



MARCH 5, 2008

D300 Foundation Honors Alumni Award Recipients

CARPENTERSVILLE- This year the District 300 Foundation will get a chance to honor five of the outstanding alumni that have graduated from the District 300 schools. The distinguished alumni Award is granted to a District 300 graduate or former student over the age of 30 for significant accomplishments on ones profession or service to the community. These people are making a difference not only in their world, but also in the worlds of the people around them.

These alumni have been nominated by different people within the community that have been touched directly by their work and seen their passion and enthusiasm up close. The Foundation was excited to be able to choose these five recipients on March 5th. The winners will be formally honored on Friday, April 25th at the Annual Award Ceremony Spring Gala. The five recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award are; Craig Rakow, Dr. Donna Shuring Redmer, Kevin Orr, and Laro Tan. The recipient of the Distinguished Young Alumni is Bethany (Carson) Jaeger.

Looking at what the outpouring of positive remarks from the people who nominated this year's winners one can really get a feeling on how they have touched the community as a whole. Bethany (Carson) Jaeger was nominated by Foundation Chairman Mary Fioretti. *"Over the years I've kept in touch with Bethany*

as she has been a valuable insider to the Springfield process. Currently Bethany is the author of the official blog of Illinois Issues magazine, published by the Center for State Policy and Leadership at the University of Illinois at Springfield. She is well known through-out the state as a balanced serious reporter of politics," Fioretti wrote.

These former students are not just making an impact in their lives but also in their communities as a whole, all the while never forgetting their roots in the District 300. From Audrey Lakin, Laro Tan's French teacher, *"[Laro Tan] is a former student of mine now working for the FBI. He is a wonderful man; one of whom D300 should be very proud. You would be very impressed by his intelligence, wisdom and humility. He feels strongly that the education he received at Dundee-Crown helped him become the man he is today, and prepare him for his service in the FBI."*

As these former students progressed with their lives and careers they still never forgot their roots in the District 300 community. Take Dr. Donna Shuring Redmer, who is highly recognized as an educational leader through out the state of Illinois and Nationally in turn around schools. She has been an educator, a principal, a mentor, the Director of Curriculum for all of District 300, and in retirement her tireless efforts as a RESPRO Coach helping educators to move toward student-centered instruction and assessment.

This group of individuals has made continuous strides towards not only the bettering of the world they live in, but the District 300 as a whole. *"School district 300 can be proud of Craig Rakow; what he has accomplished and what he represents. It is my hope that current and future graduates, my children included, will embody the values*

he represents." From Tom Mammoser, Executive Director, Dundee Township Park District and nominator of Craig Rakow.

As Mark Slimko writes about Kevin Orr "...that no matter what obstacle stands in your way in life, strength, courage and determination can help you get through it". Kevin's story is one of personal courage. He was born with arthrogyrosis which impairs the ability to walk. This impairment never stopped Kevin from doing anything. He was on the wrestling team his freshman and sophomore years and played football all four years at Jacobs. He sang in the chorus, participated in Drama Club and performed on stage, an NHS member, and as a Senior he was a member of the Academic Bowl Team and Olympics of the Mind.

These outstanding alumni have all shown that no matter what obstacles are placed in front of you if you put your mind to the task at hand you will see great success in your life. And each of them has then taken that success and given something back to both the community and the people where they came from. Each of these winners truly embodies the spirit of the District 300 Foundation and is out there making an impact in lives every day.

These five individuals will be honored will be honored at the Annual Award Ceremony Spring gala on Friday, April 25th at 6:00pm at the Raue Center for the

Arts. Tickets are available at www.rauecenter.org or for more information visit www.d300foundation.org

For More Information Visit www.D300Foundation.org

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