

Mrs. Lisa Schaffer
Mrs. Tina Jacoby-Welsh
Stephen T. Badin High School

Nominating Students:

Shelby Becker, 2009
Jonathan Kuhl, 2009
Allie Pickerill, 2010
Gray Schierholt, 2010

Teachers, mentors and role models. These are the words that in part describe our musical drama teachers. Our teachers, Lisa Schaffer and Tina Jacoby-Welsh are without a doubt the most outstanding teachers in the Tri-State area. First and foremost, Mrs. Schaffer and Mrs. Welsh direct our drama group on a purely volunteer basis. Their dedication to musical theater at Badin High School was displayed most clearly about three years ago after all of their children had graduated from Badin. The school had no one to direct the spring musical and they asked Mrs. Schaffer and Mrs. Welsh if they would volunteer. We are not sure how that conversation must have gone considering that they now work over four hundred hours per production for absolutely no monetary compensation! They just love the theater and understand how important it is to all of us.

Badin High School probably has one of the smallest drama departments you will find. Our stage is tiny and our theater barely holds three hundred people, but our department has a lot of heart which is due mainly to the commitment of these two ladies. Our theater also has a lot of improvements due to them. When Mrs. Schaffer and Mrs. Welsh began helping with Badin drama over nine years ago, we didn't even have fixed seating in the theater. Through their tenacity and fundraising efforts, they have been able to expand our stage, add a balcony to the stage, update the sound system, purchase and install a new lighting system and provide the addition of permanent seats. They are the prime innovators, mechanics, engineers and managers of everything that goes on.

Both Mrs. Schaffer and Mrs. Welsh continuously strive to motivate all of the students in our productions. Sometimes when you ask a director how to play a role, they just tell you what to do. Not our directors – they help you to figure it out on your own. They challenge us to add some of the finishing touches that make the production our own. They are more than willing to listen to our ideas. A good leader pushes you to be your best without ever pushing you too hard. She knows your limits and respects them; yet still expects you to put forth everything you have. Mrs. Schaffer and Mrs. Welsh set high standards for us to meet, yet they encourage and help us along the way. During the past few years they have made us believe that there is no such thing as small parts. Everyone plays an important part in the eyes of these ladies.

Our directors are fun to work with too! They know how to keep us excited and focused at the same time. In addition to traditional practices, we are expected to put in additional time helping with the set design. This enables us to learn about all phases involved in putting on a production. These wonderful ladies think of fantastic ideas and

then are able to implement them in ways we wouldn't even think possible. Their ability to take an old prop and transform it into something new and exciting is amazing. Their hard work and commitment shines through most evidently when it comes to performance time. Without the outstanding direction and guidance of Mrs. Schaffer and Mrs. Welsh, we wouldn't be anywhere close to where we are now. It would be difficult to find two drama teachers that care more for a group of kids. They continue to go above and beyond to put together successful productions.

Mrs. Schaffer and Mrs. Welsh have shown us not only how to always go the extra mile for something that you think is important, but also how your hard work and devotion will be rewarded. Their charity and compassion are a living example of how we as young men and women, about to go into the world, should live our lives. Theater at Badin has taught us so much more than acting, these women have shown us a pattern for life.