about softball, "Growing up, the only thing I knew and looked forward to was going to the fields almost every day. It is my stress reliever, my quiet place, and my second home." Her experiences overcoming injury to play softball has motivated her to earn a doctorate and become a physical therapist.

Coach Reinkemeyer commented, "Haley is a great leader, always puts her team first and is always positive."

Avery Abell

Avery attends Hallsville High School where she was coached by Ryan Crane. She plans to attend the University of Missouri. She owned the third base position for three years and won her team's golden glove award.

Haley says softball was a challenge for her time management and she had to maintain self-discipline in order to achieve the outcome she desired. Self training, learning how to eat healthy to perform at high levels, avoiding things that would harm her abilities and staying very disciplined with her school work regardless of challenges to time from her participation where aspects of Haley's focus. All qualities she believes will help her in the future with bosses.

Coach Crane said that Haley "is a great student-athlete and example for younger players.This is the kid that I would trust. She has a phenomenal work ethic, attitude and set of values."

Class 3-

Grace Faulkner

From the School of the Osage, Miss Faulkner was coached by David Flaspohler and will continue playing softball in college at William Jewell. A three year team captain she has been first team all-district all four years and first team all-region. She serves as the senior class president, among many other club offices.

Coach Flaspohler comments that Grace, "hits for power and is one of the best student athletes I've ever had. She leads by example and works year round."

Grace fought internal demons that gave her a lack of confidence...until, she says, she met Coach Flash. In her essay Grace wrote, "With his help I was finally able to realize my true purpose in life. Coach used the game of softball to show me the person I could become who is confident, a leader and a person who is a force to be reckoned with." She learned not to let a negative person affect the view of herself. She worked hard, was dedicated and is determined to fearlessly attack anything and everything that stands in her way.

Hannah Ponder

From Doniphan High School, Miss Ponder was coached by Brad Eddington and will attend Arkansas State University where she plans to enter the nursing program and become a pediatric nurse practitioner. She will participate in softball in college on the club level as ASU does not have a softball program. Hannah is the student body president and serves in seven clubs and cheerleading.

Coach Eddington comments that, "Hannah has developed into a great third baseman and has helped lead our team for the last few years. She is very deserving of this honor."

Says Hannah, "Softball taught me that no matter what obstacle comes my way I can get past it with hard work and a positive attitude." She looks forward to playing softball again and gaining another family in the process.

Class 4-

Alexandria Cafolla

From Hazelwood West High School, Miss Cafolla was coached by Erica Thompson and will attend Webster University and has aspirations in engineering. She will continue her contact with softball in summer ball where she also coaches younger teams, and perhaps in college should her class schedule allow.

Coach Thompson says Alexandria was a role model for her teams. She was a versatile and coachable player with a good attitude. She was the conference player of the year and second team all-region. "Alexandria is a great student, but her maturity level, responsibility and character is what separates her from her peers. She carries a persona about her that just screams success."

From Alexandria, "Coaching has given me a completely different viewpoint of the game...I am more connected with my coaches because I got a glimpse into their vantage point. From these different viewpoints I learned multiple styles of leadership. I take these skills into the classroom and helped me make tough decisions."

Hailey Chase

A product of Fort Osage High School who was coached by Kelly Sullivan. Miss Chase plans to attend Central Methodist University where she will play softball while studying nursing. She also umpires for her local athletic association.

Coach Sullivan commented, "Hailey is dedicated to her teammates. She has proven to have a good attitude and is determined to get any task one correctly. On the field she has been a role model for good sportsmanship, and edifies the true meaning of being a team player." Her honors include all –conference and all district teams.

From Hailey. "Hard work pays off. People had told me I'm wasn't good enough...I showed them wrong." She devoted herself and got to work and will play for "one of the best NAIA teams in the nation!"

Spring

Kimberlyn Wallen

Kimberlyn attends Central Park Hills High School and is coached by Bryan Wallen. She plays high level summer ball and was part of two conference championship teams, and a second place in the state team in 2018. She has been named to an all-state team for three years running. She is president of the Future Teachers of America organization and also participates in basketball and track and field. She will be attending Southeast Missouri State University where she will be playing softball. She will be majoring in Elementary Education and has plans to coach softball at either the College or HS level. (The day after Kimmy signed, she tore her ACL at basketball practice. She had surgery on Dec. 26th.)

From Kimberlyn, "The person that had a big influence in my softball career is my dad. He is the head softball coach for my school and summer teams. Being a coaches kid isn't always good...the common statement is 'you are playing because your parent is the coach.' My response is yes, all the hours that we spent in the backyard, at the field in the weight room and in the cage. I am the player I am today because of my dad. I am blessed that God has given me these talents so I can use them to show Christ's love to others."

From her coaches- Kimmy is one of the hardest working students that I have ever had and her work-ethic is almost contagious. Kimmy is a model softball player. I know that she has sacrificed a lot to make herself into a great softball player.Competitor, winner, champion, leader, the standard for Christian-Athlete, the epitome of a Student-Athlete.

Alicia Davis

Alicia attends La Monte R-IV High School and is coached by Dabecka Kirk. She will attend California State University of Long Beach, CA. She is the senior class president (ranking at the top of her class) and also

plays volleyball. This well rounded lady is also a brown belt in Shotokan Karate. She is undecided about her participation in college softball.

Entering her freshman year Alicia was fearful of the notorious long practices and being around older high school girls, but her fears were unfounded and soon she was part of the softball family. She said, "As a freshman I was shy and did not have a lot of confidence, now as a senior, I look at every task and work on it until I master it. Before softball I thought of strength as a physical attribute, but now I know you have to be mentally strong as well."

Coach Kirk said about Alicia, "Alicia works hard every day to be a positive leader in our school, in our community, and on our team. She displays integrity in everything she does and embraces the Forever Strong mentality in every aspect of life."